

Reporter and Post.
A PAPER FOR THE PEOPLE
 Entered at the Postoffice at Winston, N. C., Postoffice No. 100, as Second Class Matter, February 17, 1887.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 1887.

THIS PAPER may be found on file at the Postoffice at Winston, N. C., where advertising contracts may be made for it. NEW YORK: Published by the University of North Carolina.

THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA.

The report of President Kemp P. Battle and of the Committee of Visitation, to the Board of Trustees of the University of North Carolina, is before us. It is a pamphlet of 35 pages, 8vo. President Battle's report, to the consideration of which we shall confine our remarks, is clear intelligent and forceful throughout. He reports that the attendance the present collegiate year will be about the same as last year. He says: "Inasmuch as many of the colleges in the State from which we chiefly draw our patronage, have experienced crop failures three-years in succession the fact that we have not had a considerable diminution of numbers is a gratifying proof of the confidence of the people.

The students as a body have shown a commendable degree of study and attention to duty. Their conduct has as a rule been remarkably good. As great freedom from vices and rowdiness has existed as can be found in any institution in the land.

This statement is confidently made, and investigation challenged, notwithstanding the deplorable killing of Jacob A. Freeze, a student from Rowan county in a row with some negroes three of whom, Pat Brewer, James Harris and Ed. Kirby are now in jail awaiting trial. I have already reported the facts of this case to the Executive Committee and as the trial of the slayers will shortly be held, I will not repeat them. The body of students, although greatly excited at the death of their comrade, behaved as good citizens should, lending their aid when called on, making no threats of lynch law, leaving the matter to judicial investigation. Notwithstanding the terrible tragedy, these circumstances show conclusively their general good conduct, and their obedience to authority."

He sets forth the opportunities for study afforded by the institution in the following extract:

"Continuous instruction is offered for four years in Latin, Greek, English, Modern Languages and Mathematics. In the sciences enlarged facilities have been provided for work in the laboratory and field, and in these, as also in Mental and Moral Philosophy, instruction extends over a longer period than formerly.

Special opportunities for study are offered in the branches pertaining to Agriculture and the Mechanic Arts, in Engineering and in Normal Instruction.

Post-graduate courses have been mapped out in all the departments, leading to the advanced degrees of Master of Arts, Master of Philosophy, Master of Science or Doctor of Philosophy. The Law school has also been put upon a surer foundation. The post-graduate courses are open to students from any college, without tuition charges.

Additions have been made to the Chemical, Physical, Mineralogical, Zoological and Botanical Laboratories, one or more rooms being set aside for each of the branches mentioned. The furnishings of these laboratories are of the best, and superior advantages are offered for careful work. The museums and collections in the different departments of science are receiving constant additions and prove valuable aids in illustrating the instruction."

Notwithstanding the fact that the total income of the University is barely enough to support the institution in its expanding form an effort has been made to scrimp its resources and impair its usefulness by the late Farmers' Mass Meeting at Raleigh, which passed a resolution asking the Legislature to turn over to the farmers the \$125,000 of land scrip now in the hands of the University and bearing \$7,500 interest a year, "to the best maintenance of an agricultural and mechanical school. Besides the interest derived from this fund the State has been giving the University \$20,000 annually. We understand that the income from these two sources, aggregating \$27,500, represents the total sum annually available for conducting this most important work, excepting the receipts from tuition fees which cannot be increased until the State becomes more prosperous. Dr. Battle gives in tabular form the amount twenty-six other States of our Union are contributing for higher education. Virginia

disburses \$130,987, including interest on land grant, to six institutions, and South Carolina \$61,158 to three institutions.

We refer those who wish to inform themselves as to the colleges or universities that are endowed with the National Land Grant to a very interesting pamphlet entitled "Industrial Education in the United States" published by the Board of Education at Washington.

The land scrip or National Land Grant was donated by act of Congress, approved July 2nd, 1862, under the title "An Act Donating Public Lands to the several States and territories, which may provide colleges for the benefit of Agriculture and the Mechanic Arts."

It has been charged by men who have never made any effort to acquaint themselves with what work the University of North Carolina is doing, that the trustees are not applying the \$7,500 interest received by the institution to the terms of the trust. The space assigned to this article does not allow us to fully discuss this matter, to which President Battle devotes eleven pages of his report. We can only say that whoever reads the conditions of the act must be convinced that such an accusation is without foundation. As we said in our last issue the Legislature and citizens of the State would act most wisely in making provisions for the establishment of an institution expressly for learning the skill of hand and practical details of farming, and provided with a farm and workshop. But as President Battle says such institutions, however, can scarcely be supported except in populous and wealthy communities. The object of the act was merely to "promote the liberal and practical education of the industrial classes in the several pursuits and professions of life." To this use the University has strictly applied the interest derived from the law scrip fund.

The Wilmington Star has a very readable editorial "Skip it if you can" on the chastening effect of sickness upon our spiritual being and moral welfare.

It begins thus: If a man owed an idea, catcher or some machine that he could wind up as a clock and set a going by his bedside to watch the thousand fleeting thoughts that pass through the brain both asleep and awake while under the pangs of suffering and the peculiar effect of opiates, he might afterwards use them with satisfaction to himself, and possibly to others. Thoughts that "wander through sterility" and breathe of immortality, as well as thoughts that are of the earth earthy come and go like prismatic hues."

Washington Irving was in the habit of rising from bed and dressing himself in order to jot down any thoughts that came into his mind during sleepless or sleeping and waking hours. Kotzebue, who was the most fertile and successful writer of plays whom Germany ever produced, conceived the plot of one of his best known, the "Stranger" (Menschelthass und Reuse), while he lay convalescent from a severe fever.

It is a good thing to feel the vital forces running low and the tenement of clay so shaken as to seem ready for ruins. It chastens the spirit, and takes from the heart all bitterness. It turns the thoughts heavenward, and the spirit soars above this dim spot which men call earth and enables it to commune with its Maker. It gives a glimpse of those unending vistas through which the immortal soul shall one day walk in supernal joy and with beatific vision, and makes the rivalries and heart-burnings and honors of earth shrivel as a poor parchment scroll in consuming fires.

It ought to make man a better and a grander being as he gets nearer and nearer to the Holy and Infinite One. Sickness wrecks the body, and its pains and penalties to a sensitive physical organization are something terrible to bear; but they can not touch the soul with their deadly, crushing force or wring from it one rebellious thought against Him who formed both soul and body. The Divine chastisements are surely for the good of man. They remind him that here he has no continuing city, and that is he wise he will not place his heart's affections and hopes upon the transitory, perishable things of this earth, which is itself awaiting the renovating fires of the *Dies Irae*, but he will fix them upon God, immortality, heaven, the home of the redeemed and the glorified—upon those things which are eternal and unscathed.

Thus endeth our little sermon on what sickness may do and should do for the afflicted. It is from a sharp but brief experience of the last week that we write and if the sermon is uncongenial you may put it down as the fitful expressions

of one who is not in the enjoyment of that most desirable of earthly blessings which was the wish of one of the wisest of the Latin poets—*Mens sana in corpore sano.*"

The above is a record, as it seems, of what passed through the mind of the editor (Mr. Frederick M. Kingsbury) during a late acute though brief sickness. He alluded last spring to his failing health. We were very sorry to hear of it, for he possesses a peculiar combination of qualities for which we might look in vain in his successor. But we hope the day may be far distant when he shall be compelled to lay aside his pen.

"What seems to us affection is oft a hand that leads us to our wish, So may it prove with thee, if Heaven approves."

STATE NEWS.

Greensboro Homes: The C. F. & Y. V. R. R. Co. is digging and removing dirt, preparatory to laying the foundation for the new depot at this place. The building will be about 50 x 100 feet.

Goldensboro Argus: It now appears reasonably certain that Gov. Seales will appoint Mr. Joseph J. Davis, of Lenoir county, to fill the vacancy on the Supreme Court Bench caused by the recent death of Associate Justice Thos. S. Ashe.

Wilmington Star: It is proposed to name the new county sought to be made out of a part of Iredell, Mecklenburg and Cabarrus after the present very worthy Governor. Mooresville is to be the county seat. It will be an oddly shaped county.

Fayetteville Observer: A walk around the yards and depots of the Cape Fear & Yadkin Valley railway Company at this place would be a surprise to many of our citizens. The substantial improvements already made and being pushed to completion, having long been needed and become a necessity owing to the rapid increase of business. The new freight depot, facing Military Green will soon be completed.

Durham Recorder: The first morning session of the Convention was held to-day in St. Phillip's church. The sermon was preached by Rev. W. M. Clark, of Chapel Hill. The following reverend gentlemen are in attendance: Rev. R. B. Sutton, D. D., and Rev. Robert Stange, of Raleigh; Rev. J. W. Murphey, of Hillsboro; Rev. Reary, of Company Shops, and Rev. Wm. Walker, of Pittsboro.

Raleigh News-Observer: The farmers of Casswell who have seen the proceedings of the convention of the 26th in Raleigh, are well pleased with the recommendations made thereat, but many do not see the great advantage to be derived from the agricultural college so much desired. — A meeting of the State Board of Pharmacy will be held in the city of Raleigh on Wednesday, February 23d, for the purpose of examining such candidates for license to practice pharmacy as may appear.

Charlotte Observer: Engineer Morse of passenger engine No. 602, made a trip from Charlotte to Danville on the following time: Left Charlotte at 5:35, with stops at Air Line Junction, Concord, Salisbury, Lexington, Thomasville, High Point, (2), Greensboro, Brown's Summit, Benja and Heideville, time to Danville three hours and thirty-five minutes; distance 142 miles. On the 4th inst. Engineer Morse made the return trip from Danville to Charlotte in three hours and twenty-five minutes, and of this time twenty-four minutes were consumed in stoppages.

Jefferson Appalachian Philosopher: There is a great demand for the mineral water of the Bromine and Arsenic Springs, at Mr. Thompson's hotel, near the North Fork of New River, this county, and hauling the water to the railroad in large quantities has commenced. We learn that 7 wagons were loading thereat or en route one day last week. — A man who has been stopping out on Phoenix Creek several weeks is said to be negotiating for the purchase of iron ore and mineral lands, and has already bargained for \$32,700 worth of land. He is reported to be the agent for a company of Louisiana capitalists, who will probably erect 2 furnaces in this county next summer. He is the same man who was buying up cretals in this county last summer. — We are informed by Mr. J. N. Calloway that an unusual occurrence for the winter happened on Point Creek in Mrs. Bower's meadow. On Sunday, January 23, two blacksnakes were killed there, 4 feet and 1 inch long, and the other 3 feet and 11 inches. They had awakened from their winter's nap and crawled out in search of breakfast perhaps. The weather was springlike. A large black snake was killed in a meadow near Statesville, N. C., the same day, we learn from the Landmark.

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