The Weekly Carolina Era.

TRI-WEEKLY AND WEEKLY BY
The Era Publishing Company.

Rates of Subscription:
TRI-WEEKLY—One year, in advance, $3 00
6 months, in advance, 2 00
3 months, in advance, 1 00
1 month, in advance, 50
WEEKLY—One year, in advance, $1 00
Six months, in advance, 50

The Carolina Era.

Vol. 1. RALEIGH, N. C., THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 1872. No. 34.

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Rates of Advertising:
One square, one time, - - - - - $1 00
" " two times, - - - - - 1 50
" " three times, - - - - - 2 00
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A Contrast.

During the session of the General Assembly of 1868–'69, many charges of bribery and corruption were made against members of the Legislature and others. These charges became so common and wide-spread that the Senate branch of the Legislature deemed it due to public sentiment that an investigation should be made, and to that end passed a resolution raising a committee to make a searching and thorough investigation of the whole matter. The presiding officer of the Senate, Gov. Caldwell, had the appointment of the committee. He being willing and anxious to have all frauds, if there were any, fully brought to light, and the perpetrators thereof, whether Republicans of Conservatives, exposed and brought to justice laid aside all party feeling and prejudice and appointed Gov. Bragg, Hon. S. F. Phillips and W. L. Scott, Esq., as the committee to make the investigation. All these were gentlemen of known ability and undoubted integrity. Gov. Bragg was the acknowledged leader of the Democratic party in the State, and as a lawyer stood among the foremost of the profession. He had the ability to probe all the misdeeds of the suspected Republicans to the very bottom, if prompted by no other than partizan motives. General Scott was a firm and staunch Republican, a lawyer of high repute and well skilled in pumping witnesses and drawing from them all they might know of the matter under investigation. He would see that no guilty Democrat should go unwhipt of justice. Mr. Phillips at that time had allied himself to neither political party. As a lawyer, he had few equals in the State. He stood erect between Governor Bragg and General Scott, leaning neither to the one side nor to the other, holding the scales of justice evenly balanced. With this Committee every body and every party in the State was fully satisfied and all believed that a fair investigation would be made and full and impartial justice meted out. And the public felt that when they made their report every body would have confidence in it, because it was not a packed Committee; all parties being ably represented no one would be whitewashed and no one improperly condemned. So much for the Commttee raised by a Republican Senate and appointed by a Republican presiding officer.

Now, turn for a moment to the other side and see how things are done by a Democratic Legislature—this present one now in session.—They conclude that they must have a fraud and corruption Committee.—They want, or pretend to want, to find out who has been guilty of bribery and corruption—a committee is raised. Who compose this committee? Hon. W. M. Shipp a Democrat, J. B. Batchelor, Esq., a Democrat, Gen. J. G. Martin a Democrat, all admitted to be gentlemen of fair attainments, two of them having considerable experience in examining witnesses, and it is conceded that what they do find out they will correctly report. But will their report however honest it may be, secure the confidence and respect of the whole people? Will it not be liable to suspicion? Will not the public ask why it was that no Republican was placed upon the committee? Don't this look suspicious? Suppose it shall turn out that the report is damaging to certain Republicans and favorable to the democracy, will it not be said at once and with a great show of truth that it was so intended to be when the committee was appointed? If not why make up the committee entirely from one political party? Everybody knows that politicians will lean towards their political friends, and that they have a keen scent to unearth their political adversaries. Messrs. Shipp, Batchelor and Martin, as before stated, are all democrats, and although they may not, and we believe will not, withhold or suppress any evidence *given* against their party friends, yet it is doubtful whether they have been as eager to ferret out abuses committed by them as they have been to discover the delinquencies of Republicans.

Letter from G. Z. French.

WILMINGTON, N. C., Jan. 15, 1872.

Editor Journal: I notice in your editorial, in issue of the 14th inst., a mention of my name in connection with the report of the "Fraud Commission." Will you do me the justice to publish the following statement:

I have never had any other than strictly legitimate transactions with Swepson, Littlefield, or any member of the Legislature. I am ready at any time for, and court, the most searching investigation into my conducts as a legislator.

I had charge of the "Bill" that made the largest appropriation of any Railroad Bill, while I was in the Legislature. (The Wilmington, Charlotte & Rutherford, $4,000,000) and *not one cent* was ever paid me *directly or indirectly*. The business transactions that I had with Swepson and Littlefield, was explained in my evidence before the "Fraud Commission," and had no connection with any of the Railroad Bills. Those who know me best will believe my statements, and if any opinion injurious to me should be found by any others, I can live it down.

G. Z. FRENCH.

Legislative Amnesty.

A nice dodge this of Senator Graham's. A bill to pardon all members of *secret* societies for crimes committed previous to 20th April, 1871! How kind this is to the Union Leaguers; it is certainly intended for them alone.—Surely it is. The tender-hearted Senator from Orange can't bear the idea of seeing a poor Union Leaguer punished. Oh, no! by no means; it is too horrid to be thought of for one moment!—Poor fellows, what a pity that they should be caught up in Court! That must not be—no, it shall not be. This forgiving and merciful General Assembly will step in and stay the avenging hand of the law and keep the blow off the heads of the poor Union Leaguers. This amnesty is intended for them, and them alone. Surely it is—there is no mistake about it. The Ku Klux were never once thought of. No, never. What was the use to protect the Ku Klux? Can't they protect themselves? And what have they done which requires pardon? Never a thing. It is true that they have whipped a few thousand niggers, but haven't they been whipping them for "lo these many years" in North Carolina?—Surely no one thinks for a moment that it is wrong to exercise this ancient right!

It is also true that they have murdered a score of radicals—but what of that? They have also burned a number of churches and school-houses, but that's nothing. No Democrat ever worshipped in any of those churches, nor did they allow their children to attend any of those schools. And what right has a radical to worship God, or send his child to school anyhow? None whatever—of course not. Then is it not as clear as mud that the ku-klux are not to be benefitted by this great amnesty measure of Senator Graham's? Why, to be sure it is, because they have done nothing to be punished for.

Then another thing to be considered is, that the miserable radicals are so conscience-stricken and dumb-founded at the enormity of their crimes that they are actually afraid to try to get out of the way. But, on the other hand, the *innocent* ku-klux are as brave as *sheep*, and as fleet as the wind. *They* are not afraid to run. No, indeed, not they. They are not afraid to hide.—Not a bit of it. It would be cowardly not to run—and they are not cowards. It would be dastardly not to hide, and they are not dastards. Didn't they hang Outlaw, and assassinate Stephens, and drown Puryear, murder the Morrows, and break open Hillsboro jail, and take some poor negroes out and scourge and shoot them? Who but brave and chivalrous men could have done such noble deeds? Echo answers who.

Then by all means let Mr. Graham's amnesty bill pass, so that his mind may be at rest about the fate of the poor deluded Leaguers. It is not expected that any Republican will vote for the bill, because it might perhaps make some one think that he had some personal interest in the matter. But the Democrats can all vote for it without exciting any such suspicion against them. They are above suspicion.

ACQUITTED.—Mrs. Ellen G. Wharton, who has been on trial for the last forty days or more, on the charge of having murdered Gen. Ketchum, was acquitted on Wednesday. The result will surprise no one who has read the evidence for the defense, as reported in the papers. The prosecution failed to prove that Gen. Ketchum was poisoned by Mrs. Wharton, as alleged in the indictment, or that he was poisoned at all. The judgment of the public seems to have been very decidedly against Mrs. Wharton for a considerable time after the trial commenced, and from her acquittal a lesson should be learned. It should be a warning against hasty, inconsiderate and impulsive judgments, based upon circumstantial evidence.

There is another indictment pending against Mrs. Wharton for the alleged poisoning of Mr. Eugeue Van Ness.—She has been discharged on bail to answer this indictment at another term of the Court. If she should be acquitted of that charge also on such evidence as to convince the public of her innocence, she must necessarily enlist very great sympathy as a victim of a series of unfortunate circumstances.

LET the Democrats in the Legislature hurry up the amnesty bill and relieve the poor trembling and conscience-smitten Union Leaguers that have committed offences against the laws of the State. It will be fully appreciated by them, ignorant as they are. In this way the Democrats can win most of them over to their side. It is not character and respectability they want, but voters. They have men enough to fill all the offices twice over if they only had the voters to elect them. They now have a chance to get them, and they would be recreant to their party interests if they failed to avail themselves of it. The number of offending Leaguers, who could be purchased by amnesty, is sufficient to turn the scale in their favor, taking the words of their organs for it. And, of course, no one doubts what they say. Let the bill be passed at once.

Can the Present Legislature Change the Senatorial Districts?

The Constitution is in these words: Art. 2d, Sec. 4. Until the first session of the General Assembly, which shall be had after the year eighteen hundred and seventy-one, the Senate shall be composed of members elected from districts constituted as follows:

Art. 2, Sce. 27. The terms of office for Senators and members of the House of Representatives shall commence at the time of their election.

Until the first session of the Legislature after 1871, the composition of the Senate is fixed. The Legislature after 1871 need not have its Senate so composed *after* its first session commences. But *before* its first session commences, its Senate must be composed as now fixed in the Constitution. The present Legislature expires on the first Thursday in August, 1872. Immediately after that day a new Legislature will come into existence, and be the Legislature of the State, before it holds any session. From the first Thursday in August up to the first session, the Legislature must have a Senate composed as now fixed in the Constitution.

The next election for Senators must therefore be held by the districts as now fixed.

The intent and meaning of the Constitution are clearly that no change shall be made, until the first session of the Legislature after 1871. This is the fair and common sense construction. But party advantage is supposed to be within reach by giving the language the most narrow and literal construction that it can possibly bear. By such construction the powers to re-district might be made out, *if the present Legislature could hold until the first session of the next.* But the Constitution has made the Legislature a perpetual body, by fixing the terms of its members to expire on the day their successors shall be elected. From and after that day, the newly elected Legislature is the Legislature of the State, though it should never hold any session at all—as in case, by presence of an enemy's army, occupying the territory of the State, or by insurrection and domestic violence, or the imprisonment of the members elected, its sessions should be prevented for the entire term. In the interval between the election and the first session, the next Legislature must be composed in the Senate branch, just as the Constitution has fixed it and the present Legislature has no power to change the districts so as to compose it in any other way.

In the absence of some great necessity, involving the safety of the State, it would be highly criminal in those who have sworn their support to the Constitution, to allow their oaths to set so loosely upon them as to seize upon a strained and doubtful construction to justify selfish action, when no action is positively required under any possible construction.

If it was positively required that the Legislature, after the time named, must be composed differently from what it is at present, the case would be different. For, then, the failure to re-district, if based on a wrong construction, would be a violation of the Constitution. The members would, then, be compelled to accept one construction or the other.—But as the matter now stands, the present Legislature is not called upon to construe, at all. To do so is entirely gratuitous, and voluntary. They must go out of their way and search up the doubtful question for themselves, in order to show their nerve and boldness in dealing with the obligation of the oath which they have taken as Legislators.

It is to be hoped, for the credit of the State, that we shall be spared having such a display of moral recklessness, added to what has already transpired to bring dishonor and reproach upon North Carolina. †

Treasonable Sentiments.

During the debate in the House of Representatives, on Tuesday on the bill to fund the State debt, Mr. Jordan, of Person, is reported to have given utterance to sentiments that can only be characterized as *treasonable*. The idea seems to have been advanced by some one that the Federal government might interfere to compel the State to pay her debt. Mr. Jordan is reported to have said that the Federal government had the power to do so if she willed it, and that she was none too good to will it. He said he hated and defied the government; he had taken a tussle with her once, and he was ready to do so again if occasion required it, and he would like to have a seat in Congress for five minutes just to tell them so. And yet Mr. Jordan is a leader in the Democratic party. Do the Democratic party endorse these sentiments? It is said they were received with applause. Just such sentiments as these involved the country in the late disastrous and bloody war, and their utterance now can tend to nothing less. Do the Democratic party propose to make that the issue in the coming national contest? Let them answer.—How many of them have the manly honesty and candor to avow these sentiments, as Mr. Jordan has done? Let the people beware of a party whose leaders entertain such views.

CORRESPONDENCE.

The Editor must not be understood as endorsing the sentiments of his correspondents. Communications on all subjects are solicited, which will be given to the readers of THE ERA as containing the views and sentiments of the writers.

For the Carolina Era.

For Congress—4th District.

MR. EDITOR:—As the names of several gentlemen have been put forth for the consideration of the Convention which will assemble at no distant day, for the purpose of nominating a candidate to represent this (the fourth) District in the 43d Congress, we beg leave to offer the name of Col. I. J. YOUNG. We believe this gentleman well qualified to protect the interest of this District in Congress, and his nomination and election will meet the hearty approbation of every Republican in this District; especially the colored Republicans, who have suffered so greatly for the want of an able, honest, efficient and *impartial* representative in Congress—one who would look after and protect their interest. So far this has been sadly neglected. Out of the numerous positions filled by federal appointmet in this District, we know of no colored man who has received the least consideration, and this, too, in the metropolitan District of the State. We are not disposed to disparage the friends of other gentleman whose names have been suggested, and whose eminent qualifications for this important position is acknowledged by all, but we feel sure that Col. YOUNG would carry as large, if not larger, vote, than any other Republican in the District. The colored vote would be a unit in his support, and they would never have cause to regret it. Then let the Convention nominate,

For the 43rd Congress,
COL. I. J. YOUNG,

and victory will again perch upon our banner, and the District will be redeemed by a handsome majority.

Respectfully, H.

For the Carolina Era.

For Secretary of State.

The past and present history of the Democratic party establish the fact, beyond any doubt, that the perpetuity and prosperity of this government depends upon the success of the National Republican party.

The gigantic struggle which the Democratic party made in 1860–'65 to bury forever Constitutional liberty in this land, should cause the tongue of every patriotic citizen to hiss at the mere mention of the name Democrat.

The American people fully realize the inestimable blessings to be derived from the just and wise principles of the Republican party, and we hazard nothing in saying that the party has never been more firmly established in the hearts of the people.

It is of vital importance that the future career of the party should be such as its friends could cordially commend.

In too many instances heretofore, we have not used enough discretion and care in selecting our standard-bearers, and the party has been made to suffer for the individual misconduct of some of its prominent defenders.

Such must not be the case again. We must have honest, capable and fearless men to fill important positions. And while we have many such in our ranks, we desire especially to call the attention of the party to one who possesses all of the above requisites in an eminent degree; we allude to WM. F. LOFTIN, Esq., member of the House from Lenoir.

Heretofore his sterling worth and invaluable services have seemingly been overlooked by the party, but the people, sooner or later, discover true merit, and from present appearances Mr. Loftin will soon be rewarded for his constancy and labor.

Mr. Loftin has been a Republican from the infancy of the party in North Carolina. One remarkable trait about the man is, that he always does his best fighting when the contest is doubtful. He has never thrust himself forward for official preferment, but has remained poor in this world's goods, choosing rather to be a doorkeeper in the House of an honest party, than to dwell in the tents of the Ku Klux Democracy.

The delegates, in the nominating Convention, from the strongest Republican district in the State, will ask the party to select him as the nominee for the office of Secretary of State. No better man for the position can be found, and we hope that the Republicans of the West will vote with us of the East and make the nomination unanimous.

Judging from present appearances, we certainly have reason to believe that Mr. Loftin will receive the nomination, and if elected *we know* that he will fill the position with dignity, honor and fidelity.

M. BAGS.

For the Carolina Era.

Masonic.

Prospect Lodge No.— has recently opened under fair auspices—officers installed and a right good pospect for an increase to the present, extra material now operating, (with other persuasions passing through the late conflict.) Like a burning sirocco sweeping everything in its course Masonry was checked—for her many votarys North and South had fallen. But as there is still an Israel in the land—Masonry still lives, and by it Faith, Hope and Charity still unfurls her banner to the breeze, and men of all climes still find—"Behold how good a thing it is and how becoming to dwell together such as brethren are in unity to dwell." Her works are manifest though not made known to the world. Her witnesses are legion. The lonely widow and poor orphans are still the peculiar objects of her care, their hearts are still made glad by her timely aid and made to sing for joy. How refreshing is this in a world of so much money-loving. How many indifferent, "unmindful though a missing wife and helpless offspring mourn." True to her vows, if a weary brother who has labored for a small stipend and those whom he served failed to pay that which they promised and in changing to a distant field of operation—finds his necessary expenditures greater than the promised income, and is halted by the way—saying pay that thou owest—he seeks help from those he helped—but in vain.

The craft nobly and manfully steps in, assumes the debt (by advancing the money) and sends the brother *coastward* with a glad heart and free. A Lodge outcropping in her infantile state augurs a bright career of usefulness, and may the great Architect of the universe keep them and all true brethren and fellows under his Almighty wing, direct them in the reception of worthy material, such as shall become lasting stones of that spiritual house, the building not made with hands, eternal in the Heavens.

So mote it be.

S. JOSEPHUS BROWN.

Jan. 22, 1872.

For the Carolina Era.

MR. EDITOR:—There is a rumor in this section that might be of some interest to you, and I thought that I would give you some of the outlines. I was told by a simon-pure Democrat a few days ago that there had been an assessment made on the party to fee a certain lawyer in Hillsboro' to go to Raleigh and intercede with the Legislature to have an amnesty bill passed through that body, relieving all those who may be implicated by being Ku-Klux; and he further said that he had been taxed one dollar, but he refused peremptorily to pay it, and I see by to-day's ERA that our Senator has introduced such a bill, and it was gotten up by the party here for the express purpose of securing their friends from a just punishment, for persecuting the poor Republicans, for any person can see that the party is in dread, and from their actions they are now ready to bow themselves at the strong feet of the law, and cry out, like one of olden times, "Hold! Enough!"

I had hoped that the Legislature would treat any attorney that should attempt to have such a bill as that introduced on the statute books of the Old North State—that its members would be so indiguant that they would treat it with that indignation it deserves, but it seems, Mr. Editor, there are no moral bounds to the Ku-Klux sympathizers. Nothing is too strong for them to do for their friends.

ORANGE.

Chapel Hill, Jan. 23, 1872.

Public Meeting.

At a public meeting of the citizens of Silver Creek township, in Burke county, on the 1st day of January, 1872, the following proceedings were had, and resolutions adopted, to-wit:

Upon motion of Frank D. Irvin, L. A. Taylor, Esq., was called to the chair, and Mr. Samuel Bowman requested to act as Secretary.

The Chairman explained the object of the meeting, and when he went to resume the chair the citizens called upon him for a speech, and for about one hour he poured hot shot into the Ku Klux and Democratic ranks, dealing them heavy blows on every side. During his remarks Capt. J. P. Patterson made his appearance, when Mr. Taylor left the stand, and loud calls were made for Capt. P., who immediately took the stand, and for about one hour and a half held the large audience spellbound with his noble, timely and eloquent remarks. Nobly did he advocate and vindicate the cause which he espoused. He showed up the corruption of the Ku Klux Democracy in a masterly manner, and called upon all good citizens to fall into the Republican ranks, and let us gain a glorious victory as the only hope of the country. He left the stand amid great applause.

On motion of Frank D. Irvin, the Chairman appointed a committee of three to draft resolutions for the meeting, to-wit: James I. Beach, James Pool and John Hall, Esq., who retired, and, in a short time, returned and reported, through their chairman, Jas. I. Beach, the following resolutions, viz:

Resolved, 1. That we, the citizens of Silver Creek Township, of Burke county, disapprove and condemn all violations of laws committed either by the Ku Klux or other parties.

2. That we most heartily endorse and approve of the noble and manly efforts of the United States authorities, and of the authorities of North Carolina in fereting out and putting down the Ku Klux and all others who are disposed to violatie the laws and disturb the peace and quietude of the community.

3. That we do heartily and firmly approve of the administrations of U. S. Grant and T. R. Caldwell, and that in view of these facts we do most earnestly recommend their re-nomination to the offices which they now hold, and pledge our support and influence for the same.

4. That we will support the nominees of the Republican party for office in this county, State and United States, believing that a great victory is before us, we shall relax no effort to secure it, and do most earnestly recommend that all citizens of whatever party named, fall in to the Republican ranks.

On motion of J. T. Patterson, Esq., the following gentlemen were appointed a committee of Silver Creek township, to correspond with Frank D. Irvin, at Morganton, as Chairman of the County Committee, to-wit: J. A. Morris, Esq., T. A. Seals, J. H. Queen, Jacob McElrath, col., James Terry, Esq.

The best of harmony and good feelings prevailed throughout the meeting, and all felt that it was good to be there.

There being no further business before the meeting, it adjourned.

L. A. TAYLOR, Chm'n.
SAM'L BOWMAN, Sec.

Who Furnished the Money?

"Give me the name of a Democrat who has invested a dollar in *The Carolinian*, and I'll shell 'im, I'll shell 'im I"—*Josiah Turner, Jr.*

Instead of getting ready to *shell*, Mr. Turner ought to have the manliness to *tell* the name of the Democrat who, last winter, furnished him two thousand five hundred dollars on which to run *The Sentinel;* money that has not yet been returned except by basest of ingratitude. This Democrat was a candidate before the Legislature for a prominent position, and Turner opposed him, ingrate that he is.

[From the Cleaveland, Ohio Herald.]

Concerning Civil-Service Reform.

Senator Carpenter has fired his threatened blast against Civil Service Reform, and, we believe, has hurt no one but himself. The main reasons set forth for his opposition to the plan are that it violates the Constitution, by taking away from the President the discretion vested in him to select his appointees from the whole people, and limits him to names of persons referred to him by an examining board, and that it sets up for public a standard of education of schools, to the exclusion from office of those who have not enjoyed the benefits of a liberal education, thus setting up an aristocratic, government of the mental class, composed of the rich. Mr. Carpenter confined himself mainly to the latter objection, depicting the hardship and foliy of insisting from copying clerks and light house keepers the results of a "liberal education," and adding that if he himself were to be subjected to an examination for chemistry he would be incontinently rejected, as he knows nothing of that science.

If Mr. Carpenter were to apply for the position of assayer in the Mint, he would very properly be subjected to an enquiry as to his knowledge of chemistry and were he to prove as ignorant of the science as he professes to be, he would very properly be rejected, though he had the whole political influence of Wisconsin, at his back. Were he seeking the place of clerk in the Treasury department it would be reasonable to expect of him a fair knowledge of figures, and if proved deficient on examination, he should be rejected though he had the recommendations of the entire Wisconsin delegation on his side. To suggest that a knowledge of chemistry would be required of the Treasury clerk, an acquaintance with political economy and the mysteries of finance would be exacted of the candidate for assayer, or a college education of the light house keeper or mechanical copying clerk, would be a stretch of imagination, that would not speak well for the common sense, or honesty, of the person making the suggestion. But even Senator Carpenter will admit that "political influence" does not properly supply the place of general intelligence or technical knowledge in positions where the latter qualities are necessary to the proper performance of duties. The intimation that some Senators would, under the proposed regulations, be rejected as unfit for the position of copying clerk, is no argument against the regulations. Are they all fit for their present positions?

The real objection of Senator Carpenter and those of his colleagues for whom he speaks, is concealed under the assertion that the new system limits the appointing power of the President. The alleged objection to this is that it is unconstitutional—an objection that we do not think seriously put forward by Senator Carpenter, for he made little effort to support it. The real objection is that frankly stated by General Butler in the House, that it removes the power of "recommendation" from the Senators and Congressmen and places it in a Board of Examiners—"school masters" is the favorite term, that being the most distasteful designation the Honorable gentlemen could think of. The animus of the Congressional objection to the plan, therefore, is, that it kills the "patronage" system, and so takes out of the hands of legislators and others a power that has been ussed too often for selfish ends, and which has done more than anything else to debase and corrupt politics.

The opponents of Civil Service Reform also oppose the one term principle, cling tenaciously to the Franking Privilege, and are strenuous advocates of the doctrine that "to the victors belong the spoils." We hope there will be enough friends of the Reform in Congress either to give the plan a fair trial, or to compel its enemies to stand before the country with the true causes of their opposition laid bare to the public gaze.

We do not assert that the plan proposed is perfect. It is undoubtedly defective in some particulars, but these can best be discovered and corrected after practical test. Such men as Senator Carpenter and Congressman Butler do not wish to remedy the defects in the system, but are opposed to the Reform itself.

HENRY CLAY AND THE BILLY GOAT.—Formerly a very large, well-known, and somewhat noted billy goat roamed at large in the streets of Washington, and the newspaper boys, boot-blacks, and street imps generally made common cause against him. Henry Clay never liked to see dumb animals abused or worried, and on one occasion while passing down the avenue, a large crowd of these mischievous urchins were at their usual sport. Mr. Clay, with his walking-stick, drove them away, giving them a sound lecture in the mean while. As they scampered and scattered in every direction, Billy, seeing no one but Mr. Clay within reach, made a charge on him. Clay dropped his cane and caught his goat-ship by the horns. The goat would rear up, being nearly as high as the tall Kentuckian himself, and the latter would pull him down again. This sort of sport soon became tiresome, and he could conceive of no way by which he could free himself from the two-horned dilemma, so in his desperation he sang out to the boys to know what to do. One of the smallest in the crowd shouted back: "Let go and run, you d—d fool!" Clay always maintained that though he signed the treaty of peace at Ghent, yet that ragged boy knew more than he did.

W. S. BALL, ESQ., is announced as editor of *The New North State*, at Greensboro, N. C. The paper has also been enlarged and appears in an entire new dress. It is now one of the largest and handsomest papers in the State.—In politics it is decidedly Republican, and is edited with ability.

—A young lady, about to be married, insisted on having a certain clergyman to perform the ceremony, saying: "He always throws so much feeling into the thing; and I wouldn't give a fig to be married unless it can be done in a style of gushing rhapsody!"

A SOUTHERN FALLACY.—A Southern paper enumerates four great staples, which it says the world cannot do without—cotton, rice, sugar and tobacco. The statement is a broad one, and if the American world is meant, would admit of considerable limitation. Cotton has scarcely been in use more than a century. Rice furnishes but a small element of domestic food. Tobacco is rather a luxury than a necessity—and the home supply of sugar has never begun to equal the amount imported from abroad. A community, to be independent, must raise its own food supply, and not rely for support on what it receives for its surplus productions in money. The aggregates of these four productions make a large showing in commercial statistics, and leave the impression that the Southern people are wealthier than the Northern. Yet nothing can be more fallacious. They possess on an average much less of comfort and convenience, and are by no means as well fed, or clothed, or educated. Dollars are not wealth in its broadest significance. The hay crop of the Northern States, which scarcely counts as an item, really furnishes nearly as much of real value to the population as the four great staples enumerated. It is not showy in balancing bank accounts or bills of exchange, but is very reliable and certain as a source of human supplies. A great trouble with the South is that its people buy too much of what they can themselves produce. A great crop of cotton with them means a short supply of food. The grasp is for dollars by number, and not for wealth which does not show conspicuously. They ought to be richer than Northern people, but never will be under their system of management. Grain-producing countries always win in competition with every other production, and in the long run lay out the gold fields as easily as the cotton and tobacco fields, or rice and sugar plantations. The vital fact is that personal comfort is wealth, and money by no means always represents it. The North is richer in its food supplies than the South can be without them.—*Chicago Post.*

WITNESS AND LAWYER.—Lawyers make a point of cross-questioning witnesses in a merciless manner. Sometimes, however, the former get the worst of it.

"William Loke, who made you?" demanded a learned counselor.

William, who was considered a fool, screwed up his face, and looking thoughtful and bewildered, replied:

"Moses, I s'pose."

"That will do," said the counsellor, addressing the court. "The witness says he supposes Moses made him; that is an intelligent answer, more than I thought him capable of giving, for it shows that he has some faint idea of Scripture. I submit that is not sufficient to entitle him to be sworn as a witness capable of giving evidence."

"Mister Judge," said the fool, "may I ax the lawyer a question?"

"Certainly," said the judge.

"Well, then, Mr. Lawyer, who do you s'pose made you?"

"Aaron, I s'pose," said the lawyer, imitating the witness.

After the mirth had somewhat subsided, the witness drawled out:

"Wa'al, neow, we do read in the Book that Aaron made a calf, but who'd a thought the critter'd got in here?"

He was sworn.

EXCELLENT INTEREST RULES.—For finding the interest on any principal for any number of days, the answer in each case being cents, separate the two right hand figures, to express it in dollars and cents.

Four per cent.—Multiply the principal by the number of days to run; separate right hand figures from product, and divide by 9.

Five per cent.—Multiply the number of days, and divide by 72.

Six per cent.—Multiply by number of days; separate right hand figure, and divide by 6.

Eight per cent.—Multiply by number of days, and divide by 45.

Nine per cent.—Multiply by number of days; separate right hand figure and divide by 4.

Ten per cent.—Multiply by number of days and divide by 30.

Twelve per cent.—Multiply by number of days, separate right hand figure and divide by 4.

Fifteen per cent.—Multiply by number of days and divide by 24.

Eighteen per cent.—Multiply by number of days, separate right hand figure and divide by 2.

Twenty per cent.—Multiply by number of days and divide by 18.

We understand that the Investigating Committee of the Senate have determined to continue their labors in this city until the interesting questions now before them concerning the Custom House are settled—as far as evidence attainable by them can settle it. The rumors so busily circulated, that the committee are really striving to stifle investigation, or that the inquiry is prosecuted on both sides in a factious spirit, seem to be almost unfounded.—We have hardly ever known a body of men, differing so widely in their political associations and aims, to examine a subject so closely connected with political prejudices in a manner so cordial and courteous; and we can ascribe the great, though partial success which has already attended their labors, only to the general candor and sincerity of the Senators themselves. None of them can fairly be accused of showing any disposition or desire either to suppress or to distort facts.—*N. Y. Evening Post.*

Civil-service reform is not all a delusion and snare, and the keenest ridicule and most beautiful rhetoric yet broached in Congress will not convince the people of the country otherwise. It will correct several very generally admitted evils, and tend, not only to promote faithful service, but to secure increased efficiency. We are just beginning to find out whose interests are hurt by the adoption of the new rules drafted by Mr. Curtis and his colleagues. They are not those of the Executive—he has not complained—but rather those of members of Congress. These find their political influence, *i. e.*, the power of dispensing public offices as though they were private property, fading away, and, of course, they figure as protestants. But the people were never better satisfied or the reputable members of Congress more relieved.—*Philadelphia Press.*

GEORGE R. DENNIS was, on Friday last, elected United States Senator from Maryland, to succeed Mr. Vickers.