

# Rockingham Rocket.

H. C. WALL, Editor and Proprietor.

TERMS: \$1.50 a Year in Advance.

VOL. V.

ROCKINGHAM, RICHMOND COUNTY, N. C., FEBRUARY 10, 1887.

No. 6.

## Job Printing

Having recently purchased a new class outfit, we are prepared to print all kinds of

PLAIN AND JOB PRINTING

IN THE BEST OF STYLES

And at Living Prices

### The Old Story.

From the N. Y. World.  
Again the old story comes from Washington: "Debt reduction the month, about \$9,000,000; reduction, 0."

It is a justice to the people to report to our so-called manhood that this country should have a long business depression, in which people needed to be relieved of an unnecessary burden, they taxed to make forced payment on a public debt not yet bearing a rate of interest not than half as large as they have an average been compelled to pay for the money necessary to carry on their business. If the nation had been prosperous it would have been only right to leave for posterity to pay some part of the cost of a restored and regenerated Union from which it will receive unmeasurable benefits. Inasmuch as the country has suffered from business depression and labor troubles, it is doubly wrong that it has been compelled to bear the burden of wholly unnecessary taxation.

There are only \$40,000,000 of redeemable bonds uncalled. Four ordinary calls will wipe them out. They could and should be paid at once from the surplus now in the Treasury. Will Congress dare to adjourn without providing for tax reduction?

### A Duel in the Road.

Charlotte Chronicle, 3rd.

A rumor reached the city yesterday that Mr. John Baker and Dr. J. A. Wilcox, two well known citizens of Ashe county, fought a duel a few days since, and that Mr. Baker was wounded in the encounter. A telegram to the Chronicle from Hickory last night, confirmed this rumor but did not give the particulars.

Dr. Baker is a Democrat, and Dr. Wilcox is a Republican, both being partisans, and politicians who were recognized as leaders of their respective parties in Ashe county. The report goes that during the last campaign a bitter animosity was engendered between the two men, and it seemed to increase as the days went by. On the day of the trouble they met in the public road quite unexpectedly, and as they came face to face they renewed the subject of their differences and agreed to settle the matter by a resort to the code. They fought it out in the public road, and Baker received a painful wound in the head, but we could not learn the extent of his injury.

### Died on His Mother's Grave.

About seven years ago the mother of Harry M. Gettie, of Moriches, L. I., died, leaving the son and 2 daughters. The death of the mother, who was idolized by her children, was a great blow, and seemed to effect the son particularly. He never entirely recovered.

The young man is about 30 years old and was in the employ of F. Hurd & Co., of 70 Beekman street and boarded with his sisters in Hoboken. He disappeared Thursday, January 20, and was not again seen alive. His body was found near his mother's grave in the Moriches Cemetery by Allen Barnes, Monday afternoon, and was at once identified.

Death had resulted from loss of blood caused by a self-inflicted cut in the radial artery of his left wrist. It is supposed that he must have arrived in Moriches on the Thursday evening train and proceeded direct to the cemetery.

Coroner Edwards, of Patchogue, held an inquest Monday evening, the verdict being in accordance with the facts stated. On a copy of Puck of January 19 Gettie had written what disposition he wished made of his money after his funeral expenses had been paid.

Cooper's Elixir of Buchu, for the Kidneys, the best combination ever used for Kidney and Bladder troubles. Try it. For sale by Dr. W. M. Fowles & Co.

### Our Premiums.

THE ROCKET is determined to give its subscribers their money's worth; that it does this even in its own pages we have often been assured by its patrons, but in order to give a large variety of reading matter we have arranged to offer again this year the following premiums, viz: For every subscriber, paying \$1.50 cash in advance, we will send, free of charge, the New York Weekly World six months. The World as a newspaper is unsurpassed, and it also contains interesting sketches, stories, agricultural matter, &c. Or we will give Country Homes for one year, a sixteen-page agricultural paper published at Asheville, N. C. Country Homes is handsomely illustrated, and is gotten up with special reference to the wants and needs of the people of North Carolina.

Present subscribers can get the benefit of above offers by paying up arrears and for one year in advance.

### OUR CLUB RATES.

In addition to above premiums, we have made arrangements to club the following valuable publications with the ROCKET at the prices given:

The N. Y. Weekly World, together with its premium History of the U. S., and the Rocket one year,	\$2 00
The Southern Cultivator and the Rocket one year,	2 25
The Detroit Free Press and Rocket one year,	2 00
The Philadelphia Times and Rocket one year,	2 50

The above are all standard publications and too well known to need any further notice from us.

### The New South.

From the Baltimorean.

As the late distinguished member of the abolition party in Boston, Wendell Phillips, was wont to tell his people, the resources of the South are wonderful, and if they do not now hold the "balance of the power," the day is not far distant when they will. Advice from Lynchburg, Va., of Saturday last, state that Botetourt county is excited over the discovery of gold and silver deposits on the line of the Shenandoah Valley Railroad. Assays range from sixteen dollars per ton for surface rock, to sixty dollars at a depth of fifteen feet.

On the 15th of the present month, the Steamship, "Seminole," started from Charleston, S. C., for New York with one hundred and eight tons of pig iron from Birmingham, Alabama. This is the first cargo of pig iron ever shipped from Charleston, and the beginning of a trade which promises to make Charleston the most important shipping port for Alabama iron on the South Atlantic coast.

With each recurring year, there are developments in the South which promise to render that section of the United States the most valuable on the American continent.

### Loans on Mortgage.

Cor. Real News and Observer.

Referring to Articles in your paper some weeks ago regarding a lower rate of interest, I venture the suggestion that the Legislature pass a bill declaring that loans on mortgage of real estate shall not be classed and taxed as solvent credits. For the following reasons:

1st. Because it is clearly a double tax on real estate, which bears the principal burden of taxation, and is unjust.

2nd. Being generally so regarded—but a small portion of money so invested is listed for taxation, but interest charged on such loans is at the highest rate, because it is liable to be taxed under construction of tax-laws.

3rd. Because it would put afloat in every community considerable amounts of money now deposited in banks at 4 per cent or less interest—which pays no tax—the banks, by some means, always managing at tax listing time to have sufficient treasury notes on hand to cover all their deposits.

The legislature can legally do this, and I believe it would be effective. At all events, it is worth a trial, and would do more to enhance the value of real estate and make it more productive, not only to the owners, but in taxation to the State, than all the revenues collected from loans on mortgages.

### In the Interest of Farmers.

From the Charlotte Chronicle.

It looks as if Congress is really going to do something of interest and importance for the benefit of farmers. It comes after many years of waiting and we trust that it is accompanied with permanency. We believe that the agricultural experimental station bill, which passed the House branch of Congress, will be accepted by the people as a well conceived measure. Among other things the bill directs the establishment (in connection with the Agricultural Colleges) of a department to be known and designated as an "Agricultural Experimental Station." It also provides that where there are two such colleges in one State the amount appropriated to each State and Territory for this purpose (1,500 a year) is to be equally divided between them unless the State Legislature shall otherwise direct. The object and duty of such experiment stations is to conduct original researches or to verify experiment or physiology of plants and animals; the diseases to which they are severally subject and the remedies therefor; the chemical composition of useful plants; the comparative advantages of relative cropping; the capacity of new plants of trees for acclimation; the analysis of salts and water; the chemical composition of manures; the adaptation and value of grasses and forage plants; the composition and digestibility of the different kinds of food for domestic animals. Scientific and economic questions involved in production of butter and cheese, and such other researches or experiments bearing directly on agricultural industry of the United States as may be deemed advisable.

### Passage of the Mexican Pension Bill.

From the Charlotte Home-Democrat.

Congress has passed the Mexican pension bill. It provides that a pension of eight dollars a month shall be paid to all surviving officers and enlisted men, including marines, militia and volunteers of the military and naval services of the United States, who being duly enlisted, actually served sixty days with the army or navy of the United States in Mexico, or on the coasts or frontier thereof, or en route thereto, in the war with that nation, or who were actually engaged in battle in said war and were honorably discharged; and to such other officers and soldiers and sailors as may have been personally named in any resolution of Congress for any specific service in said war, and the surviving widows of such officers and enlisted men: Provided, that such widows have not remarried: Provided that every such officer, enlisted man or widow, who is or may become 62 years of age, or who is or may become subject to any disabilities or dependency equivalent to so some cause prescribed or recognized by the pension laws of the United States as sufficient reason for the allowance of a pension, shall be entitled to the benefits of this Act; but it shall not be held to include any person not within the rule of age or disability or dependency herein defined, or who incurred such disability while in any manner voluntarily engaged in or aiding or abetting the late rebellion against the authority of the United States. Section 4716 of the Revised Statutes is repealed, so far as it relates to this Act or to pensioners under the Act.

[The restrictions are unreasonable and odious, and shows the meanness of those who insisted on them.]

Three C's.—There are three c's that seize the children and carry them off. The three c's are coughs, colds, and croup. Mothers! Dr. Bull's Cough Syrup saves the little one's lives!

If men are suffering tortures with toothache they should not try to smile and look cool and handsome. How much wiser to ease the pain with a bottle of Salvation Oil. Price 25 cents.

Send \$1.50 and get THE ROCKET and its splendid premiums.

graded for \$3,000 a mile. Deposits can be constructed on the Pee Dee and the cotton from the valley brought down the river by steamer—can be transferred to the cars and directed to any port preferred. The Anson branch can also be built by private enterprise.

To perfect this scheme of transportation, in the interest of the people of the Pee Dee valley, it is proposed to bring the immense water power of the river into operation and stimulate the erection of mills and factories, the co-operation of Captain Bixby is desired. The whole scheme depends on his report. The Captain is cordially invited to come up on the Pee Dee and inspect the conditions stated, and form his own estimate of the feasibility and desirability of the enterprise advocated. That the Pee Dee is entitled to aid from the National Government in the development of its navigation is unquestioned. \$250,000 was appropriated last year to the improvement of navigation on the Cape Fear river. The Pee Dee is a larger river and its valley more fertile and productive than that of the Cape Fear. The northeastern and northwestern rivers have received liberally from the bounty of the government in the improvement of their navigation, and the Pee Dee claims equal consideration. I think that Congress would be equally as ready to listen to the behests of the people on the Pee Dee river, and as ready to make an appropriation to its improvement as to the benefit of other rivers, whenever a proposal, practical in its nature and promising in its results, is reported. Captain Bixby and his engineers is therefore again directed to examine and consider the proposition above depicted. Congressman Rowland's attention to the wants and interests of the Pee Dee valley is also directed, and his services and influence in its behalf at Washington solicited.

J. N. INGRAM.

### A Benefactor.

If a man is a benefactor who makes two blades of grass grow where but one grew before, how much more is he a benefactor who should succeed in doubling the poultry products of this country? Such a result is in a fair way to be accomplished, and that very soon. The discovery of Sheridan's Condition Powder to make hens lay, will not only result in doubling the egg product, but will revolutionize the whole poultry industry. During the autumn of 1885 and winter of 1886, a thorough trial of Sheridan's Powder to make hens lay, was made by thousands of intelligent poultry keepers, and the result was most satisfactory and convincing. Not a man or woman who made the trial got less than double the average number of eggs, and many got more than four times as many as they received from the same number of hens during the same time the previous year. This trial was no hazardous affair, but was as severe a test as could be applied. The trial was made under prescribed rules, and every report had to be signed by the person who made the trial and then sworn to before a justice of the peace. There is therefore, no longer any doubt in the minds of intelligent poultry keepers but that a judicious use of Sheridan's Powder will not only largely increase the egg product, but will stimulate such a healthy condition amongst birds of any name and nature, as will greatly increase the profit in raising them. This is a matter of supreme importance to women, children and invalids, for there is no way by which a steady cash income can be secured with so little labor as by keeping and caring for poultry. I. S. Johnson & Co., of 22 Custom House St., Boston, have published recently a book entitled "The Farmers' Poultry Raising Guide," price 25 cents. They will however mail it postpaid to any person sending 60 cents for two 25 cent packs of Sheridan's Powder, or \$1.20 for a 2 1/2 lb tin can.

The annoyance of a crying baby at once ceases when Dr. Bull's Baby Syrup is used.

Only those who have tried it know its value.—Day's Horse Powder, we mean. Price 25 cents.

No one can think clearly when suffering with headache. Dr. Bull's Baltimore Pills cure it.

Once tried always used, Drexel's Bell Colicure.

er the mud is about up to the hubs of the wagon wheels. The cotton is hauled to Rockingham, after the crops are gathered, in the worst condition of the roads and an inclement state of the weather. The wear on the vehicles and the damage to the mules is great. The stock are so crippled up that they are almost worthless for working crops. The valley has long been in need of a railroad to carry its staples to the seaboard. The central and southern parts of the county have railway accommodations, but northern Rockingham has none. It has paid taxes to assist its southern neighbors in securing transportation conveyance—it would now like for its southern friends to assist it in obtaining the same advantage. It wants a railroad. With a majestic river coursing through its plantations, with fine water powers standing idle, with a fertile valley teeming with products, it has often asked the National Government to open up this magnificent stream to navigation, and give the Pee Dee cotton an outlet to the sea. The national authorities have been in no hurry to heed the appeal. Surveyors have come down and figured on the project, and reported that the cost of its completion would almost bankrupt the treasury of Uncle Sam. The removal of the shoals between Cheraw and the Grassy Islands have greatly discouraged the advocates of navigation on the Pee Dee. The expense would be enormous. We can never expect the National Government to undertake it.

The undersigned has a scheme which he thinks will relieve the National exchequer of this difficulty and accommodate the people on the Pee Dee to shipping facilities, to the sea. The United States Government has recently ordered another survey to be made of the river and a new estimate to be made of the expense of perfecting navigation on its waters. The subscriber has had occasional correspondence with the engineer-in-chief at Wilmington. He now invites the attention of Captain Bixby to his proposal, and asks him to consider well the facts submitted and act thereon in accord with the dictates of his own conscience. Between the mouth of Little River and the Narrows but few shoals obstruct the current of the great river. These shoals can be removed and the channel deepened with but little expense. Navigation will then be open on the Pee Dee between the two points mentioned. A steamboat can (and will) be built by private enterprise and run on the big river between the entrance of Little River and the falls at the Narrows. A railway can be surveyed and constructed from the mouth of Little River down the valley of the Pee Dee, and up the gorge of Mountain Creek and across the country to Bethel and Mt. Pleasant, extending east of the old Dockery mansion, leaving Mason's Hill to the right, and down Hitchcock Creek via Scales' mill to Rockingham.—Connection can then be made from the ports of Wilmington, Charleston, Norfolk, Baltimore or Sandy Hook at New York. The products of the Pee Dee valley can then seek a market in any direction they find most desirable, and the planters can import their supplies from any mart most advantageous.

All parts of the county will then enjoy equal shipping facilities, and the industries of the Pee Dee valley will be stimulated, its resources more fully developed, and its productions increased. The railroad could be built by county bonds, or by "stock" taken by the planters in the Pee Dee valley. If found desirable and convenient, the road could be extended to Mangum, Mt. Gilead or Troy.

If the Rockingham route is considered too expensive, a shorter line from the end of navigation, on the west bank of the Pee Dee, to Lilesville, can be mentioned. The Anson route would extend along a ridge to the Carolina Central railroad, and will not exceed nine miles and it is thought can be

## A RAILROAD UP THE PEE DEE.

THE BOTTOMS OF THE GREAT RIVER.

Its Water Power, Fertility, Products, Cotton, Wheat and Corn—The Navigation of the River, &c., &c.

Special Correspondence of the Rocket.

LITTLE'S MILLS, Jan. 28, '87.

The valley of the Pee Dee, from the Montgomery line to the Grassy Islands, covers a large area of rich and productive lands. The bottoms on both sides of the river are placarded with large plantations. The lands are held in extensive bodies. The soil, where not carried away or inundated with sand by overflows, is fertile and productive. Considerable area of wild land yet remains uncultivated. If the river was successfully leveed these low grounds might be drained. The loam in these swamps is some feet in depth. Winter oaks and vines grow on the wet savannas. An attempt was made before the war to levee part of the river, but the enterprise is too heavy for individual effort. The shoals and falls on the river hold immense water power—force enough to turn mills and factories sufficient to manufacture the commodities of the State. Fine mill sites are formed on the bluffs, overlooking the river.—Cotton factories could be erected to work up the crude products of the valley. Thousands of spindles and looms could be set in motion, and villages built up on the river to turn the cotton of the Pee Dee into manufactured goods for foreign exportation and consumption. Cheap transportation only is necessary for shipping manufactured wares and importing supplies to excite a busy manufacturing mart into activity.

The principle productions of the valley are cotton, corn, wheat, oats and barley. The corn lands lie along the river side; the small grain is sown on the second bottoms. The Spring rains often give wheat the rust, and the Pee Dee flour is not of very fine quality. When the corn crop is drowned out the farmers resort to peas and hay on their wet lands. Tobacco has been successfully grown on the sandy benches lands in the fork. If the soil is suitably selected and the plants properly cultivated, a profitable yield can be grown. Sun-cured tobacco, however, does not pay, and only barn-cured leaf finds a profitable market. Fruit near the river side does not do well; the damps from the fogs give the fruit the blight and damage the trees; the young apples and peaches drop off, and the trees don't live long. On the sandy table lands and hill-sides fruit grows finely, and some large and well selected orchards are cultivated. Distance from market makes the fruit of little saleable value.

Grapes grow to perfection on the Pee Dee. The yield is prolific, when wet seasons don't cause the vines to shed. Fine scuppernong vines are found in nearly every yard. The vines grow to a great length and large arbors are formed. The scuppernong is well suited to the valleys, and grapes of excellent quality are gathered. Some large vineyards are worked and wine is manufactured. Grape growing and wine manufacturing could be made one of the chief industries of the valley. As yet the production is in its infancy—the enterprise is new and has not been fully or extensively tested. California makes a great deal of money by making its grapes into brandy. As the people will have spirits, they may as well have a pure quality as the medicated, doctored stuff they get for genuine stimulants. As the Pee Dee bottoms are well suited to the scuppernong, the latter might as well be turned into "Cognac."

The valley produces, within an area of twelve miles, 10,000 bales of cotton, 100,000 bushels of wheat, and 1,000,000 bushels of corn. The products to be raised in

DEAR ROCKET:—I feel sure, from my knowledge of your uniform fairness upon questions affecting the common weal, that you will allow a few words against the ruinous proposed tax upon the people of Rockingham for the new railroad. We have no objection to the building of the winding railroad from Smithville, N. C. to Bristol, Tenn., and do not doubt but that it will be built, without our people voting against it for its construction.—

R. & A. R. R. was constructed in our county without a tax on our devoted people, and it supports a want and opens a way much needed than the new road.

We have a way already from the C. C. R. R. to the sea and mountains, shorter and more direct than the new road will be, where, then, would be the expense of overhauling our people, of the means of educating our children, sustaining our industries, of pressing the march of agricultural and mechanical improvement—all this—to enrich a northern corporation of wealthy bondholders? What is it they have the temerity to ask of Rockingham county for the construction of their railroad? Why, principal and interest, according to THE ROCKET, \$340,000! Let the good people of our county think of this. They will have to pay it if they vote it. THE ROCKET says it will take \$8,000 a mile to grade and equip the railroad across-ties through the county, \$288,000 the road will cost in construction? They ask for more of you, oh, people of Rockingham! They ask of you \$100,000! What a princely sum from a poor county to an alien, wealthy company. Is it any wonder that these railroad Cæsars have grown great when they live upon such food? If you vote for it, the Laurinburg Exchange tells you that away 75 cents out of every dollar assessed value of your

Are you willing to give one-third of all you own to the road? The road will benefit the value of their lands and give a ready market for their products, but our people will be taxed for themselves, their children, for the railroad, and against the interests of the community.

The question is as to whether the supposed murderer of Miss Turlington really is in a private lunatic asylum. The Governor says positively and emphatically that he knows nothing whatever of his whereabouts and is little doubt

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W. H. WARE, Editor and Proprietor.

Subscription Rates: One year, \$1.50; Six months, .75; Three months, .40.

All subscriptions accounts must be paid in advance.

Advertising rates furnished on application.

CUPID'S WAY.

If arrows been shot by eyes That might belong to paradise, If hearts be pierced by arrows keen, Love's warfare fill the shifting scene, Show no surprise:

It's Cupid's way, the angel-boy, Whose mission's to deceive, destroy, Or bless. He never recks the end, If he but mar, if he but mend, This archer boy.

Some think he's demon in his birth, Sprung from the darkest caves of earth, And say he plays with passion deep And wins the hearts he will not keep All, all in mirth.

The Proposed R. R. Tax.

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We have a way already from the C. C. R. R. to the sea and mountains, shorter and more direct than the new road will be, where, then, would be the expense of overhauling our people, of the means of educating our children, sustaining our industries, of pressing the march of agricultural and mechanical improvement—all this—to enrich a northern corporation of wealthy bondholders? What is it they have the temerity to ask of Rockingham county for the construction of their railroad? Why, principal and interest, according to THE ROCKET, \$340,000! Let the good people of our county think of this. They will have to pay it if they vote it. THE ROCKET says it will take \$8,000 a mile to grade and equip the railroad across-ties through the county, \$288,000 the road will cost in construction? They ask for more of you, oh, people of Rockingham! They ask of you \$100,000! What a princely sum from a poor county to an alien, wealthy company. Is it any wonder that these railroad Cæsars have grown great when they live upon such food? If you vote for it, the Laurinburg Exchange tells you that away 75 cents out of every dollar assessed value of your

Are you willing to give one-third of all you own to the road? The road will benefit the value of their lands and give a ready market for their products, but our people will be taxed for themselves, their children, for the railroad, and against the interests of the community.

The question is as to whether the supposed murderer of Miss Turlington really is in a private lunatic asylum. The Governor says positively and emphatically that he knows nothing whatever of his whereabouts and is little doubt

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