

(Telegraphic Copy of the New York Herald.)

The Death Penalty.

Shocking Revelations of Crime and
Depravity in North Carolina—
The Dula Hanged for the Murder
of Laura Foster.

STATESVILLE, N. C.,
May 1, 1868.

To-day took place one of the most singular executions in the annals of crime under the most extraordinary circumstances on record. A terrible crime was perpetrated and a trial that has not had its equal even in the Burdell trial followed. The evidence was entirely circumstantial; but at nearly half-past two, P. M., Thomas Dula suffered the death penalty, for the murder of Laura Foster, in the presence of nearly three thousand persons of his own race and color.

On the 23rd of May, 1866, a foul, inhuman murder was committed in the western portion of Wilkes county, in this State, the victim being Laura Foster, a beautiful, but frail girl, who was decoyed from her father's home in Caldwell county to a place in Wilkes known as the Bates Place, and here brutally murdered. The body was removed about half a mile from the scene of the murder, and was placed in a grave already prepared for it. Late in August of the same year the body was found in a state of decomposition, and it was difficult to identify it. There was a deep gash in the left breast just above the heart; the wound had evidently been inflicted with a large knife or dagger, causing death instantaneously. It was also believed that the murdered woman was pregnant.

The disappearance of Laura excited no alarm for several days, as it was supposed she had gone off to get married or to visit some acquaintance in Wilkes county; but at length the opinion became general that she had been foully dealt with, and a general search was instituted, without success at the time. The community in the vicinity of this tragedy is divided into two entirely separate and distinct classes. The one occupying the fertile lands adjacent to the Yadkin river and its tributaries, is educated and intelligent, and the other, living on the sparse and ridges of the mountains, is ignorant, poor and depraved. A state of immorality unexampled in the history of any country exists among these people, and such a general system of fecklessness prevails, that it is a wild child that knows its father. This is the Bates Place, where the body was discovered by blood marks, and where some ten or twelve families are living in the manner described. It is a poor country, covered with thickets and a dense undergrowth, and an attempt had been made to conceal the blood by covering it with bushes.

Soon suspicion attached to Thos. Dula, a returned Confederate soldier, and one Pauline Foster, an illegitimate cousin of the deceased, and like her also frail, and the guilty parties. Pauline was then servant to Mrs. Melton, and between her and Dula a criminal intimacy was known to exist, and hence suspicion more particularly attached to the culprit, because Pauline had mysteriously disappeared for a time after the murder. Her character was the most abandoned of all, and under the influence of brandy she admitted when asked, that "Tom Dula and she killed Laura"; but apparently recollecting herself, would make no further revelations. A day subsequent to this, Pauline, when criminated by Mrs. Melton, confirmed the above statement, and she was arrested and confined in the jail of Wilkes county. Here she made a confession recriminating Mrs. Melton, who, she alleged, was jealous of Laura, and guided a party to the place where the body was discovered.

Meanwhile, Dula had fled the country, but was pursued and arrested in Tennessee, where he was found under an assumed name. He was then lodged in jail upon the evidence of Pauline, as was also Mrs. Melton, as accessory before the fact. True bills were found against both by the Grand Jury of Wilkes, but upon affidavit of the prisoners the trial was removed to Iredell county.

The most intense interest was manifested in this trial, which lasted several days, by the people here and of the surrounding counties. Nearly all the people on the Bates Place were examined, and the most extraordinary revelations of depraved morality were developed. Wilton Foster, the father of the deceased, testified that when he arose on the morning of Laura's disappearance, his horse was also gone; that he traced the animal to the Bates Place; that he knew the track by a peculiarity in one of the hoofs. He never saw his daughter alive again; but he saw and recognized her body; knew that Dula had been in the habit of visiting his daughter, and had seen them in bed together, and that they had two private conversations on the Monday and Wednesday respectively, preceding her disappearance. Further testimony went to show that Laura and Dula were both seen on the morning of the murder traveling by different routes from the direction of her home, to the Bates Place, with a view, as was supposed, to marry Dula; that Dula had borrowed a mule, the implement with which the grave was dug, the day previous, and that he had been heard to say that he contracted a disease from the murdered girl for which he would be avenged upon her. It was also proven that Dula had changed his name, and a boy being brought back from Tennessee attempted to escape.

This comprised the essential testimony, and the witnesses generally appeared impressed with the idea that Dula was guilty, though some of them appeared anxious to effect his acquittal through fear of some of his reckless associates in the mountains. Another fact attempted to be proved was that the disease contracted by Dula from the murdered woman was imparted by him to Mrs. Melton, who forced him to the commission of the crime on that account. An appeal was granted from the first trial, and a second one had, when the same witnesses were examined, the same testimony elicited, and the same state of excitement existed. Gov. Vance

and his assistant counsel for the defense, made powerful forensic efforts which were considered models of ability, but such was the evidence that no other verdict than that of guilty could be rendered.

Mrs. Ann Melton has not yet been tried, though she was present at both of Dula's trials, and, like him, heard his sentence without exhibiting any visible emotion. She is apparently about twenty-five years of age, is the illegitimate daughter of one, Carlotta Foster, and is a most beautiful woman. She is entirely uneducated, and though living in the midst of depravity and ignorance has the manner and bearing of an accomplished lady, and all the natural powers that should grace a high born beauty. This may in part account for the great influence she obtained over Dula, with whom she is illegitimately connected, and also for the fact that he persistently denies all knowledge of her participation in the murder.

Pauline Foster, the principal witness against both the accused, is remarkable for nothing but debasement, and may be dismissed with the statement that she has since married a white man and given birth to a negro child.

Thomas Dula, the condemned man, is about twenty-five years old, five feet eleven inches high, dark eyes, dark curly hair, and though not handsome, might be called good-looking. He fought gallantly in the Confederate service, where he established a reputation for bravery, but since the war closed, has become reckless, demoralized and a desperado, of whom the people in his vicinity had a terror. There is everything in his expression to indicate the hardened assassin—a fierce glare of the eyes, a great deal of malignity, and a callousness that is revolting. He laughs and jokes when spoken to of his approaching end, and exhibits a shocking indifference as to hereafter, refusing persistently all spiritual comfort from attending clergymen. Yesterday evening his sister and her husband came with a wagon to take his body, sent him a note from his aged mother, entreating him to confess the truth for her sake, so that she would be satisfied of his guilt or innocence. But further than asking that they be allowed to see him, which request was refused, he said nothing. He still remained defiant, nor showed any signs of repentance, and seemed to have some hope of escape, though he did not say so. A confession had been looked for that might either exonerate or implicate still further, his alleged accessories, Mrs. Melton, but this he refused to give, and left the impression that she is not guilty and shall not be "blowed" upon by him, though the contrary is generally believed. He partook of a hearty supper, laughed and spoke lightly, but ere the jailer left him, it was discovered that his shackles were loose, a link in the chain being filed through with a piece of window glass, which was also found concealed in his bed. While this was being adjusted, he glared savagely, and in a jocular manner said it had been so for a month past. Being at last, left for the night by the jailer, he requested that Mr. Allison, one of his counsel, be sent for, and while charging him with the strictest injunctions to secrecy while he was living, handed him the following, written in a rude manner with a pencil:—

Statement of Thomas C. Dula.— I declare that I am the only person that had any hand in the murder of Laura Foster. April 30th, 1868.

Besides this he had also written a lengthy statement of his life, but without reference to the murder, which was intended as an exhortation to young men to live virtuously, and not be led astray in paths of vice as he was. There was nothing remarkable in this document, though it covered fifteen pages. Left alone in his cell on the last night of his earthly existence, the savage fortitude that had characterized his trials, sentence and imprisonment began to give way, and he nervously paced the floor as far as the wainwright would reach. This was only interrupted through the whole night by an attempt to court "Nature's sweet restorer," but in vain, if a fitful half hour is excepted, and the condemned, after the weary minutes of that night, saw the last sun he should ever behold shed his glorious light through the bars of the window. After breakfast he sent for his spiritual advisers, and sought for the first time to make an attempt to pray; but still to them and all others denying his guilt or any knowledge of the murder. The theory seemed to be that he would owe the people that he could die "game" with an awful crime resting upon his soul. Early in the morning he was baptised by the Methodist clergyman, and from that time engaged fervently in prayer; but when left alone was heard speaking incoherently, words occasionally dropping from his lips in relation to the murder, but nothing that was intelligible. And thus wore away the last hours of the condemned.

So long had this execution been pending, and as the murder was committed in one county, and the trial had taken place in another, it became generally known throughout the entire western section of the State. By eleven o'clock, A. M., dense crowds of people thronged the streets, the great number of females being somewhat extraordinary. These, however, came mostly because it was a public day, and afforded them an opportunity to make purchases, but a certain class indicated by a bronzed complexion, rustic attire, a quid of tobacco in

their mouths, and a certain morbid and hardened look, were evidently attracted by that morbid curiosity to see an execution, so general among the ignorant classes of society. The preliminaries were all arranged by Sheriff Wason. A gallows constructed of native pine, erected near the railroad depot in an old field—as there is no public place of execution in Statesville—was the place selected for the final tragedy. A guard had been summoned to keep back the crowd and enforce the terrible death penalty, and for the better preservation of order, the bar rooms were closed. The curious numbers of the people who had never seen a gallows before, visited this structure, eyeing it with strange feelings, and as it was merely two uprights, with a space of about ten feet and a cross piece on top, under which the cart with the condemned had to pass, many singular observations were made.

Previous to his being taken from the jail to the gallows, many of the condemned man's former companions in the army from the mountain region in which he lived appeared upon the streets, and some singular reminiscences of his former life were related. Among them, that it was generally believed he murdered the husband of a woman at Wilmington, in this State, during the war, with whom he had then criminal intercourse. The opinion of all was that he was a terrible, desperate character, and from their knowledge of his former career an anxiety and singular curiosity was excited among them to see how he died. Few there were who pitied him, dying, as they believed him, guilty, without a confession, and none sympathized with him.

At eighteen minutes before one o'clock, the guard being formed in hollow square, the condemned was led forth attended by the Sheriff and some assistants, and with a smile upon his features, took his seat in the cart, in which was also his coffin, beside his brother-in-law. The procession moved slowly through the streets, accompanied by large crowds, male and female, whites and blacks, many being in carriages and many on horseback and on foot. While on the way to the gallows he looked cheerful and spoke continually to his sister of the Scriptures, assuring her he had repented and that his peace was made with God. At the gallows throngs of people were already assembled, the number of females being almost equal to that of the males. The few trees in the field were crowded with men and boys, and under every imaginable shade that was present, were huddled together every imaginable species of humanity.

Soon the procession came in sight accompanied by horsemen dashing over the field, dispersing the crowd, and at eight minutes past one the cart was halted under the gallows. The condemned man appeared unaffected by the sight, but talked incessantly to his sister and others of religion, trying, if possible, to assure them that he had repented. Upon being told by the Sheriff that he could address the assembled crowd, he arose, and turning his dark eyes upon them spoke in a loud voice which rang back from the woods as if a demon there was mocking the tone and spirit of a wretch who well knew he was going into eternity with an unconfessed murder upon his mind and falsehood on his lips. He spoke of his early childhood, his parents, and his subsequent career in the army, referred to the dissolution of the Union, made blasphemous allusions to the Deity, invoking that name to prove assertions that he knew were some of them, at least, false. The politics of the country he discussed freely, and upon being informed, in reply to a question of his, that Holden was elected Governor of North Carolina, he branded that person as a secessionist and a man that could not be trusted. His only reference to the murder was a half explanation of the country and the different roads and paths leading to the scene of the murder, in which his only anxiety was to allow that some two or three of the witnesses swore falsely against him. He mentioned particularly one, James Isbell, who, he alleged, had perjured himself in the case, and concluded by saying that had there been no lies sworn against him he would not have been there. This concluded his speech, which had lasted nearly one hour, and after an apparently affectionate farewell of his sister, who was then removed from the cart, he was then removed from the cart, the rope, which all the time had been round his neck, was thrown over the gallows and fastened. Standing there on the brink of eternity, this man, calm in the presence of that vast crowd, refused to admit publicly the murder of which they all believed him to be guilty.

At twenty-four minutes after two, P. M., the cart was moved, and the body of Thomas Dula was suspended between heaven and earth. The fall was about two feet, and the neck was not broken. He breathed about five minutes, and did not struggle, the pulse beating in his neck, and in 13 minutes life was declared extinct by Dr. Campbell, attending surgeon. After hanging for twenty minutes the body was cut down and given over to the afflicted relatives of this terrible criminal.

This closed the career of a man, who, though young in years, ignorant and depraved in character, was one

of the most confirmed and hardened criminals of the age in which he lived. As yet the written confession above given, has not become known, and the greatest anxiety is evinced among the people to ascertain whether he has left any confession that he might be permitted to make them in public. His sentence, however, is accounted for by the wish that he would not implicate his accomplice, Mrs. Ann Melton, now to be tried.

Watchman & Old York State.

BY HANES & BRUNER.

SALISBURY, MAY 15, 1868.

THE IMPEACHMENT CASE.

In our last issue we commented at some length upon this case as stated by Mr. Bingham. But in doing so we confined ourselves to the President's right to construe the laws for himself in certain cases. Another charge made by Mr. Bingham is that the President has "assumed to himself the prerogative of interpreting the Constitution" for himself, as well as the laws of Congress. The President is sworn to support the Constitution as well as to execute the laws of Congress made in pursuance thereof. And how can he support the Constitution without knowing what it is? And how can he know what it is without an "interpretation" of it? It is simply impossible. Then, in respect to such parts of it as have never been interpreted by the Supreme Court, he has the same right to interpret it that he has to construe the laws. His own interpretation, made with the assistance of his legal advisers, must be the rule of his conduct until a different interpretation is made by the Supreme Court. To make out the shadow of a case against the President in this regard it will be necessary for Mr. Bingham to show that he has assumed this prerogative in defiance of that tribunal. This he has not done, nor pretends to do. We admit that if he could do this he would make out a case of usurpation, according to our view of the Constitutional functions of the co-ordinate departments of the government, and we would be the last to defend him.

But even if this could be shown—could be proved as clearly as the light of day, is there no precedent that could be pleaded in mitigation of the offence? Have none of the long list of American Presidents, whose names we honor, ever essayed to construe the fundamental law for themselves? Have none of them ever asserted their right to interpret the Constitution for themselves, and to act upon that interpretation, a contrary interpretation by the Supreme Court notwithstanding? If any of the honored and respected predecessors of President Johnson have so acted, without provoking impeachment, or threats of impeachment, then we submit that it would greatly excuse and palliate a similar offence in him. Let us see whether such has been the case.

During the administration of the elder Adams the celebrated "alien and sedition laws" were passed by the Federal party, then in power. These laws were declared to be unconstitutional by the opposing, or Republican party, as it was then called. Every well informed man is familiar with the sensation produced throughout the country by the passage of these acts. The clamor raised against them broke down the Federal party, and brought the Republicans into power at the next election, with Mr. Jefferson as their President. The obnoxious laws were still upon the statute book. Their Constitutionality had been affirmed by the Courts. What did Mr. Jefferson do, did he execute the laws of Congress as he was sworn to do? Many of our readers will be surprised to hear us say that he did not, but it is even so. He positively refused to execute the sedition law on the ground that it was unconstitutional and void; and he claimed and exercised the right to interpret the Constitution in relation to the matter for himself. In a letter on this subject, written to Ex-President Adams in 1804, Jefferson says:—

"I dis-regarded every man under punishment and prosecution under the sedition law, because I considered, and now consider, that law to be a nullity as absolute and palpable as if Congress had ordered us to fall down and worship the golden image, and that it was as much my duty to arrest its execution in every State as it would have been to have rescued from the fiery furnace those who should have been cast into it for refusing to worship the image. It was accordingly done in every instance without asking what the offenders had done, or against whom they had offended, but whether the pains they were suffering were inflicted under the pretended sedition law."

And in another letter to the same, on the same subject, he says:—
"You seem to think it devolved on the judges to decide on the validity of the sedition law, but nothing in the Constitution has given them a right to decide for the Executive, more than for the Executive to decide for them. Both magistrates are equally independent in the sphere of action assigned to them. The judges believing the law constitutional, had a right to pass sentence of fine and imprisonment, because the power is placed in their hands by the Constitution. But the Executive believing the law unconstitutional was bound to resist the execution of it because that power had been confided to him by the Constitution."

Nor was Mr. Jefferson the only American President that entertained opinions like these. Gen. Jackson, in his memoirs

able veto of the Bank of the United States in 1832, uses the following language:—

"If the opinion of the Supreme Court covers the whole ground of this act, it ought not to control the co-ordinate authorities of the government. The Congress, the Executive and the Court must each for itself be guided by its own opinion of the Constitution. Every public officer who takes an oath to support the Constitution, swears that he will support it as he understands it, and not as it is understood by others. It is as much the duty of the House of Representatives, of the Senate, and the President to decide on the constitutionality of any bill or restriction which may be presented to them for passage or approval as it is of the Supreme Judges when it may be brought before them for judicial decision. The authority of the Supreme Court must not, therefore, be permitted to control Congress or the Executive, but to have only such influence as the force of their reasoning may deserve."

We need not say that we reject in toto the doctrines laid down by Jefferson and Jackson, and that we think they have been the fruitful source of much of the evil which has afflicted the country. But we will not stop to discuss them at length here. That it was the duty of the judges to pass a sentence of fine and imprisonment upon a man convicted under the Sedition law because they believed the law to be constitutional, and of the Executive to prevent the execution of the sentence because he believed the law to be unconstitutional, as claimed by Mr. Jefferson, seems to us to be a paradoxical absurdity. Yet, however absurd the doctrine of these distinguished worthies may seem to us, they were maintained by many other great men besides Mr. Jefferson and Gen. Jackson. They have even received the assent of many of the most distinguished men of the present radical party, including among them Charles Sumner and B. F. Wade. Justified by such precedents and sustained by such authorities should Mr. Johnson have been impeached if he had fallen into the same error? Did the great leaders of the Whig party in 1832 hold that Gen. Jackson ought to be impeached for the course which he then pursued? No. They expressly disclaimed that it was a case for impeachment—that it was only a political question. They passed a resolution of censure through the Senate, but declared that if it was a case for impeachment the Senate could not discuss it at all, as, in the event of impeachment the Senators would become the judges. How different from the conduct of the radical Senators of the present day. Even the resolution of censure was afterwards expunged.

But President Johnson has acted all the time upon the opposite doctrine. He was as profoundly penetrated with the conviction that the reconstruction acts of Congress were unconstitutional as Mr. Jefferson could possibly have been that the sedition law was unconstitutional. And moreover he believed them to be ruinous to the country. Yet he never thought of following the precedent set by Mr. Jefferson. He did not, as alleged by Mr. Bingham, assume to decide upon their constitutionality. He had no doubts himself, but then it was not his province to decide such questions. The Constitution had established a tribunal for the decision of such questions, and it could be decided by no other. The law, having been passed by competent authority, must remain the law until the Supreme Court should decide upon the question of its validity. Notwithstanding the clearness of the President's convictions he executed the law. He, no doubt, was exceedingly anxious for the question to be raised before the courts, and he probably encouraged the taking of the proper steps for that purpose, but nothing more. No President has ever shown a greater submission to law, or a more anxious desire to preserve the constitution. Even the impeachment managers themselves have been compelled to abandon their charges against him so far as the President's intentions were concerned.

And the question is constantly being asked "will the President be convicted?" Owing to the degeneracy of the times that question cannot be answered. In other days, when Senators would have been judges, no one would have dared to propose the impeachment of the President on such charges. This is clear from the cases which we have cited.

TAXATION.

Our friend of the Charlotte Democrat rejoins to our article in reply to his on the limit of taxation in the new Constitution, in which he merely reiterates his formerly expressed opinions without replying to our arguments. This he does not attempt further than to quote what certain radical leaders said during the canvass. This, we submit, is no answer at all, and we are surprised that our neighbor should have shown himself unsophisticated enough to take for gospel truth the declarations of politicians in an excited canvass and use them as arguments. Such was not our mode of dealing with the question. We took up the article on Revenue and Taxation, and endeavored to apply to it the rules which guide jurists and statesmen in the construction of such instruments. Such, we submit, is the only mode by which a true construction can be reached.

But we will discuss the subject no further. We are sure that our construction is the correct one, but we are willing that

our neighbor shall convince the legislature that his is the true one—if he can.

Since the above was in type we were with surprise, that the Raleigh Sentinel has taken the same view with the Democrat. But its arguments are not at all conclusive to our mind. We still understand the Constitution just as we did during the canvass.

HON. D. B. GOODLOE.

We are indebted to this gentleman for a pamphlet copy of his letter to Senator Sumner on the condition of affairs in North Carolina. When we have had an opportunity to read it fully we will notice it more at length.

Mr. Goodloe admits that there are many obvious provisions in the new Constitution which he is for changing at the earliest time possible. He also contends with much show of reason, that the late election in North Carolina for State officers and members of Congress are unconstitutional and void.

In writing this letter we have no doubt that Mr. Goodloe has been actuated by the best of motives—a desire to promote the welfare of the people of his native State. While we differ from him in many things we yet have the highest respect for him, arising from our conviction of his perfect honesty and sincerity.

THE IMPEACHMENT.

It will be seen by reference to our news column that the final vote on impeachment in the Senate has been postponed until Saturday. From this postponement an inference can be drawn bearing upon the final result. Both parties, we learn, are confident, but we incline to the opinion that the President will be deposed.—The cause assigned for the postponement is the dangerous illness of Senator Howard, of Michigan, who, it is hoped by those favoring conviction may be able to attend on Saturday. Should he be unable to attend at that time another postponement may be expected.

But there are doubtless other causes which have had something to do with the matter. Prominent among these is the extreme unpopularity of Senator Wade who is to become President in case of the removal of Mr. Johnson. So great is his unpopularity, even with his own party, that should Mr. Johnson be acquitted it may be ascribed partly to that cause.—And there is reason to believe that the vote was postponed in order to prevent Wade from occupying the Presidential chair until after the adjournment of Chicago Convention next week, as the postponement was moved and carried by those Senators who are known to be for conviction. Wade it is well known, aspires to the nomination for the Vice Presidency by that Convention, and it was feared that if installed into the presidential office now he would so dispose of his patronage as to secure it. Such nomination will not be at all acceptable to his party, hence, it is believed, these tactics.

Such being the probable reasons of the postponement of the final vote on the impeachment of Mr. Johnson we do not believe that it will take place on Saturday, but that there will be another postponement.

HON. NAT. BOYDEN.

This gentleman, who has been in Washington for several days, returned on yesterday evening. We learn from him that his name was among the two hundred whose disabilities have been removed by a vote of the House of Representatives, and that he will almost certainly be admitted to his seat with the other members of the delegation from this State.

The hail storm of Thursday last, did important damage to crops in portions of this county. We have had reported to us the total destruction of fields of wheat in some cases; and in others, various damage. We are pleased to find, however, that the destroying force of the storm displayed itself in only a few localities, though it seems to have passed over the entire length of the county.

Gen. Canby's late order throwing upon the respective counties the burden of supporting such negroes as may have been discharged from servitude for voting the Radical ticket in the late election, is little else than a broad invitation to worthless negroes to quarter themselves upon the public for support. It is a strong measure—a heavy dose—enforced by the strong arm of the military, and however unpalatable or oppressive, must be borne! What next?

We know there are a few colored men, and a few Northern men among us who are Conservatives, so-called. Such persons have reached a depth of political degradation more easily imagined than described. There were Arnold and Burns in the olden time, and the breed seems not entirely to have run out.

Standard.

Verily, "the breed seems not entirely to have run out." There are men in North

Carolina who once honored the name of President Johnson—aided in reorganizing the 1846 government on a white basis—promised themselves to be made fully opposed to negro suffrage as a conspicuous Union landmark, and afterwards plotted for the overthrow of the government which they had aided in organizing because they were not permitted to hold the office under it. Truly may it be said, "the breed seems not entirely to have run out."

It is amusing to see good old Whigs Moore, Fox, Gates, Graham and Vance, with interest and hope in the Democratic party for aid. And yet these gentlemen are long enemies of the Democracy of the States.

And more amusing still—most amusing of all, to hear old Democrats like W. W. Holden, R. P. Dick, Theo. Settle, William E. Rodgers, Edward Cantwell, W. M. Coleman, John T. Steward, and others of the same stripe, denouncing old Whigs for standing to their principles regardless of party names, and praying for the destruction of the Democratic party to substitute their own selfish purposes regardless of the interests of their country.

THE WESTMINSTER REVIEW for April with the usual variety of interesting table contents, is upon our table. The contents of this number are as follows: De Quillete, The Pilgrim and the States, Modern Notions of Government, The Irish Question, The Church System of Ireland and Canada, Spiritual Wives, Democratic Government in Victoria and Contemporary Literature.

Address the Leonard Scott Pub. Co. 140 Fulton Street, New York.

BALL AT WARRENTON, N. C.—We acknowledge the receipt of an invitation to a ball to be given to the Medical Faculty of North Carolina, on the evening of the 23rd inst., at the Central Hotel, Warrenton, N. C. The occasion will doubtless be a pleasant and agreeable one, and it will be out of our power to attend.

OUR HARDWARE STORE.—We were highly gratified to-day, in looking through Messrs. Crawford & Hellig's Hardware Store, to find some little "tricks" or devices of the convenience of man and for the economizing of labor than any other establishment in this city—Machines, large and small, for shoring, house-keeping, farming, gardening, mining or other purposes, or branches of business, comprising an almost endless variety of useful things, to any body who does, or wants, anything that is useful. It is vain to attempt more particular description; you must visit the store and get the proprietors to show you their goods in order to realize how valuable a convenience such an establishment is to a community of multitudinous and varied wants.

THE WHEAT CROP—THE WEATHER.—I know of no crop in this section of the State so being unusually fine. It is earlier than most of it being now in head. Since the year 1861 it has not been so early or looked so well at this season of the year as at present. There is great reason to fear that it may be destroyed by the coming wet weather. We have already begun to hear some complaints of the rust. If the wet weather should come now and the remainder of the month of May be dry we think the crop is safe. Otherwise it may be lost. As up to the present the weather has been very continuous, and "the May season" has now been passed, hope for dry weather to follow for awhile.

The Next Step Forward—Proclamation by Wendell Phillips.—Wendell Phillips, in the last number of the Anti-Slavery Standard, cracks the whip in advance over the ears of the delegates to the Chicago Convention. For impeachment, he wants the Unionists to move on to negro equality. We quote as follows:—

After impeachment, the unity and future of the Republican party demand its embodiment into law and platform and the principle of equal national citizenship—the same in Michigan as in South Carolina. It must be remembered that the administration which General Grant will draw around him, and more than that the influences and associations sure to fetter his policy, will not be of the sort likely to be effected by what "practical" men ever as—theory, ideas, fanaticism. Must get our main work done now, during the ten months of Wade's administration, which it is expected will follow this trial. Every day proves the truth of this. Men of the Fossenden type, members of the Grimes crew, will have soon done with affairs than any others.

But they in their turn will be enslaved by the West Pointers—not the red tape school, it is true, but of a similar sort. Grant's administration is more likely to seek diversion for the people in a semi-aggressive "manifest" policy, than to be of any use in the national loom, that they shall set on a perfect web, glowing with beautiful colors and instincts with the Radical moulds of Liberty, Equality and Fraternity.

Let us have one, and one only, able citizenship throughout the length and breadth of the land.

Chicago must be made to feel the pressure of the necessity referred to. A platform to be adopted there must demand the enactment of equal suffrage. Congress must be required to enact a law which will accomplish this, or it must submit amendment to the constitution establishing it. The South will be there, in person or her delegates, white and colored to declare that without such declaration and enactment by the Republicans in a national convention assembled, there will no security for them or their party in the South.