The Wilmington Messenger.

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TELEGRAPH SUMMARY.

THE STATE.

The weekly crop bulletin of the State Agricultural Department says the reports of correspondents indicate very favorable change in crop conditions——The Governor appoints delegates to the National convention of charities and corrections——Gen. Hoke is elected president of the North Carolina Car company——John H. Winder sues the president of the Seaboard Air Line for his salary

DOMESTIC.

Rev. A. J. Diaz thinks Consul General Lee should be accompanied to Havana by a cruiser for his protection——The Presbyterian general assembly at Memphis got down to hard work yesterday——Several counties of Iowa were swept by a cyclone Sunday night most all the wires are down and news is coming slowly but such as has been received shows great loss of life and destruction of property, twenty-four persons were killed at one town, five at another and three at another, many farm houses were wrecked all the inmates of one were killed; news from other sections not yet heard from will, it is thought, greatly increase the list of dead——At Gaithersburg, Md., a negro not long out of the penitentiary for criminal assault, murders a man, his wife and child; he has not been captured——In the indictment of Capt. Wiborg and the two mates of the Horsa for violation of our neutrality laws, the supreme court confirms the judgment against the former and grants the latter new trials. Justice Harlan dissents as to the judgment against Capt. Wiborg——Last night was seniors first evening at the Salem Female academy and essays were read by twenty-three of the graduates——Free silver will be the main issue in the Prohibition National convention which meets in Pittsburg Wednesday next——The House Elections committee reports the contested case of Martin vs. Lockhart and the report is ordered printed——The Federal Supreme court makes an important decision in construing the Revenue act of 1883——The Southern railway reports net increase of earnings for April of $29,936——Miss Sallie Bernard of St. Louis, Mo., will be the sponsor of her State at the Davis monument ceremonies——The Lauranda sails from Charleston——It is said that if President Cleveland does not veto the River and Harbor bill, he will not sign it——Sam Holloway, while intoxicated is killed by a train on the Norfolk and Western railroad near Suffolk——The official report shows that the Oregon made a record of 16.791 knots an hour making a premium of $175,000 for her builders——Several towns in Michigan were visited by cyclones last afternoon in one a dozen persons were killed and in another four and in a third six or eight——Primaries for delegates to the Democratic State convention were held in several counties of Virginia yesterday, gold and silver being the issue——Contracts have been let for erecting five new buildings at the University of Virginia in place of those burned——Chicago was visited by a severe wind and rain storm yesterday morning, and earlier in the night several towns in the State were visited by cyclones in which several people were killed and much property destroyed.

FOREIGN.

While the Bermuda was unloading her cargo on the Cuban coast on her last trip two Spanish gunboats slipped upon her and covered her with their search light; she immediately steamed away pursued by the warships, who could not overtake her——The Southern Press agent sends from Havana a graphic account of the capture of the filibuster schooner Competitor by the Spanish while unloading men and ammunition on the coast of Cuba and of the torture of the prisoners after capture——Two Cuban prisoners one a youth and the other an old man are put to death and the servant of the latter cruelly tortured.

DELEGATES APPOINTED

To the Convention of Charities and Corrections—John H. Winder's Suit Against President Hoffman.

(Special to the Messenger.)

RALEIGH, N. C., May 25—Governor Carr appoints as delegates to the National convention of charities and corrections at Grand Rapids, Mich., June 4th: C. B. Denson, Rev. Robert Strange, Thomas W. Patten, A. I. Thomlinson, Rev. E. H. Johnson, O. H. Allen, John T. Pullen, W. F. Craig, and Dr. Charles Duffy.

Gen. R. F. Hoke is elected president of the North Carolina Car company of Raleigh. There are to be 1,000 delegates to the Democratic State convention.

Ex General Manager John H. Winder sues President Hoffman of the Seaboard Air Line, for failure to pay his salary as per agreement upon Winder's retirement.

The Weekly Weather Crop Bulletin

(Special to the Messenger.)

RALEIGH, N. C., May 25—The crop bulletin of the Agricultural Department to-day says: Reports of correspondents indicate very favorable change. Favorable rains occurred nearly every day over large portions of the State. The drought continues to prevail in the western counties, in the southern portion of the Central district and especially in the southeastern and coast region. The rainfall was above normal every day, and in most cases heavy rain fell crops made rapid progress. Reports say as to the Eastern section that the drought has been broken, except in Brunswick, Onslow, Pamlico, Carteret, Hyde, Tyrrell and portions of Bladen and Duplin, where the drought prevails with very injurious effect on all crops. Some heavy rains have washed lands badly in these counties and interrupted farming except on light lands. Hail is reported in eight counties, with little damage. Frost occurred in Yates. Generally speaking improvement is reported in the growth of crops. Corn and cotton are in good condition, the larger portion of the cotton crop has been chopped. Much progress has been made in transplanting tobacco, except in places where drought continues. Slight improvement occurred in wheat and oats, which are well cultivated and in good condition. Farmers receive rain, but grass is making fast.

Cleveland and the River and Harbor Bill.

WASHINGTON, May 25—President Cleveland has conference to-day with Gen. Craighill of the engineers, about the River and Harbor bill, which was received at the White House Saturday. Secretary Lamont went from Washington, but the President probably already knows his views. It is evident that the President intends to lose no time in deciding what shall be done with the bill, and rumor has it that he has already made up his mind. It is reported on excellent authority that the President already expressed an intention to veto the measure and the trend of opinion as to reasons is in that direction. It is recalled that Cleveland vetoed one River and Harbor bill. Whether or not he will veto this one thing seems certain, namely, that the President will not sign the act. If he does not let it go on the statute books he will allow it to become a law without his signature under the constitutional limitation.

DEATH DEALING STORMS

SEVERAL NORTHERN STATES SWEPT BY CYCLONES.

Great Destruction of Life and Property in Sections of Iowa, Michigan and Illinois—Cloudbursts In Addition to Hurricanes. Towns Almost Obliterated—The Number of Deaths Not Yet Known.

DES MOINES, Iowa, May 25—The most alarming reports are being received here this morning respecting the cyclone which swept over Polk, Story and Jasper counties shortly after midnight——Owing to the prostration of the telegraph and telephone wires, it is not possible to verify the reports that have been received, but indications are that the casualties will reach fifty killed or injured.

Fourteen persons are reported killed in the three towns of Valerie, Bondurant and Ankeny. The latter two towns are in this (Polk) county, while Valeria is in Jasper county, directly east. So far as heard from, Slater is the only town in Story county which suffered, but as there is no means of communication with that section this morning, there is every probability that the restoration of telegraph communication will bring news of disasters as yet unreported. No details have been received from Slater further than the bare statement that the whole town was destroyed. The same report comes from Polk City, this county.

LATER—A telephone message from Berwick says that a courier just in says that twenty-four persons will killed at Bondurant, five at Valeria and three at Ankeny.

The situation grows worse as authentic news comes from the cyclone district. At Valeria it is now known that fifteen persons were killed, the number being at first placed at but five. Most of those killed were the depot of the Chicago Great Western road, some of them having just alighted from a train, and others having taken refuge from the rain. The depot was literally blown to pieces. The west bound passenger train escaped the cyclone by but a few minutes. Had it remained at the station five minutes longer, the list of killed would undoubtedly have been numbered by scores.

A dispatch from Santiago, this county, says the storm was unprecedented in its fury in that section. Three miles west of the town a house was lifted bodily from the earth, carried some distance and thrown to the ground and shattered. The entire family of occupants were killed. The roads are almost impassable from debris—trees, telegraph poles and branches of trees being swept together in piles. Nothing has been heard from the northeastern end of the county where it is feared the storm caused the greatest damage.

A messenger from Bondurant, who arrived at 6 o'clock says that R. G. Scott, a prominent farmer was killed; also that a church at Ankeny was blown down and several persons were hurt.

The town of Granger was badly wrecked. The number of farm houses wrecked between Valeria and Bondurant is very large.

A number of coffins have been shipped to Bondurant on the Great Western extra, via Berwick, the nearest point.

Additional accounts reach here of the storm in Polk and Jasper counties, the number of dead is placed at twenty, with as many more seriously injured. A number of women will certainly die. The storm passed in two divisions, about twelve miles north of Des Moines, the starting points being nine miles apart. As the divisions progressed, they gathered force and gradually converged into a single one, they met west of Ankeny, and here they developed the cyclone in form with funnel and tremendous force and roaring and electrical disturbances. From this point west for nearly twenty miles the path in this county is the path of destruction. The greatest loss of life occurred in the track of the storm from Bondurant to the northeast. Nothing was left in its path. It passed for several miles through a dense forest with oak trees two feet in diameter. All were snapped off short or torn up by the roots. Houses struck by the storm disappeared utterly. The path covered by the cyclone proper is in most places from forty to sixty rods wide. In portrated all the remarkable freaks that cyclones are famous for. Those who heard it early saved themselves by getting into their cellars. In other places whole families were killed or terribly injured and their property destroyed.

A typical bit of destruction was at the Bailey home, northwest of Bondurant. Two minutes after the storm struck there was no trace of the house, save the cellar, and in it was piled the chimney and stoves. Half the furniture of the house was torn to pieces, the boards into splinters. They were scattered so far that no trace can be found, save here and there.

MCGREGOR, Ia., May 25—A fatal cloudburst devastated this city and county last night. For ten miles everything is in ruins. All the afternoon the clouds were gathering and about 6 o'clock the storm burst dislodging the valley. It swept everything before it. Six bodies have been found and nine people are missing. A small stream called Bloody Run passes the town. Some of the unfortunate victims are supposed to have been carried out into the Mississippi river which the Bloody Run empties at North McGregor. About ten miles of track of the Chicago, Milwaukee and St. Paul railway were washed away. A large number of freight cars were standing on the tracks in the yards. They are piled in shapeless masses along the valley, some of them being carried down into the river. The loss to the railroad company will reach $200,000. The sight was most appalling as the wall of water washed down the creek. The valley for twelve miles is one vast wreck and the damages to mills, houses and farms cannot be estimated.

WEYMOUTH, Ia., May 25—Among the places where great damage to property was done by the cyclone but little or no loss of life occurred, are Burlington, Manchester, Marshalltown, Dubuque and Elma, Ia.; Elgin, Rockford, Galena and Mount Carroll, Ills.; and Duluth, Minn. At Helena, Ills. the damage was very great, chiefly from flood caused apparently by a cloudburst. Water rushing in torrents from the bluffs to the low ground, together with the sudden rise of the Cedar river, turned the downtown streets into running rivers. Tow boats did service on Main and Commerce streets. Several homes were wrecked, among them that of J. P. Strickland, whose wife was drowned in the flood.

At Durango, Iowa, in the midst of the storm, Mrs. Clark, station agent of the Chicago and Great Western railroad, was called from her residence to the depot Saturday to get orders for a train which had just arrived. She took her four children with her, and was at work when the flood, sweeping down the Maquota valley, carried away her residence and finally the depot, which was borne down the stream a mile and a half. The four children were drowned, but Mrs. Clark clung to the roof and was saved by the trainmen. Her bereavement has dethroned her reason.

MOUNT CLEMENS, Mich., May 25—A cyclone passed over this city this evening wrecking about fifty houses and killing six or eight persons and injuring several others.

POTTER, Mich., May 25—Reports from Ortonville, Oakwood, Oxford and Thomas, which are located in Oakland county fifteen to twenty miles north of here, say that a cyclone swept these sections this afternoon. Ortonville and Thomas were nearly wiped out of existence. It is said that fully a dozen people lost their lives at Ortonville while at Thomas four were killed.

LAKE VIEW, Mich., May 25—A small cyclone struck this place this afternoon at 5 o'clock destroying crops, trees and everything in its path. A large barn owned by George Roberts was demolished and one owned by Fred Edgaf was moved from its foundation and crushed. Heavy oak rails were carried across a ten acre lot and splintered. A drenching rain followed.

ROCKFORD, Ills., May 25—Several people were killed and many thousand dollars worth of property destroyed by a storm of wind, hail and rain, which swept upon this region last night. Four persons were injured, some fatally. The storm was most severe southeast of the city. At midnight a cyclone struck one mile south of Egan City, wrecking the residence of Mrs. Isora Bird, and killing her instantly. Her two girls and two boys were badly hurt. The older girl's arm was fractured and she was internally injured. It is now believed the younger girl will live. Big trees were torn from the earth, crops leveled and outhouses destroyed by the storm. Dr. Hildebrandt, his wife and daughter were killed near Monroe Centre, the wife being beheaded by a flying beam, and Miss Rinehart lost her life at Leaf river.

Davis Junction was also a victim of the storm to a serious extent. In this city the storm raged for more than an hour, filling the air with balls of electric fire, and flashes of lightning following with frightful rapidity. The city, however, escaped the destructive force of the storm, the chief damage being two houses struck by lightning, first floors and basements flooded and telephone wires broken. The railroads into the city are obstructed by washouts. The tracks are strewn for miles with the wreckage of the storm.

MARTIN VS. LOCKHART.

This Contest Case Reported to the House—The Senate Passes the Last Appropriation Bill—Senator Butler's Effort to Get Up His Bond Bill.

SENATE.

WASHINGTON, May 25—The last of the general appropriation bills, the Deficiency bill, engrossed the attention of the Senate to-day. As reported from the Appropriation committee it covered items aggregating about $9,000,000, about twice the amount that it carried when it came over from the House. In its progress through the Senate to-day the aggregate was still further increased by the appropriation of $1,000,000 for findings in the French Spoliation claims, and of over $500,000 for findings of the court of claims under the Bowman act.

At first there appeared to be a purpose on the part of Senator Butler to antagonize it with his own bill, prohibiting the issue of United States bonds without the consent of Congress, but he yielded to the appeal of Senator Hale, to allow the Deficiency bill to be disposed of so as to leave the way clear for the consideration of the Bond bill.

Several propositions, requiring unanimous consent, were made to have a day and hour fixed for taking the vote on the Bond bill and all amendments thereto, but a very determined objection was made by Senator Palmer, who declared that no unanimous consent could be obtained for taking the vote on the bill.

After having loaded the Deficiency bill pretty heavily with private claims, the bill passed, and the Senate at 6:20 o'clock adjourned till to-morrow.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

To-day's session of the House, under the rules, was devoted to District of Columbia affairs. That calendar was soon cleared, however, and the remainder of the session was spent in Committee of the Whole considering the bill to repeal that section of the present Tariff law, providing for a rebate on alcohol used in the arts and in medical compounds.

Mr. Evans on behalf of the Ways and Means committee, offered an amendment providing for the appointment of a committee of three Senators and three Representatives to consider the question of the use of alcohol in the arts and manufactures free of tax and to report to the next session of Congress.

The repeal of the section was vigorously opposed by Messrs Russell and Hill, Republicans of Connecticut, on the ground that it would be a reversal of one of the principles of the Republican party in the matter of protection, the latter giving notice that he would move to strike out the repeal clause and insert instead the amendment for a committee on investigation.

The bill was not disposed of when at 5 o'clock the committee rose and the House adjourned.

The report of Elections Committee No. 2, on the case of Martin, Populist, vs Lockhart, Democrat, from the Sixth North Carolina district, in favor of Martin, the contestant, was presented and ordered printed.

Base Ball.

NATIONAL LEAGUE.

PHILADELPHIA, May 25—The Philadelphia club reappeared on the home grounds this afternoon after an unsuccessful trip, and defeated Boston. Both teams made costly errors, misplays in the seventh inning by Harrington, Bergen and Long resulting in as many runs, and giving Philadelphia the lead. Score:

		R	H	E
Boston	0 2 0 0 1 0 0 0 0—	3	7	4
Philadelphia	1 0 0 1 0 0 3 1 *—	6	8	2

Batteries: Nichols and Bergen; Taylor and Clements.

BALTIMORE, May 25—Doheny gave the Champions four bases on balls to-day in the first inning which, with two singles and a couple of long flies, netted them four runs and the game. Score:

		R	H	E
Baltimore	5 1 0 0 0 0 0 0 *—	5	7	1
New York	0 1 0 0 0 0 0 2 0—	3	6	1

Batteries: Esper and Robinson; Doheny and Wilson.

SUNDAY GAMES.

		R	H	E
At Chicago—				
Chicago	0 0 0 0 1 0 0 2 0 1—	4		
Washington	0 1 0 0 1 0 0 0 1 0—	3		
At Cincinnati—				
Cincinnati	1 1 0 2 1 1 0 0 *—	6		
Louisville	0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0—	0		
At St. Louis—				
St. Louis	2 0 0 0 0 1 0 0 *—	3		
Brooklyn	0 0 0 0 0 2 0 0 0—	2		

SOUTHERN LEAGUE.

		R	H	E
At Atlanta—				
Atlanta	0 2 2 0 0 0 0 6 0—	10	14	6
Columbus	1 0 0 0 2 0 1 0 0—	4	7	4
At Mobile—				
Mobile	1 0 0 2 0 0 0 2 0—	6	11	6
New Orleans	7 0 0 0 0 1 0 3 0—	11	11	0
At Birmingham—				
Birmingham	2 0 0 4 0 1 0 0 0—	7	8	2
Montgomery	0 1 0 1 0 0 0 2 0—	4	10	1

THE VIRGINIA LEAGUE.

		R	H	E
At Roanoke—				
Portsmouth	0 2 2 3 1 0 0 0 *—	8		
Roanoke	1 2 0 0 0 1 0 1 0—	5		
At Richmond—				
Richmond	0 0 0 0 0 1 0 2 0—	3		
Lynchburg	0 0 0 1 2 0 1 0 *—	4		
At Norfolk—				
Norfolk	0 2 0 1 0 0 0 0 0—	3		
Petersburg	1 0 0 1 0 0 0 0 0—	2		

The Spaniards Growing More Cruel.

KEY WEST, Fla., May 25—Private advices received in this city Saturday night by the steamer Mascotte report the execution of Manuel Martinez Ortega. He was a youth of 18 years. He was taken out of his cell on the evening of the 14th and the death sentence read to him. He was then placed in a room called the chapel where he remained until 7 o'clock on the morning of the 15th, when he was led out to his death. He was placed in the kneeling position with his back to his executioners. The first volley failed to kill and the second was necessary. He met death smiling.

On the 15th, Francisco Boca Landro, 74 years of age, was put to death. He was charged with failing to obey Weyler's orders for all loyal subjects to reside in fortified towns. He was quite deaf, entirely crippled and almost blind. One of his servants was accused of knowing of the whereabouts of the insurgents and to compel him to talk they placed a rope around his head above the temples and twisted it until the scalp was cut all around the head.

Virginia Democratic Primaries.

RICHMOND, Va., May 25—Democratic meetings were held in Accomac, Brunswick, Washington, Wise and Page counties to-day to elect delegates to the State convention at Staunton. The first two instructed for silver. In Washington anti silver resolutions were adopted though the silver men, owing to the election having been by districts, have a majority of the delegates. Wise elected a compromise delegation and the Page delegates are uninstructed.

Russell's Boodle.

A citizen of Raleigh told a *Sentinel* man this morning that "Loge" Harris, one of Russell's "heelers," says the latter is worth $300,000 and is willing to spend $50,000 on his election. Harris also told our informant that Russell spent several thousand dollars during the recent State convention.—*Winston Sentinel, May 23d.*

Grove's Tasteless Chill Tonic is a perfect Malarial Liver Tonic and Blood purifier. Removes Biliousness without purging. As pleasant as Lemon Syrup. It is as large as any Dollar tonic and retails for 50c. To get the genuine ask for Grove's.

THE COMPETITOR.

A GRAPHIC ACCOUNT OF HER CAPTURE.

Spanish Forces Notified of Her Presence—The Hurry to Get Men and Arms on Shore—Approach of a Warship—Men Attempt to Swim Ashore—Attacked by Sharks. Horrible Torture of the Prisoners.

KEY WEST, Fla., May 25—The correspondent of the Southern Associated Press has received the following graphic account of the capture of the schooner Competitor by the steamer Mascotte, which arrived here from Havana Saturday night.

My informant writes that the Competitor reached the coast of Cuba about midday of April 25th and came to anchor about a mile from Borracos, a small village on the West coast of Cuba between Muriel and Esperanza. A bar prevented a nearer approach to the land. Just before coming to anchor a small fishing boat was seen to hoist sail and start down towards Port Esperanza and, as it was afterwards learned, reported the matter to the authorities. The Competitor had three small boats, one of which was supplied with a sail, and in this boat Antonio Cristo, with seventeen men, were sent on shore to reconnoitre. Everything looked favorable and they loaded the other two boats with the ammunition and provisions and started for the shore. William Levitt and Charles Barnett were detailed to bring them back to the schooner.

In the meantime, the sail boat had returned and reported that about three miles to the south were 600 troops and on the north and 200 more, and as there was only one pass into the interior it was necessary to move quickly or they would be cut off. A few moments after the boats with the ammunition and provisions had left the schooner, the launch Mansajera hove in sight. Col. Munzon ordered the balance of his men on shore and loaded her with ammunition and started for the land. Benjamin Gurk and another sailor were detailed to return to the Competitor for the rest of the party.

About the same time that Munzon left the schooner the two small boats were set to start for the Competitor to wing one behind the other, but before they had got very far from land the Mansajera fired on the Competitor. The first shot went about one mile wide, but at every discharge they came nearer until finally they came so close that the water spattered over the schooner. There were on the vessel at this time Alfredo Laborde, captain; William Gildea, mate; Orna Milton, special correspondent of the *Times-Union*; Dr. Elias Bedia and Augustin Quesada, of Key West, and Teodora Maza. Laborde had the moment before hoist the American flag, but the halyards became fastened in the topsail and then they fastened it on the foresail boom.

Munzon in his haste to get away left behind his fuse of dynamite and the firing was so rapid and the shots coming so close that Laborde, Quesda and Gildea became alarmed and started to swim ashore. Milton, Bedia and Maza remained on board. Munzon and his party had by this time reached the shore and were landing and the Mansajera directed her guns on them, killing one of the horses which Cristo and his party had captured. The Mansajera came to anchor at the bar and dispatched a small boat manned by five sailors to capture the men in the water. Quesada had already disappeared, having undoubtedly been seized by a shark. Laborde states that he saw a large shark pass by him and towards Quesada. Two sailors rowed the boat while the others kept up a constant fire, first at Laborde and then at Gildea. They fired forty or fifty shots at Laborde before they overtook him. Gildea, who is an excellent swimmer, was rapidly lessening the distance between him and the land. Seeing this, the Spaniards opened fire on him and finally overtook him about 100 yards from shore. They then returned to Laborde, who was in the act of sinking for the third time. They took him in the boat where he lay insensible for some time.

Munzon, while the Spaniards were capturing Laborde and Gildea, had landed. Cristo had secured all the horses he could find and loaded them with ammunition. The two Spanish troops on shore had been notified and were on the march to cut them off from the mountain pass. Munzon was thereby compelled to abandon his provisions, 30,000 rounds of ammunition and about thirty rifles and started for the pass. His men carried 150 rifles and 40,000 rounds of ammunition. Each man was armed with a rifle, a revolver and a machete of the finest make. Benjamin Gurk, a Mormon from Dantzic, was one of the party. Levitt and Barnett reached the shore just after Munzon had left and, not knowing the country, wandered about until they were captured by Capt. Pozo. Although Levitt and Barnett were unarmed, Pozo was decorated with a red cross in recognition of the brave capture.

After taking Laborde and Gildea, the Spaniards returned the Competitor and landed on Milton, Bedia and Maza to surrender, but, fearing treachery, compelled them to jump overboard before they would approach the side of the schooner. The prisoners were then tied with their arms behind them in a most barbarous manner, so that in a few moments all were suffering the greatest agony. They were then carried to the Mansajera which lay about 100 yards off and placed on the deck and after several hours of intense suffering they were landed on the dock at Port Esperanza where a heavy guard was placed over them and after a few hours more of agony their arms were loosened.

On the morning of the 27th, the day after the capture, the Contra Maestro, with several adjutants, came out to them and began tying their feet, telling them at the same time to prepare for death. Dr. Bedia was tied first and commanded to kneel down and hold himself steady so that the executioner would make a clean cut. The doctor showed great bravery and a nerve of steel, smiling while the machete was being waved over his head. This satisfied the guard and they left. The next day they took Laborde away from the rest of the prisoners, saying they were going to execute him. They took him on board the schooner Cabello Marine, where they put what is called a Spanish windlass around his wrists, a bar of iron was placed between them and turned until the hands were almost severed from the arms. A Spaniard stood by with paper and pencil ready to take any statement he might make, but Laborde was made of different stuff, and took his punishment like a man. A month later his wrists are sore and his hands benumbed.

The Laurada Sails From Charleston.

CHARLESTON, S. C., May 25—The filibustering steamer Laurada, which has been lying at the quarantine station here for two days, went to sea again this afternoon at 5 o'clock. This morning United States Inspector O'Donnell went on board of her and from then on until the time of her departure the Federal authorities had a representative on the vessel. This was, it is said, merely for the purpose of seeing that no contraband goods were taken aboard while the Laurada was getting a new supply of water and provisions. There have been many rumors regarding the vessel, her cargo and the condition of her crew since she arrived here, but there is no real foundation for them. Competent authority states that the boat merely came here for provisions, and that she has now continued on her way to New York.

ALEXANDRIA, Va., May 25—There was an imposing parade here to day in honor of Confederate Memorial day. The line of march was crowded with citizens and much enthusiasm was shown despite rather unfavorable weather.

SOUTHERN PRESBYTERIANS.

The General Assembly Down to Earnest Work—Reports of Committees—The Work of Seamen's Bethels.

MEMPHIS, Tenn., May 25—This morning's business at the General assembly begun in earnest. The opening religious exercises were conducted by Rev. I. N. Naff, of Virginia, the oldest commissioner present, of which fact the moderator in a graceful speech reminded the assembly.

A proposition to dispense with the afternoon's session met with considerable opposition, but was adopted.

Several reports and overtures were then read and referred.

Dr. Vass, chaplain of the University of Virginia, rendered a report on theological seminaries. It commended the progress made and approved the election of Dr. Strickler and Dr. Hall to chairs in Union and Columbia seminaries, adopted Dr. Burkitt's report from foreign correpondence.

The committee recommended $150 instead of $480, as the annual appropriation for the Pan Presbyterian Alliance. It was hotly debated by Drs. Woodrow, Vance, Hemphill and others. Probably the best speech of this hot debate was made by Hon. W. H. Cox, a member of the Mississippi Legislature from Prentiss county, who opposed any decrease in the appropriation. It was finally settled that the delegates appointed last year to attend the coming Glasgow meeting of the alliance should ask for an investigation of the basis of representation and assessments.

The chaplain of the New Orleans seamen's bethel, Rev. R. T. Steele, then addressed the assembly on the subject of work among the seamen. He spoke of the good work being done at Mobile, Charleston, Savannah, Norfolk and other Southern ports, as well as at New Orleans. His remarks were brief and received close attention. A special committee will be appointed to make a report on this subject.

The moderator appointed Rev. P. H. Brown and Elder C. E. Stupton a committee on the Bethel address. The committee on bills and overtures through the chairman, Dr. Hemphill, reported in regard to the overture from the presbytery of Memphis, asking that regular reports be ordered from the church regarding their Westminster Seminary and that the committee on publication be ordered to furnish suitable blanks for this purpose, that the committee recommend that the petition be granted—adopted.

Dr. Hemphill further reported that his committee recommended that the overtures from the same presbytery, asking interpretation as to whether it be lawful to elect as commissioner to the general assembly a ruling elder in active service in a church union with a pastor, who is not a member of the presbytery at the time of his election, be answered thus: That it is competent for a presbytery to choose as their commissioners to the general assembly any ruling elder under its jurisdiction—adopted.

The committee on bills and overtures further reported as to the overtures from the presbyteries of South Carolina and of Enoree asking amendments to the form of government, that the assembly decline to send down to the presbyteries the proposed amendment to the book of Church order—adopted.

The committee further reported, as to the overture of the presbytery of Wilmington asking the assembly to so amend the constitution as to make it possible for two or more weak churches to combine under one pastoral government, that they were unable to see any way by which this could be done which would not be an infringement upon the inherent rights of the congregations. The negative report of the committee was adopted.

Several overtures of minor importance were then disposed of without debate.

As to the overture from the Presbytery of South Alabama, asking the assembly to state whether the government of the temporal affairs of the church inheres to the deacons of the Church by virtue of their ordination, or by special act of the Church session, the committee recommended that an answer be sent saying that the administration of the temporal affairs of the Church does not inhere to the deacons by virtue of their ordination, but may properly be committed to them. The object of this overture was to ascertain whether, in the opinion of the assembly, the deacons received its authority over the temporal affairs of the Church from the session, or because of ordination. Dr. Craig suggested the defining of what was meant by temporal affairs as an amendment to the motion which had been made to adopt the committee's report. There was some debate, and upon the vote the amendment was lost.

Dr. Woodrow offered a substitute for Dr. Hemphill's answer to the overture and this precipitated a lively three cornered fight between Dr. Hemphill, Dr. Woodrow and Dr. L. C. Vass, in the course of which there were two threatened appeals from the Moderator's decision, neither of which, however, could get a second. There was evident a little disposition to take advantage of the extreme affability of Moderator Mallard, but when he realized that the house was getting into a tangle through this debate on points of order, he brought his strong common sense to bear, brushing away all the quibbles and summarily choking off the debate. Dr. Woodrow's substitute was lost and the report of the committee was adopted. It is understood, however, that this is not the end of the matter, as one of the elders, Mr. Dean, of Opelika, Ala., says he will move for the appointment of a special committee to whom this matter may be referred, and an amendment to the book prepared to be sent to the presbyteries for their approval. After some unimportant announcements, the assembly took a recess at 12:30 o'clock until 5 o'clock p. m.

The mass meeting in favor of foreign missions was called to order promptly at 8 o'clock, by Moderator Mallard, who announced some changes in the committees, owing to the departure of some of the commissioners.

Rev. Dr. Fair, of Richmond, Va., led in prayer. The first speaker was Rev. J. P. Smith, D. D., who spoke feelingly of the missionaries who have died during the year. Dr. Smith is chairman of the standing committee on Foreign Missions, and was in charge of the meeting. The next speaker was Rev. John L. Stuart, a missionary from China, who described the work in that land. The mission was inaugurated in 1867. It now has eleven stations, fifty-eight missionaries and 2355 converts. His address was very interesting. He was followed by Rev. H. P. Price, of Japan, who spoke gratefully of the kind treatment he and the other missionaries have always received from the Japanese Government and people. There are now 364 Protestant churches in Japan. Of these seventy-five are Presbyterian with seventy-nine ordained ministers and 11,000 members. The influence of Christianity is wonderful in that country. In the first parliament of Japan there were thirteen Christians, of whom a Presbyterian was chosen Speaker.

At the conclusion of Mr. Price's address, short talks were made by Director Chester and others. Much interest was manifested in this branch of the church's work and the closest attention was paid to each speaker.

An Important Customs Decision.

WASHINGTON, May 25—A customs case of much importance was decided in the Supreme court of the United States to-day, the opinion being read by Mr. Justice White, the effect of which will be to protect the treasury against the withdrawal of a considerable sum. Chas. A. Allen, owner of the steamer Humboldt, engaged in the coastwise trade on the Pacific, sued the United States to recover $94, claimed to be due him as drawback on bituminous coal imported by him and used on the Humboldt, under the provisions of the Tariff act of 1883. The Government contended that the drawback provision pleaded by Allen was repealed by the act of 1890 (the McKinley law), but the Circuit court and Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit decided against the United States. This was reversed by the Supreme court of the United State, and the case remanded, with instructions to render judgment for the United States.

Highest of all in Leavening Power.—Latest U. S. Gov't Report

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BEING LAID ON BACKS OF KICKING REPUBLICANS.

The Question of One or Two Democratic State Conventions—Our State at the Chicago Exposition—The School Book War. Comments on Guthrie's Financial Position. A Shooting Sensation at Cary.

MESSENGER BUREAU, PARK HOTEL, RALEIGH, N. C., May 25.

It is ascertained that at the Republican State convention an attempt was realy made to get a silver resolution put to a vote, but it was a flat failure. Sheriff Smith, of Richmond county, an ardent Dockery man, made the attempt. He could not get a second to the resolution.

T. R. Purnell, a prominent Republican here, says: "The boys are all being whipped into line. We will not start our campaign until after all the National conventions are out of the way." It is evident from this that the Republican idea is a short campaign.

There [illegible] Democrats just [illegible] whether one shall elect delegates and nominate State officers, or whether there shall be two conventions. It is argued by the "two convention" supporters that it is very important to wait until after the Democratic and Populist National conventions are held.

The Supreme court will probably adjourn Thursday for the term.

The exact cost of the gift which will be made to the cruiser Raleigh by the people of this State is $780.

When the State Board of Agriculture meets next month it will be urged to make some arrangements in regard to having this State represented at the Southern States expositions at Chicago. But it does not appear that it will have any funds available, and so what is done will have to be done by private subscription. Dr. Hughes Clark subscribes $500 on condition that nineteen others will like sum. T. K. Bruner is placed in charge of all the tobacco exhibits, and he makes requisition on the management of the exposition for 2,500 feet of space which will cover the expense. It is said that New Orleans people are fighting the exposition, as they claim it will take business from that city to Chicago.

Cotton fell in this section every evening last week. Yesterday and to day were cloudy and cool. It is said that this is of much more benefit to the cotton than if the sun had come out bright and hot after so much rain, as it enables farmers to get on the plough. Cotton is becoming quite grassy. Streams are high.

The summer term of the Federal court began here to-day, Judge Seymour presiding. There are seventy cases against moonshiners on the docket. A year ago there were 240. The deputy collectors now exercise far greater care in looking into cases reported by deputy marshals. The term is of two weeks. The United States Circuit court number of cases on the dockets is: Criminal, 90 continued from last term, warrants 93, sci fa's 46, equity 14, civil 20. U. S. civil 15. Non suits were taken in all cases in which suits were brought to recover money on insurance by persons in Carteret county. There are a number of suits on postmasters' bonds.

The book agents who are not employed by Ginn & Co. declare that the current rumors that another great pool has been formed are untrue and that Ginn & Co. started these rumors of the formation of a gigantic trust. The war is on between the book companies and it is certainly lively.

There was a sensation at Cary yesterday afternoon. Rufus H. Templeton is the postmaster. It seems there was some feeling between him and Robert J. Harrison, the latter being out of local politics. Templeton was drinking yesterday. He had been with Harrison early in the afternoon and they had parted, apparently in a friendly way. Templeton went to his office and got his pistol. He went back to Harrison's house and found Harrison standing at the gate talking to a young lady. The first thing Harrison knew he saw Templeton pointing the revolver at him. He threw up his arm just as Templeton fired and the bullet shattered the bones of the forearm. Templeton was required to give heavy bond for his appearance at court.

The *Caucasian* will this week publish comments on William A. Guthrie's letter urging that North Carolina recognize all United States silver coins and the Japanese yen and Mexican dollar as legal tender. The Philadelphia dispatches intimate that this step will make North Carolina "the most prosperous State in the Union."

Mr. Patrick Linehan, a well known resident of Raleigh and owner of stone quarries at Graystone and Wadesboro, died here this morning of cholera morbus, after two day's illness. He was a large contractor, and furnished much material along the line of the Seaboard Air Line, particularly at Norfolk, Wilmington, Raleigh and Atlanta.

The Great Speed of the Oregon.

WASHINGTON, May 25—The calculations on the recent official trial of the battleship Oregon were completed at San Francisco to-day, and Rear Admiral Beardslee, president of the trial board, sent a telegram to the Navy Department announcing the result. The official speed made by the vessel was 16.791 knots, which insures the builders of the ship, the Union iron works, of San Francisco, a premium of $175,000. At the completion of the trial, the speed announced, subject to correction for tide, was 16.78. The tidal correction, it will be seen, increased instead of diminished the Oregon's record.

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