

The Post

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THE WILMINGTON POST,

OFFICIAL ORGAN.

PUBLISHED SUNDAYS AND THURSDAYS.

Per Year \$3 00
Six Months 2 00
Three Months 1 25
One Month 50
Single copies, Five cents.
Clubs furnished at reasonable rates.

RATES OF ADVERTISING:

Per square, one time, 75 cents.
Less than one square, one time, 50 cents.
Two times \$1.00 and all succeeding insertions half price additional.
Rates per month, \$3 for one square, and each succeeding square half rates additional.
Half Column and Column advertisements received on proper discount.
Local advertisements 10 cents a line.

Address,
CHAS. I. GRADY,
Editor,
Wilmington, N. C.

CITY.

CLUB RATES!!!

Our readers are informed that "club rates" are often inquired about cannot be less than \$2.00 per year. We have put the paper down to the very lowest price, and clubs of five or ten cannot be formed at any price less than TWO DOLLARS for EACH PAPER!

MESSAGE.—We are receiving numerous orders for Governor Caldwell's Message, and to oblige the ardent friends of law and order, we have printed the Message in pamphlet form and all can have them for \$2.00 per hundred, or \$10.00 per thousand! Republicans remember it is easier to direct public opinion than to change it after once formed. CIRCULATE THE DOCUMENTS!!!

Eggs 20 cents per dozen.
Snud 75 cents to \$1.25 per pair.
Photographs cheap at Van Orsdell's.
Katz will shortly have his "Spring" goods.
The use of soldiers' drill—to make holes in the enemy.
Try those spring hats at T. H. Wright's great Hat Store.
Buy some of those three for 25 cts. cigars, of C. D. Myers & Co.

Persons holding county bonds will please see to their own notice.
Hostler's will receive the prize.
Mock modesty and codfish aristocracy is what annoys people at present.
Business is "looking up" as the war is over, and goods must come down.
Early onions appeared in the market yesterday morning, green and fresh.
Enough of human life is wasted in this world to people many larger worlds.
See C. D. Myers & Co., problem for "working out" all sorts of family supplies.
It is when the work is finished that we feel how unfinished is the workmanship.
Old age is a relentless tyrant; it forbids the pleasures of youth on pain of death.
Wisdom daily lets go some early acquisition to make room for better specimens.
A Mandarin thinks more of his wife's feet than of her face—the "heathen Chinese!"
Life is a lottery; but he who draws many corks will not be likely to draw much else.
Manson & Co., stick to their "line" of selling fine furnishing goods to gentlemen buyers.
When you are hunting, dogmatically speaking, an ill trained pointer is a disappointment.
A face which constantly advertises the stomach-ache is attractive only to those in the medical line.
It is an important part of a good education to be able to bear politely with the want of it in others.
Never be above your calling, nor be afraid to appear dressed in accordance with the business you are performing.
We learn that there is a man in this city who is so bent on accomplishing his purpose that he is becoming hunch-backed.
Naomi, the daughter of Enoch, was five hundred and eighty years old when she committed matrimony. Courage, ladies.
The vicious poor often rob their neighbors; the vicious rich not only rob their neighbors but themselves at the same time.
Full files of this paper can be found in New York, at the office of Geo. P. Rowell & Co., Advertising Agents, No. 40 Park Row.

"Sound" parties are beginning to revive, and with them the hopes of Southerland & Stegall.

Let the people remember Myers' fresh stock of groceries. C. D. sells cigars at cost, and gives all his friends careful attention.

A lady's dressmaker horrified her the other day by telling her she would "cut her body out" in the course of the afternoon.

There is an old advertisement which reads "Use Cooper's Tooth Brush." Well see Cooper hanged first, how would he like to use ours?

If a person catch hold of your ear and demand whether or not he has the wrong pig by the ear, would you answer him with a grunt?

It is said that doctors can mitigate the pain of sickness. It may be the case many times, but it is certain that many of them make dying very easy.

MAYER'S bread delivery is a great success. The enterprising "Charles" sometimes takes the morning air to the delight of his lady customers.

Governor Caldwell is constantly receiving letters from conservative citizens in Western North Carolina, praising his action in refusing to call a Convention.

Pound parties, in which every one takes a pound of something, are all the rage in some localities. They are said to be lively. A pound of gold, or even of silver, would not be bad to take.

NOTICE.—Delinquent subscribers are notified that unless they pay promptly, their papers will be stopped, and when practicable suits will be entered against those not offering proper excuse.

The shadows of the mind are like those of the body. In the morning of life they are all behind us; at noon we trample them under foot; and in the evening they stretch along and deepen before us.

The Post will be furnished to clubs of ten and over at the rate of fifty cents for three months!! Let none say they are too poor to pay for their Post. Let Post Clubs be formed all over the State to resist CONVENTION.

An advertisement in a newspaper is a good barometer of the condition of business. The other day an "ad" that a carpenter published in a Boston paper brought two hundred letters and forty personal applications.

SOMETHING NEW.—Housekeepers are notified that Mr. George Myers has been appointed sole agent for the sale of "Perfumed Laundry Soap," and has five hundred boxes on hand which he offers at the unprecedented low price of ONE DOLLAR A BOX!!!

The contractors on the Atlantic, Tennessee and Ohio Railroad Company have made a start in laying the track of the road. The Charlotte Observer says the cars now run four miles on the road from that place, and it is the intention of the managers to lay four miles per week.

At the regular meeting of the Mechanics Building Association, last night, 45 shares of stock were redeemed at an average of \$101.95 per share, viz: 20 shares at \$104, 15 shares at \$100.50, and 10 shares at \$100. At the next regular meeting the Association will be prepared to buy in shares in accordance with Art. 14 of the Constitution.

HARBOR MASTER'S REPORT.—The following is the Report of the Harbor Master for the month of February, 1871:

Steamers 12
Brigs 13
Schooners 15
Total 40
With an average tonnage of 9,850 tons; of these 1 brig and 1 schooner were foreign; 21 small vessels not included in the above.
B. J. LAWTON,
Harbor Master.

NINE DAX'S WONDER.—The new and elegant Hook and Ladder house erected on Dock Street by the Cape Fear Building Company was built in nine days! The various parts were prepared at the Abbottsburgh Mills, by Mr. H. S. Servoss, and put together by that gentleman on the Company's lot. All who have witnessed the celerity with which this building has arose, are convinced that all the energy and enterprise is not confined to Chicago or the Western States. Our city may justly be proud of a company able to compete with any Northern or Western company for the Cuban contracts now being made with Americans to build up the waste places in the "Queen of the Isles," by furnishing ready made buildings, all marked and prepared to "go up" with but little for carpenters to do but join together the frames.

The building referred to is over fifty feet

deep and two stories high, and finished in the finest style known to dwellings.

The Raleigh Telegram attacks our railroad management as throttling home manufactures, and discriminating in favor of Northern Capitalists and Northern mechanics. The charge upon the Wilmington and Weldon railroad is not a new one. Supt. Fremont has explained the necessity of discriminating against local freight in his last report, where he also promises, "at an early day," to change the programme, that our dying in justice may have a chance to live. So mote it be!

The friends and patrons of the Roller Skating Association must not forget that on to-morrow night, the monthly awards will be presented. A great deal of friendly rivalry is exhibited by the several candidates, and the entertainment for the evening being especially fascinating, a large crowd may be looked for. A prize will also be presented to the young skater making six circuits of the hall in the shortest time. These awards give our skaters a healthful stimulus for rapid improvement.

SLANDER.—The injury done our city by the monstrous fabrications of the Journal is seen in a paragraph copied into the Raleigh Sentinel, in which the absurd yarn of insane partizanship is made to read that the "radical" Mayor pays money out of the City treasury to give colored women pleasure excursions. All who know the acting Mayor, George Chadbourn, must denounce as an absurd falsehood the statement that any money could be wasted in giving free excursions even if begged by the local editor of the Journal. Not too delicate to refuse, and not too shameless to slander the purest and best city government.

WILMINGTON, N. C., March 1, 1871.

MR. EDITOR:—I wish to let the public know what we did in our concert and exhibition on the 22d ult. This concert was gotten up for the purpose of obtaining a library for the Sabbath School, and through the earnest labors of the teachers and officers of the school we cleared \$43.01, for which I return my hearty thanks to my friends, white and colored. We forwarded yesterday through the Post Office to the American Sabbath School Union, \$49 for books and papers, which we look for about the last of this week or the first of next.

Very Respectfully,
WM. McLAURIN,
Superintendent A. M. E. S. S.

WELL ROASTED.—We mean "Mary's Little Lamb." It had become a journalistic nuisance. Never a day for a month past but that the little lamb annoyed all the editors in the land. It appeared in their sanctuaries and at their paste-pot without saying "by your leave," and "ba, ba," was its unintelligible language. But the "Little Lamb" has been finally disposed of, and the Worcester (Mass.) Evening Gazette does it in the following lines:

"Mary had a little lamb,
We've heard it o'er and o'er,
Until that little lamb's become
A perfect little bore!
So I propose there shall be dug
A grave both deep and wide,
In which that lamb and all its bards,
Be buried side by side."

CHAPMAN SISTERS.—The favorites of last winter are again with us, and we predict for them flowing houses and full purses. The company are from Richmond where the public gave all sorts of encouragement and the press abound in praises, says the News:

The Chapman Sisters and Bishop, last night as always met with a host of friends to greet them. The audience was not only large but appreciative. Bishop and the favorites seemed to be quite up to the occasion, and never acted better. Of the play, (Much ado about a Merchant of Venice) the New York Herald says: "To a crowded house the burlesque tragedy of Mr. John Brougham's 'Much Ado about a Merchant of Venice' was presented last night. The burlesque was complete; there was sufficient difference in the text and in the presentation for it not to jar upon the remembrance of the dramas of the 'immortal Will,' and yet enough of the ridiculous by way of contrast. The continued interspersing of operatic airs, popular melodies, break-down dances, jokes on current events and inuendoes on the peculiar habits of popular personages, bring forth a healthy laugh at frequent intervals during the performance. The house was in admirable humor last night, and was very prompt with the laugh whenever the joke came in. The performance will commence with a new farce written for Bishop, entitled 'Friend Waggies.'"

The Washington Jenkinses are not over accurate this season. Although Mrs. Senator Ames wore the same dress upon three different occasions, each report in the daily papers described a different costume, then the newspapers elaborately describe the grand toilets of the season, quite unaware that a majority of them are last winter's dresses.

New paper at the Post Printing Office.

MICHIGAN, as is now well known, is only a corruption of the name of Father Mike Bagan, an Irish Catholic priest, who lived and toiled, and was finally sacrificed by the Indians, on the site of the present city of Detroit.

A good "choke" is told by that happy hamburger, H. S. S., who thus addressed a Hamburger: "Good morning Schneider. 'We geeb tis den.' 'Do you know what church that is?' 'Yah, dot is der Baptist Church.' 'You see the steeple and that little ball w-a-a-y up there?' 'Yah, I saw him.' 'Well how is that for high?' The German looked pleased, scratched his head, and said: 'Dot is geet! Der best I hear dese six weeks; yah, dot is very good!' The wag went his way, leaving the German smiling, scratching his head, and gazing abstractedly at the little ball so high in the air.

While thus standing, a smile over his face, a friend came along, and he thought to give him the same good thing and have another laugh, and said: 'Hallo, Fritz; how you was, eh?' 'Goet all der vile.' 'Do you know what church am dere?' 'Yah, dere am der Baptist, I know dese Church dere as a dozen years already.' 'You see dem steeple, under der leedle balls on der top of dem steeple w-a-a-y up most mit der gloude?' 'Yah, I see der leedle balls.' 'You see high! Vell how high ish dat?' Then he laughed and laughed while the other man replied: 'I don't know; but what for you make so much laugh?' 'It is der schoke—don you see him—der schoke—ven I ask you how high ish dat?' 'No, I don't see der schoke.' 'Vell dot is funny. A man just told dot to me, und I made laugh all ter vile. Und you no see der schoke? I dinks you peen a bumming around all night, and you can't see neethink!'"

At last some of Baker's party have discovered a confidant to the lower Nile. As it is evidently a rivulet of recent birth, it would be well to call it the Juvonile.

Fortune is like a mirror; it don't alter men, it only shows them just as they are.

Fine printed Business Envelopes, Six Dollars per thousand.

SPEECH OF HON. MARK ERWIN ON THE CONSTITUTION. (CONTINUED.)

It is said that under the present system we have some bad and some incompetent men in office; that the Code of Procedure has been adopted unthought to the wishes and habits of the people, and that a multitude of useless officers contribute largely to the burdens of the people. That there may be bad or incompetent men in judicial station furnishes no argument against electing Judges by the people nor in favor of going back to the old plan. The advantages of the present over our former mode of election are well displayed in the extracts I have read from the Western Address. What was true then of the prevalent intrigues and combinations, in the Legislature of that day no one will deny might have been so in the Legislature of 1868 and '69. Now if that body exercised the functions of choosing Judges, no one will suppose that they would have done as well as the people did in the spring of 1868. I certainly do not think so. Some improper elections were to have been expected, as inevitable accidents of the times.

Such mistakes had been made before in this State, in times of convulsion and change in politics. Thus at the period of the overthrow of the old Federal party in this State and the rise of the Republican or Democratic party of that day, after the war of 1812, several incompetent persons were elevated to the bench. The bar of the State was then mainly composed of Federalists—politicians high and party feeling was bitter. Gentlemen of ability among the Federalists were excluded from office on account of their politics and incompetent men on the other side were put in; yet no proposition was made to call a Convention to remedy this evil, and to put the Federalists into office, nor was there any appearance of a concerted movement to bring the whole judiciary system of the State into contempt for party purposes. Again; previous to the adoption of the present Constitution, in Governor Worth's administration, Judges were selected, by him, unfit to occupy the position. The excuse in all these instances is, a want of material in the ranks of the party in power, at the time, of the right kind, to make public officers of. It is something which cannot well be avoided at times, under any system.

The election of Judges by the people for the first time, when everything was still resounding with the clang of arms, is more remarkable for the general good selections made than otherwise. Several of the Judges received nominations from both parties; so eager were both sides to have the prestige of the names of long tried and faithful public servants on their respective tickets; they ran without opposition, and a thing never witnessed in North Carolina before; these candidates received an undivided

vote of the whole people of all parties in the State.

If the Legislature had then had the choice of Judges, or if they had it now, is it fair to premise that their action would be as free from party bias as the people's was, or that the gratifications of the Judges of their choice professionally or otherwise would be better than they are now.

The official manifesto before quoted from declares the Code of Civil Procedure is a "nuisance" and in the striking and oriental style of one of its most distinguished and honest opponents it is anathematized and declared to be burnt on some "Wed Friday." But the Code of Procedure is fairly open to all the objections made against it, is not the Constitution. It is an ordinary act of the Legislature; it can be modified, amended, suspended or repealed out and out by the present Legislature. It has been modified, amended and parts of it repealed over and over again by the Legislature. The operation of one of its most important provisions has been suspended by the present Legislature for two years and the act suspending it is published in the same newspaper, which contains the address of the one hundred and five.

The Constitution provides a Commissioner to report a Code to the Legislature. There is nothing in it which compels the Legislature to adopt whatever the Code Commission may report. They may adopt it in whole or in part, or they may reject the whole or a part, and so they have done from time to time from the first report which was made to them. If the grievance of the Code is intolerable, the Legislature ought to change it and they can change it. They are responsible for not changing it, if it is the full measure of evil which they represent it to be. But even the first Code reported imperfect as it may have been and as often as it had to be, on that account, amended by the Legislature contained salutary and wise reforms which may be included in the grand sweep of denunciation indulged in by the one hundred and five. Those reforms have been adopted and tried in England and in many of the States of this nation for a number of years past, and they only had a fair trial to show that they had better be continued here.

North Carolina, as compared with other States around her, has been niggardly rather than profuse in her expenditure of money for a moderate number of Judges to dispatch the business of the people. How otherwise then has the number of officers or the expense thereof necessary for the due administration of Justice been increased, or compared with the old County Court system now waged upon the people? Instead of multiplying the officers connected with the Courts as in the old time the present system diminishes the number of them and therefore lessens the comparative cost of legal proceedings. The Constitution, in fact, consolidates instead of multiplying officers as some plain example will show. The present Superior Court Clerks do all the business formerly done by the incumbent of that office and the clerks and masters in equity and much that was done by the Clerks of the County Courts. Two officers in each county are thus dispensed with. In each of the ninety counties of the State, there would have been formerly, under the old County Court system, a County Solicitor. These are now dispensed with and the duties of these ninety officers devolve upon and are discharged now by twelve Solicitors for the whole State. It is therefore plain that there are now three officers less in every county of the State than there were under the old system—a diminution in the number of officers for the whole State of two hundred and seventy. Not to mention other items of expenditure saved to every county by lessening the number of officers necessary for carrying on the administration of justice under the old system.

The extra allowances alone, usually voted by the old bench of Magistrates, to the County and Superior Court Clerks and the County Solicitors, was very great. It was upon an average, throughout the State, one hundred dollars to each of these officers. Take it one hundred dollars for each of the ninety County Solicitors, and it makes the sum of \$18,000—three thousand dollars more than the cost of the increased number of Judges on the Superior and Supreme Court bench. A system which decapitates near three hundred office holders, which diminishes the county expenditure, for their maintenance, by so large a sum as \$18,000 annually, is not justly chargeable with multiplying useless officers at the extravagant rates of compensation. Is it better for the convenience of the people; is it less expensive to have four more Judges than we had at the commencement of the war, at an additional cost of \$10,000 than to reduce the number of Judges, revive the old County Courts, with their one hundred and eighty additional Clerks and Solicitors, at an expense (now saved) of \$18,000, \$8,000 more than six additional Judges now cost? Inconsiderate and hasty statements, as to the plan of county government and its ex-

pense, have been also very freely made. Upon examination they cannot be sustained.

The present is not necessarily more expensive than the old plan, and if it has been improperly made so the whole matter is in the hands of the Legislature and they may change it, in this respect, at their will. It is difficult to obtain any reliable data to find an estimate of the probable necessary county expenditure under the present system. I am convinced that it has been greatly exaggerated, and that exceptional instances of extravagance in the course of county funds, unauthorized by the Constitution have been seized upon to inflame the public mind and to furnish an argument against the plan of county government therein provided for. We know, however, what the amount of taxes was in 1860, levied and collected for county purposes by a life time County Court, irresponsible to and independent of the people. It reached the enormous sum of \$564,000—one hundred and sixty-four thousand dollars more than the double of the cost of the whole State government in all its branches, legislative, judicial and executive, about the same time. We know that the offices of Clerks and Masters, County Court Clerks, County Solicitors, Wardens of the Poor, &c., are all abolished. We know, therefore, that there are now in North Carolina fewer officers connected with the Courts of the several counties than there ever were. Until I can be satisfied by reliable facts that it is otherwise, I cannot be made to believe that a system which consolidates offices and thus diminishes the number of officers will necessarily increase county expenditures. Certainly I do not believe that with any reasonable arrangement which the Legislature ought to make, that the aggregate county tax, "for the necessary expenses thereof," will ever, under the present plan, touch \$564,000! A great part of the present tax, as every one knows, is on account of the special and very often unwise legislation of this and former General Assemblies; and for the payment of old debts improprietly contracted before the war, and badly managed by the old county authorities. The burden and oppression of which can in no just sense be attributed to the adoption or operation of the present plan of county government. But if the county taxes are onerous and oppressive, is there no remedy other than calling a Convention to change the Constitution of the State? I think there is. The Constitution establishes the office, the mode of electing, the tenure of office and defines the powers and duties of the County Commissioners (Constitution; Art. VII, Sects. 1 and 2). So afterwards of township authorities. The language, it seems to me, is very plain. "It shall be the duty of the commissioners to exercise a general supervision and control of the penal and charitable institutions, schools, road and bridges, levying of taxes and finances of the county, as may be prescribed by law." A Clerk and two Justices of the Peace in each Township are provided for "who shall constitute a Board of Trustees, and shall, under the supervision of the County Commissioners, have control of the taxes and finances, and the management of the Township as may be prescribed by law." It is to be remarked that there is a difference in the language used to confer authority upon the Commissioners to control the levying of taxes, &c., and the words used in conferring authority upon the Township Trustees. The latter it seems "under the supervision of the Commissioners" and "as may be prescribed by law" have "control" of the taxes in their Townships; the Commissioners have control of "levying" the taxes "as may be prescribed by law."

"As may be prescribed by law" confers the power and imposes the duty upon the Legislature to regulate the county governments of the State. The Commissioners are subject to the Legislature, the Township Trustees are "under" the Commissioners. The practice of this and of former Legislatures has been to exercise its constitutional right to regulate the government of counties just as well in the matter of official salaries, taxes, and finances as other things. But like almost every part of our Constitution this plan of county government has been greatly misunderstood; and without investigation, or it would seem without even reading the Constitution and therefore with no properly directed effort to reform abuses, popular clamor and indignation have been levelled against it and the people have been worked up to an unreasonable state of dissatisfaction with a system which they have not fairly tried. Taking counsel of their fears, others may do as they please and yield to the blast of party fury which assails this part of the Constitution. I shall do nothing of the kind until the matter is fairly tried; fairly discussed, and fairly condemned by the people; for I believe, in time, this plan of county government will be fully realized to be the very best for the people of the State, if the people are to have hereafter any government dependent upon popular will and popular control.

(Concluded in our next.)