

DAILY NEWS.

NEW BERNE, N. C.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 1881

The Long Ago.

BY B. F. TAYLOR.

Oh! a wonderful stream is the river Time
As it runs through the realm of tears,
With a faultless rhythm and a musical rhyme,
And a broadening sweep and surge sublime,
As it blends in the ocean of years.

There's a musical isle up the river Time
Where the softest of airs are playing,
There's a cloudless sky and a tropical clime,
And a song sweet as a vesper chime,
And the Junos with the roses are straying.

And the name of this isle is the "Long Ago,"
And we bury our treasures there;
There are heaps of dust—oh we love them so—
There are trinkets and tresses of hair.

TARBORO FAIR.

Fine Prospect for a Full Crowd and Excellent Display in Every Department.

[Taboro Southerner.]

Just now the cynosure of all eyes and the Mecca on which all hopes are bent is the Tarboro Fair which comes off on Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday on the grounds of the Edgecombe Agricultural and Mechanical Fair Association on the edge of town next week.

With the best track in the State, the largest and most varied premiums, not only for superior speed, but every known article in this section, with the large number of blooded and fast horses entered, there is every inducement to draw and entertain visitors.

Every department will be full and not an exhibitor neglected. At present writing everything foreshadows thorough and absolute success.

The superintendent in each department was selected with an eye to his peculiar fitness for its duties.

Dr. L. L. Staton, who has charge of the horses, knows as much about the subject as any one and will see that the races are conducted with full, fair play to all.

The hearts and houses of Tarboroans will be open to all and all will be welcome.

County Governments.

We have on several occasions of late made complaint against our State authorities concerning the distribution of convict labor. We have alleged that partiality was shown, and we have been met with a reply from the Attorney General quoting an act of the Legislature distinctly avowing that all grants of convicts to other roads are made with the proviso that the Yadkin Valley and W. N. C. rail roads are not to be disturbed in their full quota of the striped laborers.

We are then necessarily led to reflect upon the why and wherefore of this distinction. Why should the Legislature make so obvious a discrimination of the West against the East? We have had some able representatives from the East in the Legislature, and in looking over the Legislative proceedings we nowhere find their voices raised in protest against this discrimination.

We suppose the following is an answer to this state of affairs:

The Democratic West has given the Republican East the benefit of Legislative county governments, and therefore claim the Eastern convicts for the Western roads.

If this is the status of our political affairs, we very freely say down with the present system of county governments and give us a share of the material improvements to be had in the distribution of State patronage.

And we go further and take the ground that our present county governments ought to be abolished anyway and the elective franchise made to bear upon this as well as all other offices of responsibility and trust. The whole system is contrary to the genius of free American institutions and is only to be countenanced upon the same

ground that districts are sometimes so gerrymandered that the voice of a minority is almost stifled and crushed. It was given as alleged because the East had in many instances grievously felt the misrule of ignorance and corruption; but as a matter of history the change was made too late to do much good. It is known to be a fact that soon after the adoption of the Canby Constitution many of the Eastern counties passed under Republican misrule and were horribly plundered. This was an era of pillage both State and National, and the smaller villains in counties were but following the example set by their betters. But even before the adoption of our present county governments this state of affairs was passing away and public sentiment was gradually and surely correcting this evil. It is a pleasure to add that many counties, and among them, Lenoir, was governed wisely and economically under Republican rule. But such were exceptions, and on this account county governments were established. It was something like "locking the stable after the horse was stolen."

We then are in favor of going back to the old elective system. It is right and just for those who have the handling of county money to be amenable to the votes of the people. We close our article by the following excellent common sense extract from Gov. Vance's Message to the Legislature in 1876:

"That you violate the elective principle in the selection of county officers as slightly as possible. I am attached, on principle, to the plan of making all authorities who levy and execute laws directly responsible to the governed. In regard to the judicial branch my opinion is different. It seems to me that all the grievances complained of may be remedied and these essential principles preserved.

In perhaps a majority of the counties of the State the government by commissioners has worked well, and the people are satisfied with its operations. I would not recommend any change greatly radical, for my opinion is that public sentiment will rapidly cure the evils complained of, without the necessity of any considerable departure from the principles of elective representation. The plunderers of our counties had before their eyes the examples of those who had robbed both the State and the Federal treasuries; and now, that we have checked the one and altogether stopped the other, we may reasonably hope that the smaller villains will gradually give place to better men, and a corrected public morality will powerfully assist in restoring confidence and integrity in every department of the government."—Kinston Journal.

Aibemarle and Chesapeake Canal.

[Elizabeth City Economist.]

At the annual meeting of the stockholders of this important inland communication, at Norfolk, last week, the following officers were elected for the ensuing term: Marshall Parks, President; M. Courtwright, of Pennsylvania; A. C. Powell and R. W. Cannon, of North Carolina; Dr. S. K. Jackson and Washington Reed, of Virginia, Directors. This we believe is the 28th consecutive term of Marshall Parks as President.

The Albemarle and Chesapeake Canal is an important work to North Carolina; and although its administration has been sometimes complained of it has done a good work for North Eastern North Carolina, and for the city of Norfolk. Running through a section of country which, before the canal was in operation, was a useless and hidden treasure of undeveloped wealth, it has brought it into connection with the markets of the world. It has developed trade a thousand fold, and in a thousand ways. It has established new industries, it has in many places more than doubled the value of lands hitherto valueless, it has shed the light of commerce upon a people, strangers to the world's new development, and made them stalwart strugglers in the world's great progress; thus opening the eyes of the blind to the full

effulgence of intelligence. All this has been mainly the master work of one great mind, with energy equalled by its forecaste.

And its work is not yet accomplished. It has but begun. This canal must become the great, safe, inland channel for the immense commerce of the Atlantic coast. It is a necessity to the government and the country. Human life and personal safety demand its further improvement. The great business of the country demands its enlargement. The groans of the dying upon wreck strewn Hatteras appeal to a powerful and provident government for its enlargement and improvement. It is the cry of humanity to which no parental government can turn a deaf ear.

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By GEN. JAS. A. BRISBIN, U. S. A., and WM. RALSTON BALCH, Managing Editor of the American.

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