

THE STANDARD.

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THE ROADS.

In dealing with questions of interest to the public, it is always necessary to consider what will be of the most benefit to the greatest number. The continual harping on the tariff question by political professors has not yet made it plain to the staid, hard working farmer; nor can these men, who trust to their county and church papers for news, and who are the real support of "the rest of mankind," whose taxes each year aid most materially in filling the coffers of the treasury, whose dollars jingle in the pockets of merchant, mechanic, lawyer and doctor, point out the legality or illegality of the Blair bill, but there is one thing they do know, and that is that the roads are bad. At this time of the year nothing is more talked about; the difficulty of getting to church, to market, and even to a neighbor's house through the slush and mud, makes the subject of roads a theme of conversation at every gathering. All agree that in some way they ought to be improved—there is not a dissenting voice. Even the lawyers, doctors, merchants, mechanics, and so on, take up the cry and want better roads, but how is it to be accomplished? It is not for us to advance any plan, but we join in the general growl, and ask the farmers, who are most interested, to speak right out and give their opinion of the most feasible plan. In some places the working of convicts has become very popular, and it is claimed by its advocates to be the cheapest; others think it should be done by a direct road tax, and the Farmers' Convention in discussing the question favored a mixed system of taxation and labor. The Republicans have already taken a stand against the present mode, and the Democrats will of course do something of the same sort, but what will the people do, for this is not a party question, but a question for the whole people. It will undoubtedly be up before the next Legislature for discussion, so let the lawyers, everybody, think it over and work out the most practicable plan.

The Senate confirmed the nomination of Secretary Lamar to the Supreme Court bench on the 16th by a vote of 32 to 28.

The intermingling of the people North and South for the past twenty years has had its effect. The very many northerners who spend their winter months in our sunny southern land, and the commercial tourists, flitting hither and thither, have borne back, not tales of bloodshed, murder and rebellion, but bright, happy and pleasant memories of an hospitable people, prosperous and prospering, who have naught but a kindly feeling to all, and who are ready to let bygones be bygones.—The attempt to arouse the old war feeling of bitter sectional hatred by political aspirants, or old time fanatics with the cry of rebel is growing weaker and weaker, and in the near future the oratorical gush of the political Forakers, Boutells and Chaudlers will go begging for an applause.

Dispatches from various portions of the west report the cold the severest for years. The sweep of the blizzard is accompanied by fearful loss of life. Many persons are missing, supposed to have lost their lives in the great drifts of snow.—Horses and cattle have frozen to death in their stalls. In Kansas whole families are reported to have perished in their houses. There is not only a want of fuel, but the supply of food is short and starvation stares many in the face. Travel is almost entirely suspended. Monday night is reported as the coldest, the thermometer registering from 30 to 35 degrees below zero.

It is claimed by railway officials that the wreck on the Chester and Lenoir narrow-gauge road near Hickory, was caused by wreckers, and they say further that two unknown men were observed prowling around the trestle just before the wreck occurred. An examination of the trestle shows that its timbers were sound and that it was in good condition at the time of the accident. It is believed that obstructions were placed on the trestle which threw the train off, and that the train in its fall carried the trestle down with it under an unusual strain.

Dr. W. C. Shaw, a Baptist minister of Johnston, S. C., attempted to commit suicide on the 14th by cutting his throat. The Doctor is a convert to the doctrine of "sanctification," and his enthusiasm on that subject has unbalanced his mind.

In some of the southern countries of Virginia, the cultivation of peanuts is gradually taking the place of cotton as affording a more profitable crop.

The Blair Bill and the abolishing of the Internal Revenue tax now engages the attention of the U. S. Senate. On the 13th Senator Vance addressed the Senate in support of Gov. Brown's resolution to abolish the internal revenue tax. From the Associated Press news of the Wilmington Messenger we clip the following synopsis of his speech:

The lines, he said, had been drawn closely by the President's message on the subject of the surplus and taxation. The contest had to be fought squarely, and the question had to be decided unequivocally on its merits. That question was, should taxation be enforced for the support of government, or for the enrichment of private individuals, should money be collected from the people for public or for private purposes. No reputable hypothesis could be formed which presented any other phase of the question.—The question was, where should the reduction of taxes begin? The proposition of most of the Democratic Senators (following the lead of the president) was, to begin and end with tariff taxation. The Republicans on the other hand proposed to begin by reducing (only in part) the internal taxes, and by adding to the free list those things coming from abroad which did not compete with things made in this country, and the duty on which was, therefore, all revenue. For himself he proposed to begin with both evils as he found them excessive in internal and excessive tariff in taxation.

In North Carolina there was cause of complaint against each, but there was far more complaint as to the method of internal location than there was as to the amount. Why, he asked, should not the excise tax be repealed or greatly modified?—The exigency which called it into existence had long since passed away. It involved the right of a man to do what he pleased with his own, within the bounds of the law of liberty. It involved the right of the farmer to sell the product of his labor to any purchaser who offered the best price. It involved the right of the husbandman to utilize the fruit of his orchard instead of leaving it to rot on the ground. It involved still more momentous questions, whether the poor man's cabin should be indeed his castle, protected by the organic law, or whether it might be ransacked at any hour of the day or night by a petty official "dressed in a little brief authority," in search of tribute for an overflowing treasury.

The people of North Carolina cared little or nothing about the tax on spirits and tobacco. They would pay it cheerfully if they could be spared oppression and the vexatious methods and machinery of its collection. It was not a question, as was often so triumphantly stated, of a choice between free whiskey and free blankets, because the duty on blankets was now practically prohibitory, and they would not be any cheaper if the excise on whiskey was removed.

Mr. Vance proceeded, with much detail, to illustrate many of the inconsistencies in the tariff, particularly as bearing against the articles consumed by the poor and in favor of those consumed by the rich. He declared that the central theory of the tariff was iniquity, and that he was opposed to the whole thing, out and out. He should not vote to put anything on the free list, the tax on which was pure revenue; he should strive earnestly to reduce taxation on the necessities of life, and he should discriminate in nothing except against luxuries and in favor of the helpless and unprotected.

Under the new deal in the R. & D. system, Col. A. B. Andrews is retained as 3d Vice President, Capt. W. H. Green is general superintendent, with headquarters transferred from Richmond to Washington, Col. J. N. Staples is made assistant legal counsel and Manager Thomas retained. The removal of the company's offices back to Washington does not meet the approval of the Richmond people.

NEWS ITEMS.

Gen. Bragg has been appointed minister to Mexico.

Mrs. John Jacob Astor bequeathed all her property to her husband except \$108,000 which is devoted to charity.

The Crown Prince of Germany has sent a special messenger to Berlin with news of his improved condition.

Mr. Delano, president of the Wool Growers' Association, has called for organized resistance to Mr. Cleveland's free-wool scheme.

The Congressional Club of Minnesota protests against the admission of Utah into the Union until it abandons Mormonism.

Monday prayer meetings for business men are now held in the board of trade rooms, Philadelphia. Thus far they are a success despite the constant attention which a very vigorous telephone in the rooms constantly needs.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 16.—The Senate this afternoon confirmed the nominations of Messrs. Lamar, Dickinson and Vilas, to be associate justices of the Superior Court, Postmaster-General and Secretary of the Interior respectively. The vote was 32 to 28.

INGERSOLL ON THE BIBLE.

Robert Ingersoll is generally looked upon as a railor, a doubter, a scoffer at things sacred and divine, who can find in religion nothing that is worshipping and good. The popular impression is in a measure a mistaken one. How much so, read what he says of the Bible and then decide for yourself:

"This collection of books has taken such a hold upon the world as no other. The literature of Greece, which goes up like incense from that land of temples and heroic deeds, has not half the influence of this book from a nation alike despised in ancient and modern times. It is read of a Sunday in all the 30,000 pulpits of the land. In all the temples of Christendom its voice lifted up week by week. The sun never sets upon its gleaming page. It goes equally to the cottage, of the plain man and the palace of the king. It is woven into the literature of the scholar, and colors the talk of the street. The bark of the merchant cannot sail the sea without it; no ship of war goes to the conflict without the Bible is there. It enters men's closets; mingles in all the grief and cheerfulness of life. The affianced maiden prays God in scripture for strength in her new duties; men are married by scripture. The Bible attends them in their sickness; when the fever of the world is on them the aching head finds a softer pillow if such leaves lie underneath. The mariner, escaping from the ship-wreck, clutches this first of his treasures and keeps it sacred to God. It goes with the peddler in his crowded pack; cheers him at eventide, when he sits down dusty and fatigued, brightens the freshness of his morning face. It blesses us when we are born; gives names to half of Christendom; rejoices with us; has sympathy for our mourning; tempers our grief to finer issues. It is the letter part of our sermons. It lifts man above himself; our best uttered prayers are its storied speech, wherewith our fathers and the patriarch prayed. The timid man, about awakening from this dream of life, looks through the glass of scripture and his eye grows bright; he does not fear to stand alone, to tread the way unknown and distant, to take the death pang by the hand and bid farewell to wife, and babes and home. Men rest on this their dearest hope. It tells them of God, and of his beloved son; of earthly duties, and of heavenly rest. Foolish men find in the source of Plato's wisdom, and the science of Newton, and the art of Raphael; wicked men have used it to rivet the fetters on the slave. Men who believe nothing else than is spiritual, believe the Bible all through; without this they would not confess, say they, even their own God."

And yet Ingersoll, giving utterance to such words as these, can still maintain that the Bible is inferior to Shakespeare. Inconsistency, thy name is man!

The Bible of all books is the best worth reading. To read it as it should be read is, even to him who maintains that its origin is human, a liberal education. No where else will you find deeper, truer poetry, more broad and merciful philosophy, more moving and soul-stirring theology, sublimer or more heart-quickening pathos than are to be found in its pages. Read to receive, or read to confute if you will, but above all read it. Alas! that so many of its professed admirers and expounders should in their practice be so widely astray from the precepts of the Book they claim to be the lamp of life!

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COMMERCIAL LANCELOT.

Nearly every one of us has made use of Arbuckle's coffee. The N. Y. correspondent of the Richmond Dispatch thus writes of him:

A song came out of the West many years ago, a verse of which ran as follows:

"Come, Philander, let us be a marchin',
Every one his true love a 'sarchin';
Choose your true love now or never."

Charles Arbuckle, the millionaire coffee merchant, waited, until he was fifty years of age before he yielded to some such sentiments as that embodied in the sentimental stanza and began his love-lorn peregrinations. His "march-in'" and his "sarchin'" led him to the feet of a maiden of a certain age, said to be about forty, and he called her "Bunny" and she called him "Baby Bunting." She accepted money from him, wrote long letters to him—one of which, she avers, contains thirteen more words than the one which it answers—is said to have proposed marriage to him; receives from him letters full of such initials as "H's" and "K's"—kisses and—"Kiss me quick." At length, when the lover sighs less vehemently, the lady drops poetry and sentiment, and in the most prosaic manner sees him for breach of promise, and has just recovered a verdict of \$45,000 from a jury of esteemed shoe-string vendors, suspenders dealers, and other equally important lights of commerce.

Who is Charles Arbuckle?
His name has become known all

over the country by an unhappy denouncement of his sentimental adventures, which have been the theme of gossip in society for several weeks. He is one of the largest coffee merchants in the world. Short, stout, ruddy-faced, with round, moon-like features, small, dark eyes, and a thick bull neck, he is a familiar figure on the Coffee Exchange and in lower Wall street, the haunt of coffee importers and brokers. He is plainly, almost shabbily, dressed, wears a mustache dyed black, and has quite off-hand manners. He is illiterate, close, and sharp in a bargain; out as a business-man, he is straightforward. Standing by the trading ring in the Coffee Exchange he is a picture of stolid ignorance and petty vulgarity, a man worth a million and a half in money, but appraising his worth in every other respect at an appropriately modest valuation. In other words a mere trader.

SOME BUSINESS DON'TS.

Don't forget that a chattel mortgage is, in fact, a conditional bill of sale.

Don't transcend your authority as agent, or you will become personally responsible.

Don't go into a firm already constituted unless you expect to be liable for its debts.

Don't pay off a mortgage until you receive a properly executed satisfaction piece.

Don't take a note after it has matured, unless you expect to meet all the ordinary defenses.

Don't think that infatuation neglect to repudiate a contract when he becomes of age, will ratify it.

Don't expect to construe an important or difficult trust without the advice and consent of the court.

Don't erect a building upon the foundation sunk into the ground, or it will become part of the reality.

Don't except a chattel mortgage unless the schedule annexed contains every article to be covered by the lien.

Don't imagine that a mere joint purchase by two or more, each receiving his share, constitutes a partnership.

Don't think that a promise to marry will be void because no time is fixed. The law will allow a reasonable time.

Don't acknowledge a man as an agent unless he can show that he stands in his principal's shoes as to the business in hand.

Don't take a title where there is a judgment against a man of the same name as your grantor, without a conclusive proof that he is not the judgment debtor.

Don't hold a paper or account an unreasonable time, or you will be presumed to admit its correctness.

Don't forget that a promissory note in the hands of innocent third parties for value, shuts out all defenses usually made on contracts.

No past popularity, no fame earned by a lifetime will avail if men do not stoop to the front and keep up the stroke.

Reputation is as good as capital; character is better. Reputation is what a man passes for, character is what he is.

Never hold goods that are slow sale and unsaleable. Make the drive when trade is good, not wait for the dull season.

WILL 1888 BE A YEAR OF WAR?

The present year is the fifth year of modern times in which the aggregate of the figures are twenty five, and there will be but five more years in which such a combination is possible prior to the year 2599. Probably few have ever heard of the old prophecy, which runs as follows:

In every future year of our Lord,
When the sun of the figures is
Twenty-five,
Some warlike kingdom will draw the sword,
But peaceful nations in peace shall thrive.

Students of modern history will readily recall how faithfully this prophecy has been fulfilled in the four previous years, which it applied.

In 1699, Russia, Denmark and Poland formed the coalition against Sweden which inaugurated the great war that ended in the disastrous defeat of Charles XII, at Pultowa.

The year 1789 will ever be memorable on account of the breaking out of the French revolution.

The year 1838 witnessed the campaign of Bonaparte in Egypt, and the formation of the second European coalition against France.

In 1879 war broke out between England and Afghanistan, followed by the invasion of the latter country by British troops.

In what manner the prediction is to be verified in 1888 remains yet to be seen, but the present condition of Europe seems to promise an abundant fulfillment of the prophecy.

It has been positively decided to hold a fish, oyster, and game fair at Newberne for three days, beginning March 13th.

STATE NEWS.

J. Van Lindley, of Guilford, goes this week to California to attend the annual meeting of the American Horticultural Society.

Stanly Observer: Mr. Jonathan Bell of this county, though one of our oldest citizens, is quite active for a man turned upon his 20th year. He can yet jump upon a horse's back from the ground.

An earthquake was plainly felt by many people at Raleigh on the 12th inst. Some persons ran out of the houses in alarm. Mr. Birdsong, State Librarian, says the shock was very strong on the third story of the capital.

Speaker Carlisle has recognized the farmers of North Carolina by placing Major C. W. McClammy on the Committee of Agriculture. The Major grows the largest watermelons of any man in the 50th Congress. And long may he continue to grow them.—Raleigh Progressive Farmer.

The Oxford and Clarksville railroad is completed almost to Oxford. Only about six miles remains to be laid. Just as soon as this part of the road is completed work will begin on the part from Oxford to Durham.

A new Episcopal church is in course of construction in Craven county, at Tuscarora. The name of the little town is, by the way, the only public recognition of the memory of the Tuscaroras, once North Carolina's greatest and most warlike Indian tribe, of which the present King of the Sandwich islands is a degenerate descendant.

News and Observer: North Carolina has fared badly in the matter of chairmanships of House committees at Washington. But one has been given her and that of minor importance. The long and distinguished service of her representatives entitled her to greater consideration. Col. Cowles has the chairmanship and it is of the committee on expenditures in the department of justice. Col. Cowles is also on the committee on patents and on expenditures in the post-office department. Mr. Henderson is well placed on the judiciary committee and is also on the committee on pensions.

Mr. Johnston is on the committee on public buildings and grounds; Mr. Rowland on the committees on post-offices and post-roads and the election of President and Vice-President; Mr. Latham, the committees on District of Columbia and private land claims; Mr. McClammy, the committees on agriculture and the alcoholic liquor traffic; Mr. Simmons, the committees on claims and expenditures in the Treasury department; Mr. Nichols, the committees on labor and mines and mining, and Mr. Brower, the committees on war claims and expenditures in the State department.

"If I should tell you, dear," he said, "that my love for you had grown cold, that I had ceased to care for you, and that the happy time when I shall claim you as my ownest own, will never, never be, would it really be a trial to you, darling?"

"Yes, George," shyly admitted the girl, "it would be a breach of promise trial."

WALTER & SUTHERS,

GROCCERS,

GROCERIES,

CRYSTALIZED LENSES

Cash or Barter.

Announcement.

Removal.

SI000 REWARD

Victor

GREAT SLAUGHTER IN PRICES!

Hats and Bonnets

20 Per Cent.

BELOW ACTUAL COST!

Below Actual Cost!

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