

It is with an overmastering emotion that we announce the death of JAMES W. HARPER, late editor-in-chief of this paper. He died at Raleigh, N. C., of malignant malaria fever, at half past eleven o'clock, on the night of January 28th, 1883. Scarcely more than a week ago he left New Berne on a trip to Raleigh for a little recreation and perhaps to look after legal matters important to this place and section. He was taken sick soon after his arrival there and confined to his bed until his death.

JAMES WARREN HARPER was born in Lenoir county, North Carolina, January 18th, 1848, and was the third son of James M. and C. E. Harper, both of whom have preceded him. In his youth he received all the benefits of a good and plain home training, with such advantages as the country schools then offered. He entered the University of Chapel Hill in 1864, and graduated therefrom with marked distinction in 1868, and immediately commenced the study of the law under the late William H. Battle. His soon thereafter obtained his license and engaged in the practice of his profession at Kinston.

In 1870 he formed a law partnership with B. F. Gralor, Esq., and during that year led the fervent hope of the Democratic party of this county as a candidate for the Legislature. Though possessing a legal mind and getting a lucrative practice, he was not fond of the law as a profession. He engaged in an expedition on Newberne as Captain of the steamer General. During the year 1873 he was married to Miss Claudia W. Brown of Lenoir county, who, with five interesting children, survives him.

Soon after his marriage he formed a partnership with L. Harvey Esq., and embarked into mercantile life which proved disastrous. He engaged in agricultural pursuits near Kinston. In 1875, he was elected to the office of Justice of the Peace for the year 1875 when he was elected County Superintendent of Public Instruction by the Board of Magistrates of Lenoir county, and by his indomitable spirit, energy and talent, soon infused new life into the public schools of the county which his influence is now working and benevolently felt.

But his desire for usefulness in his day and generation did not stop here. In March, 1882, he bought the outfit of the Commercial News Publishing Company in this city, and forming a partnership with the owners of the Kinston Journal moved to New Berne and commenced the publication of the Daily and Weekly Journal, both of which by his unflagging industry and eminent ability he has placed on a basis of ultimate success.

JAMES W. HARPER was an honest man. He was a ripe scholar, an able, disinterested and independent editor; a sound, just and conscientious lawyer. He was a safe counsellor, though not a brilliant advocate, never advising a client to go to law unless he was certain to be in the right. We think we have heard it from his lips that he had never advised a client to bring suit that he would not win. All the Spring Term of the Superior Court of Jones County in 1880, he submitted a brief upon which he was complimented by the ablest members of the New Berne bar.

In all the grand and noble qualities which make the kind husband, the loving parent, the useful citizen, the devoted friend and the genuine Christian, JAMES W. HARPER was the "complete man." To us, who have known him intimately for ten years, a partner in both the Kinston and New Berne JOURNAL, his death seems untimely; we feel that we have lost a true and tried friend. His bereaved family have our warmest sympathy.

SUICIDE AMONG FARMERS.

We take these speculations on an interesting subject from the Albany Argus:

It seems strange that of 424 deaths during the last three months, the occupation which furnished the greatest number was farming. The first and worst of the farmer and merchant's life is not supposed to be found in that of the farmer. We have been accustomed to look upon him as the best and happiest man on earth, and certainly, the figures which we find in the Insurance Chronicle astonish us. When twice as many farmers as clerks commit suicide, there is no other conclusion at which we can arrive than this: That over-taxation and unjust discrimination is the cause of all this misery.

Our esteemed contemporary's reading of the riddle does little credit to his acumen. Direct taxes bear more heavily on the farmer than on any other class, and they are not discriminated against except in tariff-taxation, which is not generous enough to account for the prevalence of self-murder among them.

There is no need to search for hidden causes for the frequency of suicides among farmers. The causes are on the surface and are found in the nature and conditions of the calling itself. It is an antiquated and exploded notion that mental labor is more exhaustive and more irritating to men than manual labor. The reverse is true. It is physical labor which kills and depresses, and no man has a larger share of it than the farmer. No other mode of life will so surely make a man ruminated and old before his time as that of buying a farm on credit, and trying to work out the mortgage. It is back-breaking and mind-weaving work. It means unending toil, hard and arduous both day and night.

Added to this, the farmer has incessant anxiety about a cause of ruin which constantly impends over him, but which he cannot control nor by any industry or forethought avoid. That is the weather. It is like a sword hung above his head by a single hair. Drought may make his lands sterile, lightning may consume his stacks and barns, wind may prostrate his trees and standing grain, floods may drown his cattle and his crops, frost may beat down his grain and grass. He is in incessant terror of the elements, which severely affect all the professional and commercial men who are city dwellers.

Perhaps the condition of the farmer's life which most of all tends to that depression of spirits which the statistics show, often culminates in suicide, is its deadly monotony. The farmer lives a comparatively isolated life. Even in the oldest, most fertile, and most thickly populated farming districts there is comparatively little of that frequent and plentiful fellowship with one's kind which in cities does so much to keep one interested in things outside of one's self, and so to prevent the brooding, the dwelling on one idea, the bobby-riding, which lead to phantasy, to mental distortion, and finally to settled melancholy. Life in a crowd is likely to be gay and pleasant. Frequent contact with others distracts one from his private griefs and furnishes an antidote to them. Even the poorest life to crowd into cities, and few of them would willingly exchange their urban poverty for the isolated independence of a profitable farm. In the cities there is light and gayer and color, music and pictures, and theatres, news and excitement and books, eloquence in the pulpit and at the bar—always some excitement, some sensation to make talking easy and to give thought wide scope and pleasing variety.

In the city these incidents daily offset the worry and struggle of life and care. Such healing influences the farmer has much more of in these days of rapid communication, general mail facilities, closer settlements, and better roads than he formerly had. But still he does not have enough of them.

What lack did you have last night? asked Amundin Biedose of Wangooodle Baxter, two of the most popular colored men in Anstion, in this section of Texas, for that matter.

LEGISLATIVE PROCEEDINGS.

(Continued from New Observer.)

SENATE. TWENTY-FIRST DAY.

COMMITTEE REPORTS. Mr. McLean, unfavorably—An act to amend and construe section 2, chapter 141, of the laws of 1877-78, in regard to the office of county treasurer.

Messages from the House, informing the Senate that the House had passed the following bills, which were properly referred: A bill relating to the duties of justices of the peace and county assessors.

Mr. Battle, favorably: An act for the protection of crops in Caswell county; an act to prevent the sale of malt or spirituous liquor on Sunday to amend chapter 293, laws 1876-77, and chapter 234, laws 1881.

Mr. Spight, unfavorably: Act to repeal the purchase tax on liquor. Mr. Dortch, Judiciary committee, reported favorably: A bill for the relief of disabled Confederate soldiers; a bill to allow creditors to sue on certain claims before they are made a bill to amend the law of attachment; a bill to exempt farming implements from taxation—no constitutional objection was raised.

Mr. Boykin, Judiciary committee, unfavorably: A bill to allow justices of the peace and county commissioners to be elected by the qualified voters of the State; a bill to establish county government and restore local self-government to the people.

ENROLLED BILLS—CORRECTLY ENGROSSED. A bill to incorporate the Raleigh and Gaston Railroad Company. Unfavorably: A bill to give solicitors half fees in cases of "nolle prosequi"; a bill to prohibit the sale of intoxicating liquors in certain localities.

Mr. Whitford, to establish a standard weight for a barrel of pork, by the name, to remove all license tax on wines, cordials or liquors; Mr. Evans, to regulate the fees of justices of the peace, etc.; Mr. Carter, to amend section 5, chapter 204, laws 1876-77.

HOUSE.

PETITIONS.

Mr. King of Pitt, petition for prohibition with three wives, May's Chapel and Berea church, in Pitt county.

Mr. Clarke, petition protesting against an increase of taxation, and petition against a no-fence law.

Mr. King of Pitt, introduced a bill prohibiting the sale of liquor in three miles of May's Chapel, Berea and Penny Grove church.

Mr. Farmer introduced a bill to lay out and construct a public road from Stonevale to the Neuse River road, in Pamlico, Referred.

Mr. Dortch, bill for a graded school in Goldsboro, passed its second reading.

Mr. Clarke called up the bill to elect justices of the peace by the people.

Mr. Farmer moved to table it.

Mr. Ramsey demanded that the yeas and nays be called on that motion. The yeas were, yeas 27, nays 12.

HOUSE.

PETITIONS.

Mr. King of Pitt, petition for prohibition with three wives, May's Chapel and Berea church, in Pitt county.

Mr. Clarke, petition protesting against an increase of taxation, and petition against a no-fence law.

Mr. King of Pitt, introduced a bill prohibiting the sale of liquor in three miles of May's Chapel, Berea and Penny Grove church.

Mr. Farmer introduced a bill to lay out and construct a public road from Stonevale to the Neuse River road, in Pamlico, Referred.

Mr. Dortch, bill for a graded school in Goldsboro, passed its second reading.

Mr. Clarke called up the bill to elect justices of the peace by the people.

Mr. Farmer moved to table it.

Mr. Ramsey demanded that the yeas and nays be called on that motion. The yeas were, yeas 27, nays 12.

HOUSE.

PETITIONS.

Mr. King of Pitt, petition for prohibition with three wives, May's Chapel and Berea church, in Pitt county.

Mr. Clarke, petition protesting against an increase of taxation, and petition against a no-fence law.

Mr. King of Pitt, introduced a bill prohibiting the sale of liquor in three miles of May's Chapel, Berea and Penny Grove church.

Mr. Farmer introduced a bill to lay out and construct a public road from Stonevale to the Neuse River road, in Pamlico, Referred.

Mr. Dortch, bill for a graded school in Goldsboro, passed its second reading.

Mr. Clarke called up the bill to elect justices of the peace by the people.

Mr. Farmer moved to table it.

Mr. Ramsey demanded that the yeas and nays be called on that motion. The yeas were, yeas 27, nays 12.

HOUSE.

PETITIONS.

Mr. King of Pitt, petition for prohibition with three wives, May's Chapel and Berea church, in Pitt county.

Mr. Clarke, petition protesting against an increase of taxation, and petition against a no-fence law.

Mr. King of Pitt, introduced a bill prohibiting the sale of liquor in three miles of May's Chapel, Berea and Penny Grove church.

Mr. Farmer introduced a bill to lay out and construct a public road from Stonevale to the Neuse River road, in Pamlico, Referred.

Mr. Dortch, bill for a graded school in Goldsboro, passed its second reading.

Mr. Clarke called up the bill to elect justices of the peace by the people.

Mr. Farmer moved to table it.

Mr. Ramsey demanded that the yeas and nays be called on that motion. The yeas were, yeas 27, nays 12.

NEW BERNE ADVERTISEMENTS.

NOW OR NEVER! Before leaving for Hong Kong (of course you know where that is) I shall sail, Paris for 444, Coats for 49c, Shirts 94c, and Drawers—well don't speak of it.

WM. L. PALMER, Dealer in Cigars, Tobacco, Pipes, and Also Candles, Nuts and Fruits. St. Jacobs' Oil, the Great German Remedy for Rheumatism and all Bodily Pains. Middle St., Second Door from No. Front, Jan 17-daily New Berne, N. C.

B. J. JANE, Dealer in and Shipper of Fresh and Salt Fish, Oysters, Etc., Etc. New Berne, N. C.

A PROCLAMATION BY THE GOVERNOR. \$200 Reward! STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA. Whereas, official information has been received at this department that

BENJAMIN HILL, of the County of Craven, stands charged with the murder of the late Benjamin Hill, who appears that said Benjamin Hill has been killed to procure a divorce from the said Benjamin Hill cannot be served upon

By virtue of an Execution issued from the Superior Court of Craven County in favor of J. F. Shilly and E. A. Shilly, Plaintiffs and against James T. Daniels, Defendant, I will cause to be sold at public sale, at the Court House in New Berne, N. C., on the 20th day of FEBRUARY, 1883, at TWELVE M. M. the following property, viz: about ninety-five acres of land, situated on the east side of New River, in the County of Craven, about two miles from Hartwood, N. C., adjoining the lands of William O'Neil, Bryan Wetherill, John Hartwood & A. A. Hill, the above not subject to a homestead claim.

Sheriff's Sale. By virtue of an Execution issued from the Superior Court of Craven County in favor of J. F. Shilly and E. A. Shilly, Plaintiffs and against James T. Daniels, Defendant, I will cause to be sold at public sale, at the Court House in New Berne, N. C., on the 20th day of FEBRUARY, 1883, at TWELVE M. M. the following property, viz: about ninety-five acres of land, situated on the east side of New River, in the County of Craven, about two miles from Hartwood, N. C., adjoining the lands of William O'Neil, Bryan Wetherill, John Hartwood & A. A. Hill, the above not subject to a homestead claim.

Wm. Pell Ballance & Co. NEW BERNE, N. C. FINE Groceries! AT WHOLESALE FOR CASH.

Flour, Sugar, Coffee, at wholesale for cash. Provisions and Meats, at wholesale for cash. Cakes and Crackers, at wholesale for cash. Canned Goods and Goods in Glass, at wholesale for cash. Butter and Cheese, at wholesale for cash.

Wm. Pell Ballance & Co. NEW BERNE, N. C. FINE Groceries! AT WHOLESALE FOR CASH.

Flour, Sugar, Coffee, at wholesale for cash. Provisions and Meats, at wholesale for cash. Cakes and Crackers, at wholesale for cash. Canned Goods and Goods in Glass, at wholesale for cash. Butter and Cheese, at wholesale for cash.

Wm. Pell Ballance & Co. NEW BERNE, N. C. FINE Groceries! AT WHOLESALE FOR CASH.

Flour, Sugar, Coffee, at wholesale for cash. Provisions and Meats, at wholesale for cash. Cakes and Crackers, at wholesale for cash. Canned Goods and Goods in Glass, at wholesale for cash. Butter and Cheese, at wholesale for cash.

Wm. Pell Ballance & Co. NEW BERNE, N. C. FINE Groceries! AT WHOLESALE FOR CASH.

Flour, Sugar, Coffee, at wholesale for cash. Provisions and Meats, at wholesale for cash. Cakes and Crackers, at wholesale for cash. Canned Goods and Goods in Glass, at wholesale for cash. Butter and Cheese, at wholesale for cash.

Wm. Pell Ballance & Co. NEW BERNE, N. C. FINE Groceries! AT WHOLESALE FOR CASH.

Flour, Sugar, Coffee, at wholesale for cash. Provisions and Meats, at wholesale for cash. Cakes and Crackers, at wholesale for cash. Canned Goods and Goods in Glass, at wholesale for cash. Butter and Cheese, at wholesale for cash.

Wm. Pell Ballance & Co. NEW BERNE, N. C. FINE Groceries! AT WHOLESALE FOR CASH.

GERMAN KAINIT, 23 Per Cent Sulphate of Potash, Containing Not Less Than 10% of Phosphate. Sold under the supervision of the Agents of the Prussian Government. Analysis Guaranteed. Miles' IXL Ammoniated Bone Super-Phosphate. Zell's Ammoniated Super-Phosphate. Zell's Cotton Acid, for composting. Ober's Special Compound. Chesapeake Guano. The Anchor Brand. For sale for Cash or on Time to responsible parties at low prices, by C. E. FOY & CO., WHOLESALE GROCERS, MIDDLE STREET, New Berne, N. C.