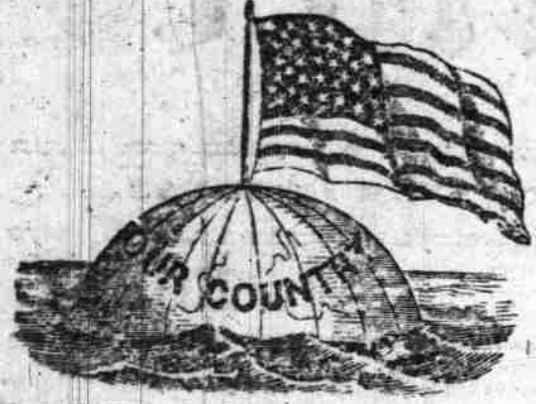


Oxford Free Lance.

John T. Britt & Co., Publishers



WILLIAM BIGGS, EDITOR. Published Weekly.

OXFORD, N. C.: Friday, January 11, 1878.

The only Democratic Journal published at the County Seat of Granville. The fearless exponent of true Democratic principles.

WHO APPOINTS THE CHIEF JUSTICE?

This question is now under discussion and the Raleigh Observer says it is rumored on the street that the four Associate Justices of the Supreme Court claim the right to name the next Chief Justice of that court, and that in exercise of that right they have determined to choose Associate Justice Reade, thus leaving to Governor Vance the appointment not of a Chief Justice but of an Associate Justice.

Where the Associate Justices will find authority for such an exercise of the power of appointment we are at a loss to discover.

The Observer then proceeds to quote various provisions of the New Constitution and the interpretation of them by both military and civil authorities, State and Federal, which seems to settle beyond dispute that the office of Chief Justice is an office to itself that the Governor alone can fill and that the Associate Justices cannot fill.

THE DIFFERENCE.

The New York Herald, speaking from official sources, informs us that 402 murders were committed in that city during the year 1877—a larger number than has occurred in North Carolina with a population of less than that of New York City, since the close of the late war. Yet the Herald, the Times, the Tribune and other kindred sheets have the effrontery to speak of the "insecurity of human life in the South."

If murders were as frequent here as in New York the annual average would be about five to each county; but the fact is that in many counties in this State a murder has not occurred in ten years, in others twenty or more years have elapsed since such a crime was committed. A ratio of murder to population, equal to the New York standard would make our "Southern barbarians" shudder with horror, but "the superior civilization of the North," seems able to stand it for now New York is not an exceptionally wicked city as cities go, north Mason & Dixon line.

HON. W. T. DORTCH.

The communication in the last issue of the FREE LANCE, recommending this distinguished gentleman for a seat upon the Supreme Court Bench, has attracted much favorable notice from the press of the State.

The Goldsboro Messenger, published at the home of Mr. Dortch, cordially seconds the recommendation, but regrets that the pleasure of supporting him for that or any other public position is denied it for the present, at least, and adds:

"We speak authoritatively. Mr. Dortch does not desire, and could not now accept the honorable nomination if tendered him, however much it would please him to do so. It is needless to go into explanations of his declension—that is founded upon the simple words of "duty to his family," the first and paramount duty of every man. Mr. Dortch has at least a lucrative practice, and his present condition, we mean financial, forbids his surrendering that for a salary, however adequate perhaps for support, yet without a margin for mending sad effects of war and misfortunes. We hope the time is not far distant when this hindrance will not exist and when Mr. Dortch shall again consent to serve the people."

DEATH OF CHIEF JUSTICE PEARSON.

This distinguished Jurist breathed his life in the town of Winston on Saturday night, the 5th inst. On that day he left his home, Richmond Hill, Yadkin County, to come to Raleigh to attend the January term of the Supreme Court. He traveled in a buggy to Winston, his only companion being the driver. When three miles from home he leaped over on the driver, and as the driver thought, went to sleep, and he did not discover that anything unusual was the matter with the Judge until he got to the ferry, on the Yadkin river, 15 miles from Winston, and about the same from Judge Pearson's, when the driver tried to rouse him up, but was unable to do so.

That evening, upon arriving at Winston, he was lifted from the buggy into Wilson's hotel; and physicians were at once summoned to his bedside. His illness was not long, and he died promptly at his bedside. They found him in a death stupor from acute paralysis of the entire right side of the brain. The left side did not sympathize with the attack as his left hand and arm were used. He was totally unconscious, and speechless; and it was at once seen that there was no hope of his recovery. He sank rapidly, and breathed his last at thirty-five minutes after ten on Saturday night, January 5th.

SENATOR MERRIMON.

"Rumor says Senator Merrimon and his friends have organized for the Senatorial race, and will again bolt the caucus if Vance is nominated for the Senate. This time the Republicans will show their appreciation of Ingrate Merrimon by voting for Vance."

So says the Greensboro North State, a Republican paper.

The Charlotte Democrat has the following to say in reply:

"Rumor is not very good authority for anything. Can the 'North State' give any good grounds for its declaration that Republicans will support Gov. Vance for the Senate, or that Merrimon is an 'ingrate'?" We care very little about the matter, for we don't think much harm would be done if Lieutenant-Governor Jarvis was made Governor of the State. But Mr. Merrimon never promised the Republicans any particular favor, and they voted for him for Senator without any pledges, and the 'North State' has no right to say anything about it.

The present representatives of North Carolina in the United States Senate (Merrimon and Ransom) are as good and able as any our State ever had in the Senate, and they have stood up manfully for the rights of our people and for the equality of the South in the Union. Instead of North Carolina papers sneering at and attempting to under-rate such men they should award them praise and compliments. No State is better represented in the United States Senate by its Senators and Representatives, and we have no reason to speak what we believe, and we have reason to think that the great mass of our people will endorse what we say."

In connection with the same subject, the Rocky Mount Mail, a good and true Democratic paper, truthfully says:

"When passion shall subside and we see things as they are, no name upon the roll of honor among the ablest and pure, for their noble defence of the suffering Southern people during the trying peril of his services in the Senate, will shine more brightly than that of Judge Merrimon. When his devotion to principle and far-seeing statesmanship is weighed in the scales of unbiased, discriminating justice, he will stand as the peer of any."

And to these utterances of the Democrat and the Mail the FREE LANCE enters its hearty concurrence.

The record that Judge Merrimon has made in the Senate of the United States is one of which any man might well be proud, and his enemies will find it no easy matter to oust him from a seat which he has filled with so much honor to himself and service to his State. North Carolina never had in the National Congress a representative more attentive to the interests of his constituents, more alive to the honor of his State or more devoted to her good than Senator A. S. Merrimon.

At the proper time we shall take occasion to more fully express our sentiments on this subject.

The ordinary expenses of Great Britain are \$245,000,000; of the United States, \$158,000,000. This is exclusive of the interest on the public debt. England's interest is greater now by \$80,000,000. The interest of the United States at the last report was \$100,243,271.

CHARGE OF B. A. CAPEHART, ESQ., TO THE GRAND JURY.

The first regular session of Granville Inferior Court commenced on Monday last.

We give below in full the most admirable and appropriate charge to the Grand Jury by B. A. Capehart, Esq., Chairman of the Court.

It is a model document, briefly yet pertinently expressed—dignified in character, and bearing in every line the imprint of Judicial impartiality and firmness.

We commend it to the careful perusal of every citizen of Granville. "With this week we enter upon comparatively a new system of our county judicial workings. By some it is regarded as an experiment. By others, who were familiar with the old County Courts or Quarter Sessions, which were abolished in 1868, it is hailed as a return to a plainer, more economical and, in many ways, more satisfactory method of adjudicating matters in which we as county people are directly interested."

The act of the Legislature that authorizes the establishing of these courts in the several counties of the State, grants to the magistrates, or a majority of them, the privilege of adopting them or not in their respective counties. Nor is this all, it grants to each and every county the right or privilege of abolishing them, whenever by the magistrates or a majority of them, it may be deemed advisable so to do. Never did a Legislature consider more carefully the interests and wishes of a people.

If, after a fair trial of this new system, it is desirable to continue it, the credit will be due in part, and largely, to the officers of the Court. Upon them the responsibility then greatly depends. But not wholly so, for from the grand jurors quite as much, if not more, will be expected. For directly from the people will they be drawn, and by a change in them as each Court rolls around, so a large number of our citizens will have opportunity for showing their wishes as to the continuance of the court by their zeal and willing performance of duty.

This court is not only restricted to criminal matters, but is limited in its jurisdiction. Its objects are obvious; for example, granting to those in confinement for offences over which it may have jurisdiction a more speedy trial is an appeal to our humanity, and commends itself to our judgment, to say nothing of the costs that are diminished, which is a benefit to the community. Again, the shortening of the State Docket in the Superior Court, thereby placing the Civil Docket in easier reach, that more may be accomplished in this higher court than has heretofore been effected and the necessity and expense of an extra or special term be obviated, which has repeatedly and regrettably been the case.

In our rulings it is not only our duty, but our purpose, to deal with equal justice and fairness to all. Selected as we have been, not from that profession, who have made the law almost their only study; but from those who represent the industries of the land, we feel that we have their interests and their rights greatly in our keeping. And though it may not be expected that we will always give satisfaction—for the most learned in the law not unfrequently fail in this particular—still we will do, to what we are pledged and sworn, our duty as far as in our power lies. In holding our Courts we will be untrue to ourselves if we fail to show that courtesy to the members of the bar that they have ever been accustomed to receive, and they will sustain us, I feel sure, in our earnest endeavor to preserve that general good order and decorum so absolutely indispensable, and which we will maintain at all hazards.

Feeling we would fail in an attempt at a full and explicit charge to the grand jury upon the many crimes and misdemeanors, we will leave that for the Attorney elected for their prosecution. But we cannot refrain from calling your attention to a few of the glaring evils that now beset us. As Judge McKoy, in addressing the grand jury at our last Superior Court, very properly remarked, the very life of a community rested in the full and proper observance of the marital relations, and the common disregard of them was tending much and perhaps more to augment social and civil disturbances than almost everything else. I would call your attention to another evil, that overhangs us all, and darkens and depresses the hopes and ambition of every right minded and thinking individual; that is, the depreciated condition of our county financial matters, which has become a by word and a reproach to our people.

A sufficient, and, I dare say, burdensome tax has for years past been levied, and we hear of no difficulty in the collection of the same, in the main, still, the average is enormous, and, if I mistake not, is on the increase. Inquire into this matter, and do your utmost to correct this monstrous evil.

Among the indices of a prosperous people, the one that most strikes the traveler and stranger is a good road, and while it may be unpleasant to present a friend and neighbor for neglect of duty, it is imperative upon you to see that those having the care of the public highways should be held to account when neglected.

We will, from time to time, call upon members of the bar for assistance and information, and faithfully relying upon a general disposition on the part of the people to a proper observance of law and order, and prompt punishment on our part of willful offenders, that our county will ere long rank second to none in moral and healthful financial condition—equal to the intelligence that has ever characterized her citizens. And as we are blessed with fertile soils and a healthfully invigorating climate, let the boasts of our people be, that we have more churches, more school houses with paid up teachers, more agricultural products, fewer drones, fewer culprits and a clearer balance sheet than any county of our Commonwealth.

Change of Schedule.

On Monday last a change of Schedule was made on the Raleigh & Gaston Road, and the mail train now leaves Raleigh at 10:30 a. m. and arrives at Weldon at 3 p. m. will leave Weldon at 12:40 p. m. and arrive at Raleigh at 5:15 p. m. The through freight train will leave Raleigh at 9:30 p. m. and arrive at Weldon at 5 a. m. Will leave Weldon at 9:30 p. m. and arrive at Raleigh at 5:20 a. m. The local freight train will leave Raleigh at 5 a. m. and arrive at Weldon at 4:42 p. m. Will leave Weldon at 5 a. m. and arrive at Raleigh at 4:25 p. m.

In accordance with this, a change has been made on the line between Oxford and Henderson and the Hack will now leave Oxford at 9 a. m.

The silverware delivered by the National Silver-Plating Co., No. 704 Chestnut Street, Philadelphia, is giving entire satisfaction. All orders are promptly filled, and no one need hesitate about sending them money.—"Lutheran Observer."

NEW ADVERTISEMENTS.

WILLIAMS & BRYAN, GROCERS, OXFORD, N. C.

THE ONLY FIRST-CLASS GROCERY IN TOWN, Offers to the trade the following goods:

- Choice Sugar, Coffee, Tea, Lake Mulletts and N. C. Herrings, New Orleans Molasses, (new crop) all grades Sugar, Raisins, Nuts and French Candy.

We have a superior lot of Coffee on hand, which we guarantee to give satisfaction.

- Fine French Brandy, Old Nash Brandy, Imperial Cabinet Whisky, Sweet Mash Whisky, &c.

The above goods are pure and we can recommend them for family and medicinal use.

Genuine Collins' Axes! Simmons' Axes! Lee's Axes!

Also four other brands of Axes. Call and examine them.

Cooper & Williams. S. V. ELLIS & CO., Dealers in Dry Goods, Groceries,

BOOTS, SHOES, HATS, HARDWARE, NAILS, HORSE SHOES, AXES.

LEATHER, CIGARS, TOBACCO, CHEESE, WINES AND LIQUORS, OXFORD, N. C.

Be sure and give him a call before purchasing elsewhere.

Office Board Town Commissioners. OXFORD, N. C., December 10th 1877.

At a meeting of the Board of Commissioners for the town of Oxford, held Monday night Dec. 10th, the following proceedings were had: Ordered, that a reward of \$500 be offered by the Board of Commissioners of the town of Oxford for the arrest and proof sufficient to convict the party or parties who set fire to the building in Oxford on the night of the 7th inst.

J. C. & D. Y. COOPER, PROPRIETORS COOPER'S WAREHOUSE, HENDERSON, N. C.

Highest Prices Guaranteed for all Grades OF LEAF TOBACCO. The very best Accommodations for its Patrons. Good Light and everything ready awaiting your coming. jan 11 6

How for the Great Down Fall in Prices! I AM PREPARED TO SELL Buggies & Wagons AS CHEAP AS ANY MANUFACTORY NORTH OR SOUTH.

J. C. BREWSTER, dealer in HARDWARE STOVES, Tin Ware and House-Furnishing Goods.

Howe Sewing Machine! Sewing Machine Needles & Oils, Varnish, Glass & Putty.

STOVES! STOVES! GREAT INDUCEMENTS offered to those wishing to supply themselves with first-class COOKING & HEATING STOVES.

J. F. EDWARDS' the best makes and patterns at OXFORD, N. C. Call at once and Examine his Stock.

Cooper & Williams Are constantly getting in NEW GOODS. They would call special attention to their department of Ready Made Clothing.

Lock Hospital 21 South Gay Street, BALTIMORE, MD. (Half a minute's walk from the Postoffice.) PRACTICE LIMITED TO PRIVATE AND CONFIDENTIAL DISEASES.

IMPORTANT TO BUILDERS! I HAVE recently added a new feature to my Steam Saw Mill in the way of a first-class Planing Machine, pronounced the most superior thing of the kind ever brought to the State.

STOP AT THE YARBORO HOUSE, Raleigh, N. C. GEORGE W. BLACKNALL, Proprietor. FOR SALE CHEAP. A Good second hand Novelty Job Press, size inside of case 10 by 14 1/2; good as new; does good work and will be sold at a bargain. See the Doctor pays special attention.

DISSOLUTION OF PARTNERSHIP. THE Partnership heretofore conducted under the name and style of HERRICK & JONES has this day been dissolved by mutual consent.

OXFORD MALE ACADEMY, OXFORD, N. C. The Spring Session opens Monday, January 14th, 1878.

NOTICE TO TAXPAYERS. The town tax books for 1877 have been placed in my hands for collection. The tax-payers will please be prompt in making settlement as my time is limited. The books should have been placed in my hands the 1st of last June. I hope no one will give me any trouble by delay.

T. J. & W. D. HORNER'S Classical and Mathematical School, Henderson, N. C. The Spring session of this school opens the 1st Monday in January next.

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