

DAILY NEWBERNIAN.

SETH M. CARPENTER, Editor.

NEW BERNE, N. C., JUNE 14, 1874.

For Superintendent of Public Instruction :
COL. STEPHEN D. POOL, OF CRAVEN.

NEW BERNE! WHAT SHE WAS! WHAT SHE IS! WHAT SHE MIGHT BE!

We do not mean to go so far back into the history of this old town, as the settlement by the Baron de Graffenried, but simply to show to our readers, her former prosperity; to what it was owing? then, her decline! to what was its cause! and lastly, to sum up her prospects in the future and to show, upon what her prosperity depends! If we shall succeed in kindling the latent energy of her people, to that struggle for success, upon which all success depends, and arouse them to that spirit of emulation, which seems to be the precursor of all thrift, all enterprise and prosperity; if we shall cause them to ponder and study the great questions presented, and ask themselves cannot something be done to restore us to life, to activity, to power and wealth? we shall feel that our time and patience has not been entirely thrown away in the undertaking before us. When we reflect, that in the early history of our State, old Newbern presented the greatest attractions to civilization; that she was the very centre of the colony known as North Carolina, and the most easy of approach; and that her great rivals of the day the towns of Bath, on the Pamlico, Halifax, on the Roanoke, Edenton, on the Chowan, Brunswick, and afterwards Wilmington, on the Cape Fear, were eclipsed by her superior locality; when we reflect what time has done, and where stand the competitors for honor in this long-winded race, we find but two on the course. Wilmington far in the lead, and our own old town just within the disgraceful distance pole. Bath, Brunswick, and almost Halifax and Edenton dead beat, and taken from the course, and the two former, a study for the youthful antiquary as to their locality and former grandeur. We present these sad reflections to our readers, and ask in the same ratio of progress, may not the end of the next century find the explorers after hidden knowledge, with pick-axe in hand searching after the ruins of Tryon's Palace and the New Berne Academy, with the same zeal that is now made after the ruins of Nineveh!

To return to our text, and with more seriousness, to give in their true order, our laborious researches for the cause of her former greatness and prosperity, we find as far back as the year 1766, when the immense sum—for that day—of fifteen thousand pounds were voted for the erection of Tryon's palace; but as the occasion for this great outlay was one of rejoicing, which is as applicable to the present time, as it was then, we quote the entire passage from our historian: "The repeal of the stamp act diffused universal joy through the colonies; and the Assembly of North Carolina, under the recent impressions of gratitude, voted five thousand pounds towards building a government house in Newbern, to which they added ten thousand pounds the next year." We mention this incident to show by inference, the vast sums expended by this most aristocratic Governor of all the Colonies. His court was said to resemble royalty in magnificence and splendor. The ladies were said to be beautiful, accomplished and refined, and stood unrivalled in all the becoming graces. With such attractions added to the sessions of the Assembly, we may well imagine the concentration of all the wealthy, the ambitious, the refined and the educated, towards this glaring and conspicuous centre; and, also, the great sums of money required to keep up this royal display, which left its large profits among the merchants, the mechanics and the farmers, and no doubt at that day, the professional men secured a fair proportion. This, however, was not all that gave the old town her importance, her renown, or her wealth. "There

were giants in those days," giants in a commercial point of view, as well as in the military or the legal, medical or statesmen. We can not from history gather the amount of her commerce or the exact date in which it was most flourishing, but we have the best of evidence that the firm of Turner & Stanly lost a fleet of thirty sails at the Island of St. Eustatia in the West Indies, in the war which shortly followed. We may gather from this, that the foreign commerce was large and profitable, and learn something of the breeds of men of these days, when we state that John Wright Stanly, of the firm alluded to, was the father of the John Stanly of historic memory, whose superb features are indelibly impressed upon our mind to this day.

"He was a man, take him for all in all,
I shall not look upon his like again."

We turn to her history after the war, to show in what estimation her people held education, and let the record speak for itself. We wish to make no invidious comparisons of the degeneracy of the present day. We do not say "Look here, upon this picture, and on this," but we do say, read the statute, and see to what men, our forefathers trusted the education of their children. Read pause and inwardly digest: Chap. xlii, 1784, first session—

"An Act to amend an Act passed at Newbern, the first day of December, 1766, entitled An Act for establishing a school-house in the town of Newbern:

I. WHEREAS the school heretofore established under the before recited act, has answered very valuable purposes, but in the course of the late war, by the deaths and removal of many of the trustees, and from other unavoidable accidents is much impaired, and the education of youth neglected.

II. Be it therefore enacted by the General Assembly of the State of North Carolina, and it is hereby enacted by the authority of the same, that from and after the passing of this Act the said School shall be distinguished and known by the name of the New Berne Academy; and that the honorable Richard Caswell, Abner Nash, John Wright Stanly, William Blount, John Sitgraves, Spyers Singleton, William McClure, William Bryan and Richard Dobbs Speight, Esquires, be, and they are hereby appointed trustees and directors of the said Academy, and shall be, ————— here follows the full Act of incorporation

III. Endows upon the Academy all the lots in the former Act.

IV. Endows lots 248, 249, 250, 251, ————— upon the Academy with a reservation of the jail lot.

V. Of no importance to this history.

VI. Obsolete.

VII. And be it further enacted, by the authority aforesaid, That the Trustees shall appoint public visitations of the Academy once in six months, when they shall examine what progress is made by the several students, and grant certificates to such as shall leave the Academy, certifying their literary merit and the progress they shall have made in useful knowledge, whether it be in learned languages, arts or sciences, or all of them: Provided always, that they shall not on any pretence grant degrees or titles, such as the degrees of bachelor or master of arts or doctor in any faculty.

The other sections of this Act we find of no material importance to our history, and therefore omit them. We think, however, the last is deserving a passing comment, and cannot pass it by in silence. We have seen the fostering hand of our fore-fathers, selecting the very best men of their day to entrust the education of their children; and endowing an institution with town lots of the value of several thousand dollars to insure their success. We have seen them confer such power upon this institution as would make it only secondary to the university. Now, the duty of an historian is only to state facts, and to draw fair, unbiased deductions from them. He is unworthy the name of such, who lets his prejudice, or politics or religion, swerve him from this true path of duty. We have nothing to do with the Civil Rights Bill, in treating upon this subject: nothing to do with the great scientific question of whether or not the negro is an inferior species of our genus, and incapable of coming up to the requirements of the section we are com-

menting upon. We leave all such questions to those great minds who have made it their study, their speciality we might say, such as our own great Agassiz, Morton, and Nott and Gliddon, and of those of such pre-eminent renown in the old world, as Humboldt, Baker, Darwin, and others. Ours is a true history of the facts, and events, concerning the town of New Berne, and whatever our individual opinion may be upon this or other subjects, it would be out of place and impertinent to state them here. We can only deal with the subject as presented to us, and we have fairly arrived at the conclusion, that according to that section of the act the requirements had to be great, to be a trustee of the New Berne Academy; the issuing of certificates of scholarship, to be of any weight must come from a faculty, capable of judging the merits of the scholar; otherwise, it would be absurd, ridiculous, and the height of folly to issue them, we take this position to be self-evident and incontrovertible, and so it was held in our youthful days, when we were examined in that same institution in our English, Latin and Mathematical studies by such men as the great William Gaston, Charles Shepherd, Rev. John R. Goodman and others of like stamp, the then trustees of the academy. These men had a national reputation for profound learning, and a certificate from them of scholarship, was almost, or quite equal to a diploma from most of the colleges, and would have had its weight throughout the length and breadth of the land. How is it now? By whom are the places of these great men filled? We are told, by negroes and white men, who are scarcely out of their horn-book. What a fall is here? My countrymen! Look to it, and see that the spirit and letter of the act is carried out, or your children will heap curses upon your heads for the neglected, benighted, ignorant manner of their raising. Look to it! and with all the force and vigor of mind and means, save this venerable institution so richly endowed by your fathers, from the vile pollution of ignorance and corruption; and let it be the means in the future, as it has been in the past, of educating your children to usefulness, and they will rise up and call you blessed.

(To be continued.)

A Remarkable "Magnetic Chamber" in a California Cave.

The author of "Sinbad the Sailor's Adventures" must resign his laurels. One W. H. Stokes has been exploring a recently discovered cave near Pine Grove, Amador county, California, and writes to the Sutter Creek Independent an account of his investigations. Mr. Stokes vouches for the exact truth of his narrative in every particular, and we doubt not the reader will readily credit from the following specimen description of one of the chambers the party entered. After journeying for a mile and a quarter through the underground passages, Stokes and his party found themselves in a "long, but rather narrow chamber, the walls of which are not limestone, but a yellowish-brown and black iron ore." This chamber beats Sinbad's magnetic mountain which drew all the nails from his ship, and thus caused it to fall to pieces, all hollow. Listen to Mr. Stokes: "Upon entering this chamber we noticed a most peculiar disturbance of the magnet, the needle constantly vibrating from side to side, and frequently whirling round for a minute at a time with a velocity which rendered it invisible. We also experienced a singular sensation—a sort of chill appearing to commence at the back of the neck and extending to the very tips of our fingers and toes. As we advanced in this chamber we found these singular sensations to increase in intensity until it became almost unbearable. We ventured on still farther, however, though it became evident that we could not long remain in this mysterious place. I omitted to mention that the walls and floor of this chamber, especially particular rocks therein contained, were highly magnetic, and became more so the farther we advanced toward the north. One of the party who carried a hatchet had it suddenly wrested from him by a magnetic rock near which he passed, and the combined strength of four of us was insufficient to detach it. A pocket-knife, which accidentally dropped to the floor, had to remain there, none of the party having sufficient strength to

pick it up. Mason, who had put on for the occasion a pair of miner's boots, the soles of which were filled with nails, could walk with difficulty, and happening to step upon a portion of the floor unusually magnetic he found himself suddenly affixed thereto, and unable to move. He was compelled to withdraw his feet from his boots and leave them there, tearing up his coat and wrapping the pieces around his feet to protect them from being cut by the rocks. We had remained in this chamber about ten minutes, when suddenly the chilling-sensation began to increase, the feeling being as if a cold and piercing wind was blowing upon us, and becoming each moment more intensely cold. We hastily retreated and soon reached, feeling more dead than alive, the large chamber containing the hot springs. We then retraced our steps along the twine, and in a couple of hours emerged from the cave."

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Safest and Best-paying Saving Scheme

ever offered to the community.

The patronage of Everybody is Solicited.

ANNUAL STATEMENT OF

Citizens Building and Loan Association.

First annual report of the business and condition of "Citizens Building and Loan Association of New Berne, N. C.," for the year ending May, 1874.

Total amount of Loan on Real Estate.....\$15,800 00
Cash in National Bank of New Berne..... 501 91

Total Assets.....\$16,301 91

Whole number of shares subscribed..... 700
redeemed..... 79

Leaving " " unredeemed..... 621

Cash received on account of Dues.....\$ 8,390 00
" " " Interest..... 382 00

" " " Fines..... 81 20
" " " Initiation Fees..... 74 00
" " " Stock Premium..... 53 30

Total amount.....\$ 8,980 50

DISBURSEMENTS.

To members who redeemed shares.....\$ 8,120 00

To expense account..... 358 59

To cash on hand..... 501 91

Total amount.....\$ 8,980 50

Arrears due by members..... 39 00

Net Profits..... 7,911 91

Amount of dues paid on each share of stock..... 12 00

Total gain in each share..... 11 30

Present value of each share.....\$ 23 30

G. H. ROBERTS, Sect'y and Treas.

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