

THE REPORTER.

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THURSDAY, MARCH 14, 1878.

CORPORAL PUNISHMENT.

The administration of punishment as the penalty for violations of law and commission of crime is not so much to measure out retributive justice to the offender, as it is for an example to others, in the hope of guarding the interests of society and deterring others from a course of crime. Punishment is, therefore, intended to prevent crime, and the most effective method would doubtless prove most satisfactory. The records of our courts show that larceny is the most prevalent crime throughout the South, and the question should be, how can it be suppressed. A majority of those who steal are persons of vagabondish habits, with no self-respect, and whose characters suffer nothing from the stigma of a term in the penitentiary. In fact, a thief, too lazy to work, preferring to make a living by degrading upon the property of others, rather looks forward to the penitentiary as a harbor of rest from his labors. Two full meals a day and an ample supply of clothing does not impress him as being severe punishment, and therefore we often see men who contrive to return themselves to the State prison a second and a third time. As the *Lumberton Times* says: "What does a rogue care for going to the penitentiary to work out a term of from one to ten years? Just so they get some thing to eat and wear they are satisfied, and no doubt many a one, being scarce of food, steals something just to be sent there."

The last General Assembly of this State authorized the establishment of an Interior Court, to reduce jail expenses by providing for speedy trials for certain offenses. Three-fourths of the cases in this county over which said court would have jurisdiction, judging from past records, would be in charges of what might properly be termed petit larceny. Jurors, justices, court officers and a lawyer, constituting the court, are paid from the treasury of the county; and when the criminal is convicted in nine cases out of ten he regards his assignment to the penitentiary as a fortuitous circumstance rather than a sentence for punishment. A change in this method could be made, with wholesome effect. If magistrates were given final jurisdiction in all such cases where property less in value than twenty dollars had been stolen, a vast amount of court costs and jail fees would be saved; and if thirty-nine lashes were prescribed as a penalty for every case of petit larceny, the tendency to diminish that variety of crime would be instantaneous.

The only effective plea raised against the re-establishment of the whipping-post is that while small thieves are punished, those who steal large amounts will escape it. We know in some cases this view will be correct. Those who steal Presidencies will escape flagellation. Men who steal millions, like the Credit Mobilier combination, will not be treated as they deserve. But instances of such gigantic robbery are not of every day occurrence. The country generally suffers mostly from the depredations of petty thieves, and counties are afflicted with the costs that prosecutions entail. Men like Tweed, who steal millions, and those of lesser note who steal thousands, are generally persons of high and respectable family connection, used to the higher circles of society, and, notwithstanding their guilt, are sensitive of personal degradation when convicted. To them the penitentiary presents no attraction; on the contrary, it is the very embodiment of shame, disgrace, humility and punishment. Not so with petty thieves. The whipping-post alone will terrorize them.

But some States distinguish between petit larceny and grand larceny, punishing each offense in its own degree. For instance, if stealing to the amount of twenty dollars or less is petit larceny, any amount over that sum is grand larceny. If thirty-nine lashes is the prescribed penalty for petit larceny, grand larceny might be punished with thirty-nine lashes, and a fine covering the sum stolen, and in default of security for the payment of said fine, an additional thirty-nine lashes could be administered within two weeks from date of first conviction, and before the prisoner was discharged from custody. If the value of the stolen property exceeded one hundred dollars, penal servitude for a term of not less than ten years would illustrate the truth of the proverb, "Honesty is the best policy."

We hope the next Legislature will revive the whipping-post, and place the hearing and disposition of petit larceny cases within the jurisdiction of justices of the peace.

Advice to Farmers.

Under the above head we find the following article in the *Oxford Torchlight*. As a general rule, farmers are disinclined to take advice from either books or papers, but cling with ruinous tenacity to the customs of their forefathers. But believing that the theory advanced by our contemporary will apply to Stokes county as well as to Granville, we give it for what our farmers may think it is worth:

"We will arrogate to ourselves the liberty of saying a word of counsel to the farmers of North Carolina. The advice which we propose to give is gratuitous and will apply to farmers in other than tobacco districts. The advice which we give you is to make your breadstuffs, bacon, etc., at home. It will not do to depend upon buying corn and wheat, even if tobacco does seemingly pay better. Make a little less tobacco and it will, by reason of not being so abundant, bring a higher price per hundred pounds. Raise your own pork even if you can buy Baltimore bacon for less than you can raise it. There is no reason that the farmers or other citizens of Granville should buy a mule or a horse not raised at home. Let some of our farmers raise stock for this market. They can make money selling Granville raised mules at \$75 to \$100 per head, and horses at \$100 to \$125 per head. These prices may seem high, but very few farmers in this section would sell a 3-year old mule for less than from \$75 to \$100 each, unless below average in size and style, and oftentimes they ask as high as \$150 for a 3 year old horse of fair form and size. The tax on farmers of buying horses and mules that should be raised at home is enormous. We hope to see this leak stopped. The remedy for the evil is attainable, and should be applied."

The Clock Strikes One!

One year ago to-day Rutherford B. Hayes took the oath of office as President of the United States. The fourth of March last year came on Sunday. Mr. Hayes took the oath stealthily, in the evening. He knew—for he must have known—full well that his title to the office was vicious; hence, although it was Sunday, he and his advisers did not deem it safe for him to go to sleep that night without having taken the oath. A guilty conscience needs no accuser, and Mr. Hayes, although standing on the very threshold of the White House, knowing that he had no right to be there, was fearful lest some slip might occur before he should get possession, and it was thought prudent to take every precaution, and to incur no unnecessary risk.

The day following, Monday, Mr. Hayes repeated the oath of office in public, very few knowing at the time, that he had taken it in private the evening previous. One year of the four for which Mr. Hayes assumed the office, has now passed. It is not too much to say that it leaves him in a position never before occupied by any man holding the office of President of the United States. He is, in almost literal truth, without a party and destitute of friends—an object of ridicule to Democrats and of pity and contempt to the Republicans who voted for him. If a National Convention of the party which supported him were to be called to-morrow to name a candidate for his successor, it is quite safe to say he could not obtain one solitary vote for re-nomination.

The year that has just closed has not been barren of progress toward the unseating of Mr. Hayes from his office.—Mr. Justice Strong of the Supreme Court of the United States, whose vote, as a member of the Electoral Commission, placed Mr. Hayes in the Presidency, has expressed the opinion that his title rested solely on a technicality, and that he was not lawfully elected. One of the public officers who concocted the fraudulent returns in Louisiana by which Mr. Tilden was cheated out of the Presidency and Mr. Hayes put in has been convicted of forgery and sentenced to two years in the Penitentiary.

The voice of the public press is almost unanimous against Mr. Hayes.—Such Republican journals as the *New York Times* and the *New York Tribune* represent him as isolated, friendless, and powerless.

The verdict of the country is apparently made up—that Hayes is incompetent, and that his title to the office is vicious. Judging from the advance which has been made by the Opposition to Mr. Hayes in twelve months' time, he would be deemed a bold prophet who should predict that the Fraudulent President would be permitted to retain his office three years longer. We look for further very damaging disclosures in the near future—threatened confessions already fill the air; while the feeling grows daily and hourly stronger and more strong that the man who came into the office of President by fraud has been in long enough.

—*New York Sun*, March 4th.

The Views of a Citizen.

BEAVER ISLAND, Stokes Co., N. C.,
March 8, 1878.

Editors Danbury Reporter:

As you profess to take great interest in county matters, especially in both general and special improvements, also in some special financial projects, etc., will you not allow us in the most friendly and humble manner to make some suggestions, which might be of interest to some of your numerous readers in the county, if it does not seem practicable to yourself. In the first place, we would call your attention to the condition of the public roads and streets in and about Danbury, as well as in other localities. Would it not be of more general interest to have well worked and advantageously laid out streets and public roads, and have them unobstructed by unsightly wood piles, heaps of stones, and old dilapidated vehicles, etc., as some of the streets of Danbury are, than to be occasionally calling attention to some old shop, which we might consider a monument to some of your industrious predecessors? The roads leading to your town, which in most instances follow the old Indian trails, beaten perhaps centuries ago, might occupy your attention for a short space, and we might have an occasional appeal to somebody of our boasted age of modern improvements.

I, for one, am firmly of the opinion that better and more systematically laid out roads to the Court House is an actual necessity of the times. If you remember some years back, there was no little talk about moving the public buildings from Danbury. This feeling may have partially subsided, but I can assure you that if there is not more interest taken in constructing roads leading to Danbury, the feeling that was once agitated cannot remain dormant much longer. It is slumbering now, and if it should again be stirred up, it will not so easily subside.

You have made some suggestions as to a bridge across Dan river. It is not a bridge that the general public most desire. What would it profit an individual to cross a bridge and then plunge into a mud-hole or deep gully, and run the risk of being thrown down a precipice? Let us have roads and streets first; then it would be time enough to talk about building a bridge, that would cost probably more than it would to build a new Court House and Jail on a more accessible, and we might say a more costly site. It does seem to me that property owners in Danbury are interested in this matter, some way or other.

Secondly, you have of late been giving your undivided attention to some of our public servants; to which I do not object in the least. But, Messrs. Editors, are you not a little eccentric in your criticisms? Are there no other public officers in Stokes whose public and official actions would bear scrutiny? Yes, would they not justify public condemnation? They were elected as Democrats, received the arduous support of the editors of the REPORTER, and it may be not a little from your most humble correspondent; yet their actions are allowed to quietly pass, and not a word is published concerning them.

Could you not give us a slight sprinkling all around, if in your opinion it would be of any advantage, as you profess not "to be at the behest of any party, clique, monopoly, or other combination?" It does seem to me that the local columns of the REPORTER might be filled for weeks from such subjects, especially in these hard times for old Stokes.

We, as Democrats, should remember that it is in our hands, as a party, to better the condition of our internal or local affairs; and if we do not at least attempt such a thing, we will be justly held responsible for it by the people at the ballot-box. No public servant should fail to receive a just condemnation from the public press for his malpractice in office. Probably if it had not been for some such things the Democratic party would remain as firmly planted in the breasts of the people of Stokes as your native Sauratown mountains that tower above your little village. Let every man have fair play.

So wake up, Messrs. Editors. Let us have some suggestions pointing to a general improvement of our roads and water funds, at least. Do not let personal animosities, and some particular friends banking after somebody's old shoes, entirely absorb your attention from this one important matter of public interest. It might look a little peevish to occupy too much time with "cheap Johns" and "dirt throwers," to the exclusion of some others. Let us have a few stones now, and let them be well aimed. It might be beneficial in the end.

Yours, respectfully,

Negro boys sell young alligators for pets in the streets of New Orleans.

A Theory About Wells.

The theory is advanced by General Gibson, a Louisiana Representative in Congress, that J. Madison Wells is insane, says the *Philadelphia Times*. The plea is plausible, and the position is much more tenable than any that has been advanced by his friends, among whom, happily, General Gibson is not numbered. Certainly it is the most charitable way for accounting for his long career. It is an error to suppose that Mr. Wells has none but a Returning Board notoriety. His name has long been conspicuous in the criminal calendar of Louisiana. Many years ago he was short in his accounts as sheriff of Rapides parish to the amount of \$200,000 or thereabouts. He now has a claim for \$656,000 before the Southern Claims Commission, which the Legislature has pronounced fraudulent and based on perjury.—May not this have been the fruit of a diseased mind? A few years ago two stolen mules were traced to his plantation, and when the overseer was offered fifty dollars to point out the animals it is related that his reply was: "Dem mules is on de place, but I ain't gwine to pint 'em out for no money." De fac is Massa Madison is a great rascal, but he is good to old Robin and I ain't gwine agin him. And I tell you dis, if all de mules on dis place was piated out dat don't belong here there wouldn't be more nor three left." The theory of insanity would fully explain this remarkable disposition to stock his plantation at other people's expense. The cold blooded murder of Matt D'Espair, an unarmed neighbor, by J. Madison Wells, is one of the blackest spots on his character. Insanity, however, is a cloak broad enough to cover this spot. Then, when we come to think of his virulent temper as displayed last Winter, and his attempt to brain David Dudley Field in a committee room, how well this plea fits. And how can his persistence in forgery and perjury to keep the Democrats from controlling Louisiana, notwithstanding their rightful majority, be explained to the satisfaction of any rational being not already convinced that he is a bold, bad man? The plea of insanity is a strong one.—Let the defense rest its case there.

Ruth and Jacob.

ONE THOUSAND DOLLARS WANTED FOR A KISS—THE ORDER OF REBEKAH.

Galesburg, Ill., Feb. 22.—To the Circuit Court to-day the case of Martha J. Cline against Henry Soldwell for \$1,000 damages, was heard. This was a case of trespass upon the person. The parties are members of the Order of Odd Fellows in Yates city.

On opening the case Attorney Wiloughby stated to the jury that the crime charged against the defendant was "kissing the complainant in the dark without her consent." Mrs. Cline complainant, was the first witness sworn, and testified substantially as follows: On the 22d day of December, 1875, she attended a meeting of Odd Fellows at Yates City, Henry Soldwell belonged to the lodge, and she was a member of the Order of Rebekah. At the close of the business meeting the brothers and sisters of the lodge indulged in a social game of Ruth and Jacob. Soldwell was Jacob and she was Ruth. In this game Jacob took unwarrantable liberties with Ruth, squeezed her hand, clasped her behind the door, and made an assault with attempt to kiss. On the same evening about 11 o'clock, her husband not being in attendance at the lodge, Soldwell acted as her escort home. On the way, when near her residence, he threw his arm around her and kissed her three times, right there in the dark. She—all the time resisting—freed herself from his embrace and ran home alone. Mrs. Cline's husband, thirty years her senior, testified that he was sitting on a pile of lumber near his house, waiting for his wife to come along with some of the neighbors, and, although it was dark, he was sure he saw the faces of defendant and complainant in very close proximity; that she left him and ran into the house, and on his (Cline's) going in his wife told him all about Soldwell insulting her. The defense claimed that it was a pure case of blackmail. Cline owed Soldwell \$625. This morning the jury, after being out eight hours, brought in a verdict for the defendant.—*Chicago Times*.

A correspondent at Cleveland Mills writes to the *Raleigh News*: Martin Ledford, a young married man of Cleveland county, a class leader, and the son of a local minister, eloped last Sunday night with a young woman, Julia Johnson, taking with him all the better part of his household goods, including his wife's clothes, and leaving her and one child (the only one) to the cold charities of the world. His wife is an orphan, without either father, mother, sister or brother. When last heard from, they were in Rutherford county, winging their way towards Tennessee.

Perfidy, Jealousy, and Murder.

A FAITHLESS WIFE AND HER PARAMOUR
LOCKED UP IN A NEBRASKA JAIL.

SIDNEY, Feb. 26.—Charlie Phillips suddenly disappeared from the ranch of R. J. Walroth, a wealthy stock owner, who lives about five miles this side of Big Springs, the scene of the Union Pacific express robbery. Phillips had been engaged on the farm for a year past. He was 18 or 20 years of age, sober, and industrious. Walroth, being absent from home a great deal, conferred upon Phillips the authority to look after his interests at the ranch.

Mrs. Walroth is not more than twenty-one years of age, full of blood, and a little given to flirting. Walroth suspected an illegitimate intimacy between his wife and Phillips, and to guard his home from dishonor during his long trips to other parts of the State, he engaged Harry Daboise to live at the ranch and do general work. This was about nine months ago, Daboise is a fine-looking fellow, twenty-one years old, dresses well, and is a printer by trade, well educated, and polite. He outshone the other fellow, and the fickle and faithless wife transferred her affections from the first to the last employee of her husband. Jealousy prompted Phillips to threaten her exposure to her husband.

On Sunday last Mrs. Walroth confessed that she knew where Phillips was; that he had been murdered and the body thrown into the river, and that the deed had been done by Harry Daboise. She said that on the day before Phillips was to be sent away he had threatened to tell her husband of her shame, and she told Daboise of it, and told him he must kill Phillips. Then they arranged a plan to entice him away from the house and murder him. Daboise called him out to the stable, at 10 o'clock that night and told him that he (Daboise) was a member of the gang that robbed the express train at Big Springs; that \$20,000 of the gold was buried on the lands of the Platte river, which is only three hundred yards from Walroth's house. He told Phillips that \$10,000 of the money belonged to one of the robbers who had escaped the officers, and the remainder belonged to himself. He had advice to the effect that the unknown robber would return the next day for the money, and proposed to Phillips that they should go immediately, dig up the money, and get away with the cash, each taking half—Phillips consented, and they started at midnight. While they were treading a narrow path by the river bank where it whirls in deep eddies in its sandy bed Daboise silently dropped behind Phillips, and firing with a revolver, struck him centrally in the back of the head, the bullet coming out between the eyes.—Then Daboise filled his victim's pockets with sand and threw the body into the river.

Daboise and Mrs. Walroth were lodged in Sidney jail yesterday. Phillip's body was found in the river, half a mile below the scene of the murder.—*Omaha Herald*.

NEWS OF THE WEEK.

STATE NEWS.

Kerosene oil sells at Charlotte for 14 cents a gallon.

The fishermen of the eastern counties have begun active operations.

The banks pay 93 cents for the Mexican dollar—pay it out for 100 cents and refuse to take it for deposit.

Milton Chronicle: Some men too poor to take a paper are not too poor to waste one hundred dollars a year on drinks.

The *Concord Register* says there is a man and woman straying around passing themselves off as a Baptist minister and wife, who are impostors.

North Carolina sends peanuts to Italy, where they are fed to young ladies about to make their debut as opera singers.—The oil of peanut greases the high notes.

There is such an excitement and alarm in McDowell county on account of the existence of hydrophobia, that the town marshal of Marion has been instructed to kill every dog seen in the street for the next twenty days.

The *Milton Chronicle* tells this one; Person county boasts of a dame who pulls down 215 lbs, and who gave birth to a child on Saturday, another on Sunday, another on Monday, another on Tuesday, another on Wednesday, and one on Thursday. Four of them are living and doing well.

The *Monroe Express* wants the farmers of Union county to stop the cultivation of the fleecy staple and devote their energies to tobacco, and cites an instance where a citizen of that county sold tobacco raised from one acre for \$305, at a time when the price is lower than it ever has been before.

On Monday last officer Andrews, of Chapel Hill, attempted to arrest Cass Merritt for brutality to his wife, when Merritt drew an axe and threatened to take the life of Andrews. Andrews drew his pistol and fired on Merritt, but missed him. This brought the rascal to terms and he was taken in custody.

Near Indian Trail, in Sandy Ridge township, Union county, Mrs. Thos. Ivey was severely injured by a tree being cut down across the house. The house was just about completed and some one falling a large tree near by allowed it to fall in the wrong direction. The injured lady was not killed immediately, but was not expected to recover from her injuries.

There is said to be at Murray's Shop, near Berea, Granville county, a sign-post of heart anasfrass, which tradition says was put up by the colonial authorities when the road was cut by them from Bath to the Swarwater settlement during the reign of George II—long before the Revolution.

GENERAL NEWS.

Some of the young members of a church in Tunbridge, Vt., got themselves into trouble by turning a prayer meeting into a kissing party.

Cumberland, Maryland, has a law under which all boys under 16 years of age will be arrested when found loitering on the streets after 8 o'clock at night.

Mrs. Myra Clark Gaines \$30,000 from the city of Baltimore by the decision in a recent suit. She expects to attack Kalamazoo, Michigan, next.

A family near Evansville, Ind., consisting of father, mother, and son, have all committed suicide within the past four months.

Ebenezer Haskell of Philadelphia has expressed in his will a desire to be cremated, and placed, in the form of ashes, under a rose bush.

It snowed once in Lisbon, Portugal, during the past winter for the first time since 1840. Similar slight falls occurred also in 1837 and 1839.

It is Dr. Fordyce Barker's opinion that city women are healthier and handsomer than country women, as a result of better food and more diversion.

A young woman of Newburg, Wis., severely thrashed her father because he would not raise \$500 to give her as a dowry, in order to marry a man who wanted his wife to have that sum.

Mr. Henkle, of Maryland, Monday, introduced a bill for the relief of Samuel F. Mudd, of Maryland, the physician who gave professional assistance to Booth after he killed President Lincoln.

Mary Kenally is only 17 years old, yet she has been arrested eleven times for drunkenness in Fall River. She is well-behaved when sober, but cannot resist her appetite for strong drink.

The art of cutting and polishing diamonds that had so long been monopolized by Amsterdam experts, has been brought to the New World, and is now successfully practised by young women in Boston.

A certain tenor singer, whose name is not mentioned, is, according to the *Dramatic News*, compelled by his jealous wife to telegraph to her daily during his tours, as an assurance that he is not forgetting her.

There are about one hundred men in the South who were pensioners as veterans of the war of 1812, and because of their participation in the late war, were stricken from the pension roll. The Senate has passed a bill to restore their names to the roll.

The convict choir at Auburn prison is a remarkable musical organization. The organist is sentenced for grand larceny, the first violin, the first tenor and double bass are murderers, the second tenor, basso, and sopranos are all burglars, and the professor is a forger.

Daniel McFarland, who was tried and acquitted in this city eight years ago on a charge of murdering Albert D. Richardson, is or was recently an employe in a wagon factory at South Bend, Ind. He is said to be a hard drinker and of vagabondish propensities.

A monument to John C. Breckinridge is proposed in Kentucky. The Legislature of that State has incorporated an association which will collect funds for the purpose, and a bill appropriating \$10,000 for the monument has been passed to a second reading.

A newly-invented car for testing the strength of bridges is to be used in Connecticut. It contains an immense tank filled with water. In case the bridge gives signs of weakness the movement of a lever opens the sides of the tank, and the water instantly pours out, relieving the bridge of 80 tons weight.

In China criminals are permitted to hire substitutes to be punished in their stead. The same practice has been attempted in Reno, Nevada, Ah Choney murdered a fellow countryman, and was arrested; but by paying a Sheriff \$500, another Chinaman was substituted for him, the latter agreeing to take the shame of hanging for a specified sum. Ah Choney was detected before he could get out of the place, and the Sheriff was also put under arrest.

David M. Brewer refused to marry Miss Hynes, in Nashville, after a courtship of several years. The jilted girl's mother put a revolver into her pocket, and went out to find Brewer. He had been informed of her murderous intention, and on meeting her in the street, he dodged behind a friend and along tightly to him. The friend did not like the danger of being a barricade, and escaped from it by slipping out of his overcoat which he left in Brewer's hands. Then Brewer ran with all his might and Mrs. Hynes chased him, while keeping up a scattering fire with the revolver.—She was at last captured by a policeman.