JOURNAL.

Editor.

DEC. 25, 1884.

New Berne, N. C.
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a single time.
EY BATTLE, write a letter to
Chronicle.

News and Observer, in speak
Judge SEYMOUR'S opinion
Bennett-Covington case, in
the validity of cotton fu
says he is a clear headed and
cellent Judge. Correct.

THE inauguration ceremonies of
resident CLEVELAND have been
over to Col. BERRET, W.
W. CORCORAN and fifty other dis-
ingulshed citizens of the District
of Columbia without regard to
party affiliations. This is right; it
is time for an era of good feeling,
but as Senator VANCE said in his
Baltimore speech, in the name of
half a million hungry Democrats,
turn the rascals out.

In a discussion in the United States Senate a few days ago, it was stated by Mr. SHERMAN that while he was Secretary of the Treasury he purchased for the use of the Government ninety millions of dollars in gold with silver certificates, thus showing that the Government is indebted to the standard silver dollar for a large portion of the gold in the treasury, and dispelling the idea that silver is driving gold out of circulation.

THE Georgia Legislature has adopted a resolution by an overwhelming vote to employ only women to perform clerical work hereafter. Those who advocated the resolution contended that all avenues of employment should be open to women, who had no voice in the Government, yet obeyed its laws and paid its taxes. The women in North Carolina are evidently behind the times or they would demand the passage of a similar resolution by the General Assembly.

COMMODORE APPLETON OAK SMITH addresses, through the *Telephone*, a long letter to office seekers of Carteret county who have asked his influence to help them to positions. He refuses to recommend any one without a conference with the other party leaders of the county, and condemns the practice of signing everybody's petition. He also cautions the applicants of the danger of being too hasty.

DRAIN THE SWAMP LANDS.

The *News and Observer* of last Saturday says that one of the questions which the Legislature must solve is what shall be done with the convicts during the next two years. We say unhesitatingly that they can not be employed to more advantage for the State at large than draining the swamp lands of the State. The force that has been at work in the White Oak pocosin, cutting the Quaker Bridge road should be kept there. Another road should be cut from Cypress creek, Jones county, crossing the Quaker Bridge road to Onslow county near G. W. SMITH'S, and another from the neighborhood of Fowle, Jones county, via Catfish lake, to Reedy branch, in the same county. On the Onslow side one or two other roads should be cut in the direction of Jacksonville. When these roads are cut White Oak pocosin will be in good shape for selling, and if the Literary Board will not be in too big a hurry to get rid of it, a handsome sum might be realized for the benefit of our public schools.

In connection with cutting these roads, experimental farms might be cleared up at different points on the Quaker Bridge road, one or two acres in a place, that would show the value of the lands to great advantage. This ought to be done if the State wishes to realize anything like the value of the lands, for it is desirable to give some shrewd speculator an opportunity, the real value of the lands should be kept a doubt.

THE BLAIR BILL

The *News and Observer* says in an editorial of last Saturday morning concerning the BLAIR bill that what we have been wanting to know for sometime, but, not being a lawyer, we disliked to discuss questions involving the constitutionality of an act of Congress. We think much of the argument against the bill but have not yet been satisfied with the idea that it would violate the right of a State to make the proposition before the people to tax for the purpose of a system of common schools. We don't think [illegible] lawyer to [illegible] constitution gives Congress power [illegible] has caused a [illegible] in the North [illegible] Here is where [illegible] about that Congress has [illegible] more money from the people [illegible] necessary to defray the expenses of the government, promote the general welfare, etc. [illegible] has been taken from us, [illegible] way to right the wrong [illegible] back to us. We hope [illegible] and in this [illegible]

CHRISTMAS

From an early date in the Christian era the day [illegible] Christmas was [illegible] has been, in some [illegible] for observance [illegible] cember.

[illegible] Bethlehem, in the [illegible] Manger the watch[illegible] the Angel chorus [illegible] ping, Wise Men [illegible] many disbelievers.

And while [illegible] to do some [illegible] this earth has [illegible] the care taken to observe [illegible] commemoration [illegible] the Child of the Virgin Mother.

In connection with this happy day has grown up the custom of giving gifts, and expressions of general feelings of kindness to our fellow beings, in various ways. Unwonted liberties are taken with each other, levities indulged in, and many things the result of a "Merry Christmas" are passed unheeded or at once repaid by a return of the same to you"; and, as Christmas comes but once a year, "you know," covers all ordinary departures from the paths of rigid social propriety, in seeming faint resemblance to the great gift of God to man, and the joyful chorus "Peace on earth good will towards men" as it sounded in the ears of the Shepherds on the hill of Judea.

This blessed day is again with us. We all have cause to be happy and joyful. Some doubtless have relatives and friends that were with them a year ago, but have now passed over the river, and while the vacant chair at the family board may cause the tear to dim the eye, Faith and Hope would wipe it away and point to the Father's Throne as where they ever before His face enjoy the perpetual blessings flowing from the incarnation which we commemorate. Then today let each one enjoy the Christmas cheer in a Christian way, and the world will appear the brighter for it, and we all enter upon the coming year with more cheerful spirits and hopeful tempers

A Merry Christmas to all is the compliments of the JOURNAL

BLAINE'S BACK OUT

At the opening of the last Presidential campaign when some of the Democratic papers began to unveil the history of BLAINE'S private life, the Democratic Executive Committee promptly condemned that mode of campaigning, and gave it out that they would not conduct the canvass on that line. We were glad that they did this, because we were satisfied that BLAINE'S public career was sufficient to defeat him for the Presidency, and we have never known an instance where a party gained anything in a Presidential contest by attempting to smut the private character of the leader of the opposite party. But Mr. BLAINE took it into his head to appeal before the public as a martyr, and as soon as the publication of the damaging charges appeared in a paper published in a domestic State, he promptly brought suit against the editor of the paper for damages inflicted by the libelous publication." The suit was brought with no intention of having a trial but simply for political effect. But the desired effect was not produced, hence, Mr. BLAINE seizes the opportunity to pour out his venom upon the Democrats of Indiana by making the swooping charge that there is not a half dozen in the State that would as editors give him justice.

We publish Mr. BLAINE'S letter with drawing the prosecution of the libel suit, that [illegible] readers may have all the data [illegible] themselves and [illegible] Mr. BLAINE.

[illegible]

THE NEXT SPEAKERSHIP

Reasons that Ought to Influence the Legislature in the Selection

[illegible]

THE NEW ORLEANS EXPOSITION

[illegible] Harper's New [illegible]

[illegible]

The World's Fair at New Orleans

The Exposition was opened at [illegible] by the President of the United States, he being in Washington City and the Exposition in New Orleans, twelve hundred miles distant. We are certainly a great people, and we do things in a way to astonish the world. Not satisfied with the great Exposition of 1876 which cost us a million of dollars, we go and do it for one hundred miles from the bottle-nose and give his orders and direct the thing. It is a great pity it had not been found out sooner.

The opening day found most exhibitors unprepared, as they had no idea of the work necessary to be done beforehand. In addition to this the buildings were so fully occupied, and to have [illegible] very badly. This was particularly the case with the foot which in many parts of the building, leaked badly. The North Carolinians, trained to expectation of Rain and everything in such shape. The large space allotted to the State, is not fully filled but proud. Our exhibitors, selections and the taste, neatness and tastefulness displayed in the arrangement of the articles, [illegible] great credit on the old State. The department of agriculture is [illegible] manufactures, the products, [illegible] and skill are [illegible]

[illegible]

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