

We have an "embarrassment of riches" in the way of Washington letters this week. But "Granville" is literary and didactic on the first page, and will suit well an hour of Christmas leisure, while the letter on the inside informs our readers of late Congressional and other news.

The December number of the College Magazine has received a monthly magazine devoted to the interests of Greensboro Female College, and drawing the journalistic talent for its editorial management from the corps of instructors and the ranks of the students. It is very neatly printed, lively in tone and characterized by taste in its selections—truly a journal very creditable to Greensboro Female College.

There is no man in the United States from whom counsel should have more weight and consideration at the hands of the leaders of the Democratic party than Samuel J. Tilden, nine years ago the rightful President of the United States; and it is to be hoped that the present Congress will take action on our seaward defenses in accordance with the plan so admirably formulated in Mr. Tilden's recent able letter to Mr. Carlisle, Speaker of the House of Representatives.

A remarkable swindle on the part of the Louisiana Lottery Company has recently been unearthed through a suit brought against it by a ticket holder. In December, 1883, a capital prize of \$150,000 was advertised as having been drawn and paid in California. It has now been proven that no such prize was drawn at the time stated, and not a dollar of the amount paid as published—the whole being a disreputable scheme to increase the sale of tickets.

What a pitiable spectacle is presented by the two Confederate soldiers, Beauregard and Early, who, after having served their country's service, and now battling in their old age on the wages of fraud and injury!

Mr. Samuel J. Randall's "vanishing ambition" has "reappeared" in the House of Representatives, and he has just sustained a severe defeat in the House of Representatives on the question of the adoption of the new rules. We are glad of it. We admire Mr. Randall's great ability, and we question neither his integrity nor patriotism; but, whatever may be the case with Pennsylvania and other Northern committees, the Democratic party does not want a protection leader in the House this session. All the North Carolina delegation voted with Randall except Johnston (absent) and Col. Green, who voted nay. It is nothing against the other members, being a simple question of parliamentary usage, but we like Col. Green's vote, nevertheless.

Mr. Charles Nordhoff, for many years one of the most valued and implicitly trusted members of the editorial staff of the New York Herald, has recently been betrayed by his impetuosity at the many false and absurd stories concerning Mr. Bennett into a premature expression of truth with regard to the proprietor of the Herald. As we must believe Mr. Nordhoff's statements, we cannot help according to James Gordon Bennett the credit of being one of the ablest journalists of the day. He says his defender, is the author of the wonderful paper which affords him an income of nearly \$1,000,000 per year; he alone dictates its policy, shapes its course, and strikes the key-note of its utterances; nay, more, he knows every detail of its business, from the cashier's desk to the composing room, and is, in a word, perfect master of the whole great establishment. To do and to be all this is to rule a little kingdom, for a great metropolitan journal is a microcosm in itself—with all its branches, ramifications, channels for the collection of news, army of correspondents, etc. It seems that the mantle of James Gordon Bennett fell on no unworthy shoulders.

THE DEATH OF GEN. TOOMBS.

The death of Gen. Robert Toombs, of Georgia, removes from the scene of earth, in which old age and attendant infirmities had forbidden his active participation for many years, one of the most prominent Southern men of this century—perhaps the ablest politician and in many respects the most remarkable man since the death of John C. Calhoun. A man of the intellectual mould of Gen. Toombs would be content with subordinate position and secondary rank nowhere—hence his arbitrary bearing in the halls of Congress, the naive earnestness with which he announced his claims to the Presidency of the Southern Confederacy, and the brusque, haughty pride with which he withdrew from all official connection with that government, resigning the Secretaryship of State and entering the Southern army with the rank of Brigadier General. There his conduct as a commander of troops—brave to recklessness, but impatient and disdainful of the plans of his superiors; his remarkable manifesto from Washington city to the people of his State as to the paramount necessity of secession—more the language of an autocrat to his subjects than of a public servant to his constituents; and the royal manner in which he dispensed the hospitalities of his elegant home, lavished his favors and bounties upon his friends and dependents, and knit men to him by ties stronger than steel—all combined to indicate the regal power of his mind and character.

Perhaps no man from the South—not even excepting Davis and Thompson, of Mississippi—was more cordially hated in the United States Senate, during the stormy days just preceding the civil war, than was Robert Toombs by a certain stamp of Northern politicians—Seward, Banks, Hale and men of that class in Congress, and Thurlow Weed, Wendell Phillips and Horace Greeley, who by the power of the pen and press precipitated the struggle which drew poor old John Brown a victim into its maelstrom, and culminated in all that four years' fearful expenditure of blood and treasure. There is little wonder—for it is difficult to imagine a more different type of man than Toombs presented to his political opponents. His personal appearance was most remarkable; though heavy in build, his stature was noble and commanding; his grand head, set upon his broad shoulders as upon a tower of strength, was leonine, crowned with the abundant locks which conveyed the idea of the lion himself; his oratory was fervid and irresistible; his sarcasm pointed and at times unmerciful; his political knowledge and general information apparently inexhaustible—and, to crown all, while it would be doing his memory injustice to say that he cherished any hatred of the North, he was imbued with a deep-rooted belief that the dominant Northern party would not pause until it had accomplished the ruin of the whole country, and at that time of his life at least nourished the conviction that the dissolution of the Union was inevitable and constituted the only hope for the South.

Gen. Toombs narrowly evaded capture just after the war, escaping by his back door while the Federal soldiers entered the front. He gained the Florida coast, took shipping to Cuba, and thence made his way to Europe, where his great reputation and wonderful powers of pleading gained for him welcome and consideration everywhere. Returning to this country, he once more settled in his home

at Washington, Ga., and resumed the practice of law, in which he had been engaged since early manhood. He was very successful in his profession, commanding in some cases enormous fees and making a large annual income—in fact, notwithstanding his generosity and even prodigality, he had the faculty of acquisition in large measure, was possessed of great business shrewdness, and left a large fortune to his heirs.

The biographer of Toombs will not lack material for his pen. As a statesman, the crisis precipitated upon the nation at the time when his intellectual powers were at their best made his every act of great importance to his country; few had such gifts of eloquence to sway the multitude as he possessed, and both in the forum and on the hustings his gigantic powers gained the admiration of his friends and the respect of his foes; honest and impartial in his convictions, he was perfectly fearless in their advocacy and expression—and while a man of such marked character and aggressive qualities could not fail to make through life as many bitter enemies as he gained devoted friends, his death removes an illustrious citizen to whose memory his native State and the whole country paying tribute.

FROM THE HEAD CENTRE. CONGRESS AND THE NEW RULES.

Mr. Randall's Defeat—Anti-Civil Service Reform—Indiana Visit the "Great Father"—Mount Vernon—Speaker Sedgewick—"God Bless Stevenson!"

Special Correspondence of the Observer and Gazette. WASHINGTON, D. C., Dec. 18, 1885.—The report of the Committee on Rules was put to a test vote on Friday. The week had been spent in discussing it. Messrs. Hammond, Herbert and MacMillan made speeches favoring Mr. Randall's position. The wily statesman from Pennsylvania has been at work with all his might, to carry his point over the heads of the other members of the Committee on Rules, with the exception of the Hon. Wharton Green voted with the Randall faction. Col. Thos. Johnston, being called away on account of serious illness in his family, could not vote. In spite of Mr. Randall's herculean efforts, he met with an overwhelming defeat. The "test of strength" was made on a motion to strike out of the report of the Committee on Rules all that portion which provided for the division of the appropriation bills among several committees." On the vote there were 70 yeas, of which 22 were Democrats and 28 Republicans; the nays numbered 226, of which 91 were Republicans and 127 were Democrats. The result shows that a majority of both parties is in favor of abolishing the old rules, which seriously retarded legislation, and establishing the new ones, so strongly endorsed by Carlisle and Morrison. For the remainder of this session and next Mr. Morrison must be regarded as the leader of the House, while the prestige of Randall, if not entirely gone, is so entirely eclipsed by this disastrous defeat that he will not be the same conspicuous or successful manager he has been on the floor of the House for the past twenty-two years. The new rules may be subject to criticism, however, and, as everybody knows, Sam Randall will make the most out of the possible defects.

THE SENATE has passed a number of bills, the most important of which is the Hoar succession bill, the purport of which has been outlined in this correspondence. It passed unanimously. A bill to allow the widow of Gen. Grant a pension of \$5,000 a year also received the unanimous vote of the body. It is claimed that the ANTI-CIVIL SERVICE REFORM champions who have been preparing bills for the repeal of the Civil Service law the better part of the summer have backed out completely. It was expected that Judge Bennett would be one of the first to take his position against the law. Senators Vane and Voorhees were also counted on to make speeches urging the repeal of the law. It is said that the reason for this sudden and unanimous lukewarmness is due to the fact that a Republican majority in the Senate would kill the bill to repeal the law at once, and get whatever credit they could for such action at the hands of the conservative Democrats in the country, who would sacrifice party fealty to a fanatical allegiance to the new hobby with which the President, some of the Cabinet and the mugwump moguls have been experimenting.

SENATOR WADE HAMPTON has introduced a bill in the Senate to impose a fine on a member or Senator who recommends a person or solicits an office for anyone! The bill won't pass, as it would rob the Conscrip Fathers of one of their most valued privileges. Senator Hampton must have been under the influence of an unusually severe spell of the sun, for he usually when he conceived this brilliant plan. This would be Civil Service Reform with a vengeance. If a Senator or member cannot recommend a constituent, who must? No doubt the constituent would prefer to recommend himself, but how is the appointing power to know that said constituent does not overestimate the qualifications of the anxious one who he calls in the assistance of a member or a Senator? I will venture to predict that Mr. Hampton will not be able to make his brethren party company with this cherished prerogative. Not a bit of it. The majority of them like the power it gives them too well—and I don't blame them.

MAJOR ROBERT D. GRAHAM tells me that North Carolina has a great many applications for office before the Civil Service Commission, and that the average standing of those examined compares favorably with the examination papers of any other State in the Union. By the way, Major Graham, a younger son of the late Governor Graham of North Carolina, continues to hold his place as Secretary of the Civil Service Commission, and to give satisfaction amid the recent changes in the personnel of the Commission. The fact that these examination papers show so favorably for our State can but gratify the friends and well-wishers of the old Commonwealth. Mr. Daniel R. Goodloe tells me that one of the earlier superintendents of

MT. VERNON, THE HOME OF WASHINGTON, near this city, told him that the more ancient portion of the house was built entirely of North Carolina pine.

This week there was an imposing gathering of militia officers in this city. North Carolina was represented by Gens. Johnstone Jones and Matthew P. Taylor. The former was elected one of the Vice Presidents of the military association which called on the President in a body. They were very cordially received.

Dr. Wood, of Wilmington, and Jones, of Tarboro, have been attending the session of the American Sanitary Association of this city. Dr. Wood read an interesting paper on the water of the Cape Fear River as a source of water supply.

THE ISABELLA SPRUNT. I often see the beautiful rose, the Isabella Sprunt, for sale in the market here. It was invented (I can't think of a better word) by the Rev. James Sprunt, for years the pastor of the Presbyterian Church in Kenansville, N. C., and named for his daughter. Rev. Mr. Sprunt was the brother of the late Alexander Sprunt, Esq., Vice Consul of the port of Wilmington, who doubtless has many friends among your readers. I mention the matter because some time ago I heard a Northern woman ask for the Isabella Sprunt at a florist's stand in the market, and I turned to see a large number of the exquisitely tinted roses beside me. The subtle perfume and delicate coloring, together with the mention of a familiar name in a crowd of strangers, so suddenly recalled recollections that belong to "the tender grace of a day that is dead" that I can not forbear paying a passing tribute to one of the beautiful flowers that belong to the flora of the State.

I learn that two special policemen, one being an ex-detective, constantly watch the grounds in the rear of the White House. The *raison d'être* of this singularly unrepulsive proceeding arises from the fear which some of the timid official cranks have of the traditional prowler, known as the tramp crank. These first-mentioned cranks fancy that some of the later-named cranks might wish to kill the President! I wonder if Cleveland knows a special patrol "keeps watch and ward" over his backyard? I don't believe he does.

GOVERNOR STEEDMAN returned home Monday in charge of his young relative, Miss May Wright, and other North Carolina girls who are at school here in the Convent of the Visitation.

A DELEGATION OF INDIANS, belonging to the Sac and Fox tribes, called on the President this week. They wanted a balance they thought of going to the land. They also wanted the "great father" to assure them that their children should not be forced to go to school. They wore "full court dress," with tomahawks in the place of swords. There is a darky among the waiters at the White House who used to belong to a Mr. Herring, of Sampson county. The Indians were going up the staircase leading to the library as this colored "tarheel" was coming down with a bundle of pamphlets. The darky politely paused in the angle of the landing and bowed low to every "armed warrior" as they passed him. The whites of his eyes became more and more prominent as they filed by him, and he wondered what the President would do in the presence of so many thousands of braves. Cleveland gave them quite a long interview.

ONE OF THE EARLIER SPEAKERS, in the lobby of the House of Representatives a row of the portraits of the various Speakers of the House of Representatives. For years one of these has been referred to as the "Unknown Speaker." Last week Senator Hanson, who thought it possible that the portrait might be that of his great uncle, Hon. Nathaniel Macon, discovered that it was the Hon. Mr. Sedgewick, who was one of the earlier Speakers of the House. He sent a photograph of this portrait to the descendants of the Sedgewicks. They compared it with an oil portrait of the ex-Speaker Sedgewick, and found that the originals were identical. The inquiry on Gen. Randall's part arose from a desire to secure a portrait of Mr. Macon if possible, as he has been applied to for one several times by persons who were anxious to initiate a movement to place a statue of Mr. Macon in one of the two niches reserved for North Carolina in the Hall of Statuary.

Col. Wharton J. Green tells a good story on an influential constituent. The gentleman came here in the interest of a Democrat who wanted a postoffice then held by a Republican. Col. Green had done all he could to hurry the matter up, but concluded to take his friend along and try his luck a second time with Cleveland and Vilas. As usual, the President referred them to the Postmaster General. Vilas seemed to have an unusually severe attack of the Civil Service fever on him that morning, and he talked very learnedly on the merits of reform and non-partisanship. Col. Green's constituent had been an earnest Democrat and a partisan, of course, for over twenty years. He could not understand the utter indifference with which recital of the Democratic applicant's services to his party and personal merits was received by the high officials. Finally, however, they were referred to the First Assistant Postmaster General, Col. Stevenson. He received them most cordially, listened carefully to a statement of the case, then ordered the desired removal and appointed the Democrat. The Cape Fear politician had scarcely left the office when he turned to Col. Green and said: "God bless Stevenson! His presence is like a ray of sunshine after a long rainy day. If I go as a delegate to the next Presidential Convention my vote is going for Stevenson!"

It will be remembered that Col. Stevenson averaged four hundred fourth-class postmasters a day soon after his installation, in spite of the fact that there was an immense accumulation of delayed business on account of the continued ineligibility of his predecessor, the late Mr. Hay. It is certainly good policy always to be polite; and judging from what I have heard it would be a useful lesson for some of the newly-appointed dignitaries to learn that it costs little and certainly detracts nothing from their imagined dignity always to be courteous.

A Destructive Conflagration at Jacksonville. JACKSONVILLE, FLA., Dec. 17, 1885.—In spite of the efforts of the firemen the fire which broke out last evening in Hubbard's warehouse on the dock spread to the Abell block, in which were the Herald newspaper, Hazen's billiard parlors, Kurtz Bros. and several others.

The buildings in rear of McConihe's, Hubbard's and Abell's blocks on the wharf with their contents are destroyed. Hubbard's loss is estimated on the building and stock at \$130,000, insurance \$90,000; Benedict & Co., on warehouse, loss \$15,000; Abell's block, badly gutted, loss \$25,000, partly insured; Hazen's loss \$5,000; Herald newspaper, loss \$2,000, partly insured; Huvn & Co., tobacco, loss \$5,000, partly insured; Julius Slager, loss \$5,000, partly insured. The office of Judge Davila and the library and papers of the Masonic Grand Lodge of Florida were entirely destroyed.

The fire was stopped this morning at Kolsh, Furchgott & Benedict's store on the east side, west end including McConihe's hardware store. About 2 A. M. a portion of the front wall of the Abell block fell, crushing four colored firemen, one of whom, Wm. Bradley, was instantly killed. The other three were badly but not fatally injured.

A white fireman named Gaff was badly cut on the head by a falling brick. During the day a man working among the debris was suffocated by the smoke and carried to the hospital in a helpless condition. The engines are still playing on the smoldering ruins. The total loss is estimated at \$450,000, insurance \$350,000 on buildings and stock.

ADVERTISEMENTS. BEFORE buying your Christmas Presents, call and see the beautiful goods — AT — McNEILL & CO.'S Book and Music Store. All at POPULAR PRICES.

Christmas Holiday Presents! BROWN & RODDICK, 27 HAY STREET, FAYETTEVILLE, N. C. We cordially invite the public before purchasing their Holiday Gifts to examine our choice and extensive assortment. A very considerable portion of our Novelties are our own importation, and customers will find the

Finest Goods at Popular Prices. Space will allow us to enumerate but a few of the leading articles to be found. Dolls at 5c., 10c., 25c., 50c. and \$1.00. They will speak for themselves. BOOKS OF FICTION, POETRY AND HISTORY, By all the leading authors—prices away down. Children's Books—Illuminated and Illustrated—at Half Price. Ladies', Gents' and Children's Cups and Saucers. China Ornaments Just 50 per cent. Below Last Season.

CHILDREN'S TEA AND TOILET SETS At 10c., 25c. and \$1.00. Papeterie in Boxes and Other Forms, From 10c. Upwards. POCKET-BOOKS, PURSES, SATCHELS, HANDKERCHIEFS--In Linen and Silk, TOILET SOAPS, TOOTH BRUSHES, HAIR BRUSHES, EXTRACTS, COLOGNE, &C., &C., WHICH WILL ALL MAKE USEFUL PRESENTS.

Brown & Roddick, 27 Hay Street, Fayetteville, N. C. Branch Store, 9 North Front Street, Wilmington, N. C. STOVES. STOVES. WE have a LARGE ASSORTMENT of COOKING STOVES, all numbers. Also OIL STOVES, REFRIGERATORS, ICE-CREAM FREEZERS, WATER-COOLERS, LEMON-SQUEEZERS, TIN TOILET-SETS, GARDEN and DRY-WELL PUMPS, VALLEY GUTTERING, &C. CANE-MILLS, COPPER and GALVANIZED EVAPORATORS, STEAM-FITTINGS, BLACK and GALVANIZED IRON PIPE. McMillan Bros. July 2, 1885.

MILLINERY AND NOTIONS —AND— FANCY GOODS! FOR THE MILLIONS. LATEST NOVELTIES EVERY WEEK! Embroidery Silk, Millinery, Florence Knitting Silk, Corsetti Speed Silk, Embroidery and Art Chemise, Zephyr, Germantown and Saxony Wool, Stamped Nylonines, Tilies, Slippers, &c. New Lot 5 and 10 cents Goods. Christmas Goods Next Week. All CHEAP for Cash at Wholesale or Retail. Call early. Mrs. DYE, nov 26-1f Hay St.

"Money Saved--Money Made!" DETERMINED TO INCREASE MY BUSINESS, HAVE MY PLACE KNOWN —AS THE— Cheapest Store in Town. I WILL SELL MY LARGE STOCK OF DRY GOODS, FRESH and DESIRABLE GOODS, JUST RECEIVED, "CHEAPER" THAN They can be Bought "Anywhere Else."

"IN THE RING." Owing to the Large Competition in the CLOTHING BUSINESS, I will sell my Complete and Large Stock of Clothing--Men's, Youth's and Boys--at Greatly Reduced Prices. "MORE STEAM." Also a Heavy Stock of BOOTS and SHOES--All Grades, and All Kinds, at the Very Lowest Rate. SOLE AGENT FOR THE A. A. Battles Shoe; BEST IN THE MARKET--EVERY PAIR GUARANTEED OR MONEY REFUNDED. GEO. ROSENTHAL, Market Square, Opposite B. E. Seiberry, Fayetteville, N. C. September 24, 1885.

CHARLES HAIGH HAS REMOVED to his new and commodious building between His Old Stand and People's National Bank. Where he has in store a full line of Staple Groceries: RACON, LARD, FLOUR, SUGARS, COFFEES, TEAS, SALT, MOLASSES, CANNED GOODS, &C. Tobacco, Snuff and Cigars. HARDWARE, CUTLERY, WOODEN-WARE, LEATHER, AXLES, RIMS, &C. Agricultural Implements, With additional store accommodations, and a very complete assortment of everything wanted by my branch of trade, I confidently ask for a continuance of the generous patronage which has favored me in the past.

CHARLES HAIGH, GUANO For Wheat and Cotton. I have now on hand my FIRST INSTALLMENT of THE CELEBRATED Navassa Guano, for Wheat and Cotton, and would suggest to farmers that a favorable opportunity is offered for hauling it out as they bring in cotton. R. M. NIMOCKS, nov 26-1f

F. I. L. I. Another shipment of these Popular Cigars has just been received, and, if possible, they are superior to the first lot. Fragrant and of delightful flavor. The F. I. L. I. is "bound to shine." A. S. HUSKE & CO. dec 3-1f

A. GARRASON, HEAVY and FANCY GROCERIES, General Family Supplies, HAY STREET, FAYETTEVILLE, N. C. ang 13 131-1f

CLOTHING! CLOTHING! TO ENUMERATE THE MANY STYLES OF CUT AND FABRIC EMBRACED IN MY Fall and Winter Stock —OF— CLOTHING, WOULD OCCUPY TOO MUCH SPACE, BUT THERE ARE SEVERAL LINES WORTHY OF SPECIAL MENTION: DRESS SUITS, I HAVE English Worsted in Diagonals and Basketts, Both Black and Brown, Four Button Cutaway Styles, ALSO, ELEGANT PRINCE ALBERT Coats and Vests, WITH A SPLENDID ASSORTMENT OF FANCY CASSIMERE and WORSTED PANTS TO SELECT FROM. BUSINESS SUITS IN BLACK, BLUE and BROWN WORSTEDS, BESIDES MANY NEW STYLES IN FANCY CASSIMERES. In Round and Square Cut Sacks and Cutaway Frocks. YOUTHS' DRESS and BUSINESS SUITS--A GREAT VARIETY, BOTH IN SACKS and FROCKS. FOR BOYS, such an assortment was never before shown in this market--in School Suits and Suits for Sunday wear. All the NEWEST SHAPES in Stiff and Soft Hats, In Black and Colors, can be found in my stock. I have given special attention to the selection of Underwear for Men, —and is— Furnishing Goods Generally, I make an unusual display. In this line I have added to my stock Underwear for Boys, Also, Boys' Dress Shirts and Linen Collars. My sales have been unusually large this season, but almost daily arrivals of New Goods enable me to keep up stock. Have just in an extraordinary line of Overcoats for Men and Boys, —AND— Men's Fine Shoes, Buttoned, Laced and Gaiters, Machine and Hand Made, of best makers. Call and make your selection, and I guarantee to make prices satisfactory. H. R. NOVITZKY, The Fayetteville Courier, 131-1f