State Library

(*Concluded from fourth page.*)

1859." And again he says, "Mount Mitchell as delineated by Smith and Blackstock, is in Yancey County, East of South from Burnsville, and some four miles north of the Buncombe line."

I have been able to procure only two editions of Smith's Atlas, one of 1849 and the other of 1850. *On neither of the Atlases is the Black Mountain laid down at all.* In the edition of 1849 he has "Mount Mitchell" laid down as a peak in the Blue Ridge directly East of Burnsville, and in the later edition of 1850 he has "Mount Mitchell" laid down in the Blue Ridge on the 36th parallel of latitude at the junction of Watauga, Burke, McDowell and Yancey,—If I had followed either of these Maps, I certainly should not have had "the satisfaction of presenting to the public the first accurate outline of this remarkable mountain."

In Morse's Geography edition of 1856, "Black Mount. 6,476ft" is laid down as a peak of the Blue Ridge, a little North of east of Burnsville.

In Mitchell's School Atlas edition of 1858, "Mt Mitchell, 6,476ft," is laid down in the corner of Buncombe and Yancey, a little west of south of Burnsville, but still as a peak of the Blue Ridge.

In Mitchell's Intermediate Geography, "North Carolina edition" 1858, "Mt. Mitchell, 6,732 ft." is placed in the corner of Yancey and Buncombe, and "Clingman's Peak, 6,941 ft." about five miles north-east of Mt Mitchell, but both are in the Blue Ridge.

"A New Map of North Carolina by Desilver" 1857 has copied Mitchell's Intermediate Geography.

It is well-known to all persons familiar with the Black Mountain that it is not a part of the Blue Ridge, but an independent mountain. I will only notice one more paragraph in the address.

"Mr. Cooke may erase 'Mt. Mitchell' from his Map, if he chooses to do so—the continent does not bear the name of its discoverer—but he will not be permitted to perpetrate a double wrong, by placing the name of Dr. Mitchell where neither the Doctor, nor any friend of his, ever desired to see it."

In the University Magazine for March 1855, will be found a profile of the Black Mountain and also a Map of the same. On both of these Dr. Mitchell's name appears on this very knob where it is said 'neither the Doctor, nor any of his friends, ever desired to see it." The highest peak is also called "Mitchell's High Peak," and on page 316 of the same article we find the following:

"The reader may have noticed that on the Map and on the profile two peaks bear Dr. Mitchell's name. This is in strict accordance with the truth."

Thus it would appear that at least one very warm friend of Dr. Mitchell recognizes the point designated on my Map as "Mount Mitchell," as having been known by that name previous to the publication of the Map.

I the more regret the necessity of making this communication, as I shall be able to place the name of Dr. Mitchell upon the highest peak of the Black in the next edition of the Map. Mr. Clingman having visited and ascertained the height of a Peak of the Smoky Mountain, which is higher than any peak of the Black, has consented to a change of his name from the Black to the Smoky.

WILL. D. COOKE.

Raleigh, Dec. 28 1858.

From the Charlotte Democrat.

CORRESPONDENCE.

The Legislature appointed a Committee to inform the Hon. Thomas Ruffin of his election to the Supreme Court Bench. A friend at Raleigh has kindly furnished us with the correspondence between the Committee and Judge Ruffin, which we publish below:

RALEIGH, Dec. 11th, 1858.

HON. THOS. RUFFIN, *Dear Sir:* In obedience to a Joint Resolution passed by the Senate and House of Commons this morning, we beg leave to inform you that on yesterday you were again elected a Judge of the Supreme Court of North Carolina, by an almost unanimous vote of both houses of the General Assembly.

We are instructed to request you to accept that high post of honor and duty, to which your State with one voice has called you, and to add another to the long list of eminent services which it has been your fortune to render to your country.

May we be permitted to say that though you cannot increase the measure of your fame, your State hopes that you will continue and prolong the period of your usefulness.

We cannot conclude this note without an assurance of our happiness at the course the Legislature has thought proper to pursue, and an earnest appeal that you will not decline the honor it has sought to bestow.

We are, most sincerely, your friends,
W. J. HOUSTON,
M. C. WHITAKER,
JOHN KERR,
W. N. H. SMITH,
M. W. RANSOM.

RALEIGH, Dec. 15th, 1858.

GENTLEMEN: I left home before your letter, informing me, officially, that I had been elected a Judge of the Supreme Court, and requesting me to accept the high trust, had arrived there; and I have just received it.

No event could have been more unexpected by me, or have created more surprise. When, at an advanced age and after long service, I heretofore resigned a seat in that Court, it was with the sincere desire of enjoying the repose and quietness of private life; and *I thought* I had then laid down the cares and responsibilities of office forever. It would not be sincere if I were to conceal, that it is painful to find myself disappointed. To give up my retirement is against my feelings and breaks up all my plans for the short remnant of my life; and, after abandoning for six years the study of the law, I feel, and I fear others will feel, that, at the age of seventy-one, it is an act of rashness, unsuitable to that age, to undertake again the labors of the judicial station, to which I am called.

But it has pleased the General Assembly to tender this renewed expression of confidence in my diligence and fidelity, and in a manner which touches my sensibilities most deeply: so that I am led to believe that, in their opinion and in that of the country, it is my duty to enter once more into the public service. Under the circumstances I also suppose it to be obligatory on me to obey the commands of the Legislature. Therefore, as a duty, I forego my own inclinations and accept the office bestowed on me; and will endeavor with what impaired ability I retain, to execute with my associates, its functions. I return to the General Assembly the most unfeigned thanks and acknowledgments for the honor conferred on me; but, at the same time, I undertake the task with very great diffidence and entirely in deference to the authority of the public will.

The manner in which, gentlemen, you have made the communication to me, and the kind terms in which you have expressed your hopes and wishes for my usefulness in office, lay me under great and lasting obligation to each of you individually.

With high consideration I am, gentlemen,
Your faithful friend and servant,
THOMAS RUFFIN.

To Messrs. W. J. Houston, M. C. Whitaker, and others, Committee.

[illegible] K. McRae, Esq., has been elected to deliver the [illegible] oration before the two Literary Societies of [illegible] University, at the next commencement. The [illegible]ectic Society, upon which the duty of electing [illegible] could not have chosen a more talented son [illegible] more graceful speaker.

[illegible] understand that the President and at least [illegible] members of his cabinet, Messrs. Brown and [illegible]son, Alumni of the University, have promised to attend, and their presence added to the rich [illegible] feast that may be expected in the oration of McRae, will doubtless draw the largest crowd collected at Chapel Hill.—*N. C. Presbyterian.*

[illegible]DGE HEATH.—We were pleased to meet our distinguished fellow citizen, in court last Monday, and [illegible] him enjoying excellent health after undergoing the arduous duties incumbent upon him as a [illegible] Judge.

[illegible] election by the Legislature is a source of gratification to his many friends in this and other sections of the State. Probably a better selection could not have been made.—*Alenton Express.*

[illegible] brig William Purrington, from Wilmington, [illegible] Carolina, which arrived below Boston on [illegible]y, had on board a fugitive slave, who jumped [illegible] in the Narrows and swam to Lovel's Island, where he hailed a sloop and made his escape. [illegible] secreted himself on board at Wilmington.

Weekly Standard.

VOL. XXV.—No. 1. RALEIGH, N. C., WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 5, 1859. WHOLE NUMBER 1241.

THE

North-Carolina Standard

WILLIAM W. HOLDEN,
EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR.

FRANK. I. WILSON, Associate Editor.

TERMS OF THE WEEKLY—*Two Dollars per annum* invariably in advance.

TERMS OF THE SEMI-WEEKLY—*Four Dollars per annum*, invariably in advance.

TERMS OF THE WEEKLY TO CLUBS:

6 Copies 1 year,	$10
10 " 1 "	15

All papers are discontinued at the expiration of the time for which they have been paid.

Terms of Advertising in the Semi-Weekly Standard.

Our regular rates of advertising are as follows:

One square, (14 lines or less) first insertion, -	$1 00
Each subsequent insertion, - - - - - - - -	25

Longer advertisements in proportion.

Contracts will be made with advertisers, *at the above regular rates*, for six or twelve months, and at the close of the contract 33⅓ per cent. will be deducted from the gross amount.

Professional or business Cards, not exceeding five lines will be inserted in either the Weekly or Semi-Weekly, for $5 for six months, or $10 for twelve months; or in both papers for $10 for six months, or $15 for twelve months.

Terms of Advertising in the Weekly Standard.

One dollar per square for the first insertion, and 25 cts. for each subsequent insertion. *No deduction will be made on Weekly advertisements, no matter how long they may run.* Only a limited number of advertisements will be admitted into the Weekly. All advertisements, not otherwise directed, are inserted in the Semi-Weekly, and charged accordingly. When the number of insertions is not marked on the advertisement it is inserted until forbid.

*** Money sent us by mail is at our risk.

The Standard.

RALEIGH: SATURDAY, JAN. 1, 1859.

HOLDEN & WILSON, STATE PRINTERS, AND AUTHORIZED PUBLISHERS OF THE LAWS OF THE UNITED STATES.

Important Letter from Com. Wilkes—Resources of the Deep River Valley.

We are indebted to the courtesy of the Editors of the Fayetteville *Observer* for a corrected proof of the following letter from Com. Wilkes to Hon. Warren Winslow, by which we are enabled to lay this interesting document at the earliest moment before our readers. It will be seen that Com. Wilkes, after a patient and thorough examination, fully sustains the opinions heretofore expressed as to the great value and abundance of the resources of the Deep River Valley. It will also be observed that he regards the creation of means of transportation to and from this valley as an indispensable pre-requisite to any action by the general government for the establishment of naval workshops, &c. But we will not detain our readers from the letter. It speaks for itself:

From the Fayetteville Observer.

REPORT OF CAPT. WILKES.

We are enabled to present to our readers the annexed important letter addressed to our Representative in Congress, the Hon. Warren Winslow, by Capt. Wilkes of the Navy, the head of the Commission appointed by the Secretary of the Navy to examine the Deep River Valley, with a view to the ascertainment of its adaptedness for the location of Naval Work Shops.

It will be seen that this officer, whose scientific attainments are well known, enumerates the various rich mineral and other treasures which a careful personal inspection disclosed to him in that remarkable region, but says emphatically that they must remain valueless until facilities for transportation and travel are provided; and he is very naturally surprised that there should be any hesitation in providing those facilities.

We trust that his letter will turn the scale in the Legislature in favor of that small amount of aid which our Railroad needs:—

WASHINGTON, Dec. 24, 1858.

To the Hon. Warren Winslow—

MY DEAR SIR: I take great pleasure in answering your letter relative to the examination of the Deep River country, which I am now enabled to do, as my Report is finished, and will be handed to the Department for presentation to Congress after the holidays. This, you understand, is unofficial, and will be a short synopsis, which will give you a correct idea of the result of my examination. Owing to the delay in receiving the specimens from the Deep River country, the analysis of the coals and ores has postponed my official report much longer than I anticipated, and some time must still elapse after it is handed in, before it can be published by Congress, on account of the engraving of the Maps and Sections of the Geological formation.

I need not point out to you the situation of the Deep River district, but you must be aware as well as I am, how little is really known of its geographical position as well as its valuable productions, and the apathy with which all improvements for accessibility to this district have been viewed, on the part of many in your State, and the prejudice which has existed against it, from the appropriations having been lavishly and uselessly expended in the construction of inefficient Dams and insecure Locks, which were found inadequate to bear their *own* weight, without the force of the water.

These mishaps and procrastinations have acted very unfavorably in preventing appropriations being made by the Legislature, as well as deterring individuals from subscribing towards these great and useful works. I am sure that there are yet many who entertain doubts, and are unwilling to give their money and exertions, or credence to the truth which has been fully brought to light by the well directed efforts of Mr. Wm. McClane in sinking the shaft at Egypt; this fully established the existence of the veins of coal, and left no reason to doubt the existence of a coal basin and large quantities of the best bituminous coal as well as a great variety of iron ores which had been noticed by Prof. Emmons, the State Geologist, in many localities, and I can now add that it is fully confirmed by the recent examination of the Commission: indeed, there are few places to be found in our country where there is such a concentration of material, and which can be mined with so little toil and expense; an abundance of the best fuel, consisting of charcoal and the mineral coals susceptible of being advantageously coked, in great variety and quantity for all purposes of the arts as well as domestic uses.

Although these deposits of coal and iron in the Deep River country will not bear a comparison with the vast fields and mountains of these minerals in our Western States, yet owing to their position, proximity to market and adaptability to many purposes of the arts, it is far before them in value, of great interest to your State, and I consider of national importance.

The outcrop of the bituminous coal has been traced 18 miles, and five seams of coal found at the surface. The shaft at Egypt is sunk to the depth of 460 feet and includes the lower coal seam, and by it we are assured that there are four coal seams, two having united as they descended; the largest is there found to be 6 feet wide, separated fron the others by beds of carbonate of iron known as the "Black Band."

The coal has been proved to be of the best quality of bituminous coals. It is a shining clean coal, resembling the best specimens of Cumberland; it ignites easily, burns with a bright, clear combustion, and leaves very little ash; it swells and agglutinates, making a hollow fire; is a desirable coal for the parlour grate and for blacksmiths' use; is well adapted for fuel, coking and oil; and is superior to most coals for the production of gas, for which it will be in great demand; it is almost entirely free from sulphur; its coke is light and porous; when rapidly burned, it inclines to smelt and flow, but when under slow combustion it does not exhibit this tendency, which is owing to the presence of large quantities of bitumen; it does not easily disintegrate when exposed to the atmosphere.

I think every one who visits this coalfield must be satisfied from the regularity of its seams, and the diminution of the dip as it descends, (proved to be some 8 or 10 degrees in the shaft of Egypt, which is 1500 feet within the outcrop,) that its seams conform to the shape of a basin, or trough, and I am satisfied that the greatest depth will lie on the northern side of the axis of the trough, and that this valuable mineral does not extend to such depths as to render its mining difficult, but, on the contrary, both easy and profitable.

The ores of iron consist of the Black Band, in juxtaposition with the coal seams, and so situated as to be readily mined with the coal; Specular, Hematitic, the Argillaceous and Magnetic ores are all found to be rich, and in quantity, and for their manufacture, besides the mineral coal, there is abundance of wood for charcoal; the uncleared lands of this district still have the primitive forest growing upon them, and charcoal can be obtained in any quantity and at a cheap rate; and there can be no question, but that the best quality of iron can be manufactured there, and that there is no locality in our country where a better and cheaper article can be produced. Fire clays for refractory furnaces, building materials of sandstone, gneiss, and granite, millstone grit and fine sandstone, roofing slates, and sands for the manufacture of glass, and porcelain clay, of which there is a large tract. There are also rich copper mines and quarries of soap stone and agalmatolite.

The proximity of the Deep River Country to market gives it great advantages, and I think insures its becoming at no distant day a populous manufacturing district. The bulk of coal and iron in its raw state renders its transportation expensive, and will cause the erection of manufactories on the spot, which will be more economical and profitable. I am of opinion that when such is the case, very little coal can be afforded to be shipped, except it be for the production of gas, which may be able to afford the prices it will command for the manufacture of iron.

I would, however, remark, that all these minerals and materials are *valueless*, unless the routes are opened and every convenience afforded to reach the district, not only with easy and safe transportation, but in the quickest possible time from all parts of your State; and unless this is effected they must remain entirely dormant.

I think it must be apparent that it cannot be expedient for the General Government to establish machine shops for the construction of machinery, &c., &c., for naval vessels, until this district is shown to be accessible from every direction. The completion of your Western Railroad and slack-water navigation will tend in a great measure to give the facilities for speedy and sure transportation for both passengers and freight.

To acquire some estimate of the quantity of coal, and allowing but half the width of the basin for the extent of the coal, we shall have an area of 75 square miles; this gives an approximation to the quantity of mineral wealth locked up in this district. Surely no legislature can hesitate for a moment to expedite its development by any means in its power.

Although we have no actual proof to offer, yet there can be little doubt that the extent of the coal must underlie the basin. I was desirous to place this beyond question, and had it been in my power, I should have ordered borings to be made, considering it of great importance in a national point of view; but as there was no appropriation to meet this expenditure, it could not be made.

Having thus given you a short synopsis, I will close, referring you to my official Report for the particulars of my examination and the conclusions at which I have arrived.

Very respectfully yours,
CHARLES WILKES.

The African Slave-Trade.

It seems to be admitted that a cargo of slaves from Africa have been landed upon the soil of Georgia, and disposed of. When we first saw a notice of the transaction we thought it a hoax, intended to move the tender sensibilities of a portion of the Northern people; but we now take it for granted, from what we see in the newspapers, that the negroes *have* been procured from Africa, landed, and disposed of.

Some persons in the South entertain the opinion that the law of the United States declaring the slave trade piracy, is unconstitutional; and some of our cotemporaries are of the opinion that the law has been deliberately violated in this instance for the purpose of testing its constitutionality. This solution of the motive of the importers of these slaves strikes us as far-fetched and unreasonable. The penalty is a heavy one, and not likely to be incurred simply with the view of settling a question of constitutional law. Gain, we apprehend, was at the bottom of it, and not a disposition to test the law.

The people of the South are nearly unanimously opposed to the re-opening of this trade; and the Northern people will not judge them justly if they take it for granted that the action of this company in Georgia receives their approval. Not that they regard the slave-trade as sinful, for if the institution itself be sanctioned by Holy Writ, as we insist it is, there can be little if any difference between holding in and reducing to bondage; but they are opposed to it mainly because they have enough slaves already, and because any general attempt to re-open it would produce the most hurtful and dangerous agitation in all portions of the Union. The number of our slaves is increasing and spreading out in the South and Southwest, at a rate never before attained by any servile laboring population. The acquisition of Cuba, which is certain, and probably not very far distant, will add one million more to this population, and present in itself a large and most profitable extent of country for slave labor. In the fulness of time we will also have Central America and Mexico, thus adding still further to the area of slave territory. What the times in which these acquisitions will be made will bring forth, cannot now be foreseen; the slave-trade *may* be re-opened to some extent to supply the demand for labor in that vast region, or the supply which will be furnished from the present slaveholding States may be found sufficient. That day, we doubt not, will take care of itself, as past days have done.

We trust, however, that the discussion growing out of this Georgia transaction may have some effect in opening the eyes of the people of the United States to the "entangling alliance" in which they have involved themselves, by stipulating with Great Britain to unite with her in maintaining ships of war along the coast of Africa to prevent trading in slaves.—The treaty binding the United States to this duty should never have been made. Besides branding the slave-trade as a sin among nations, it has occasioned trouble already with Great Britain, and may occasion more. It is enough for us to guard our own waters to prevent violations of our laws on the subject of the slave-trade, without undertaking to watch and protect ninety millions of black barbarians, whose true and whose happiest condition is that of servitude.

Supreme Court.

The Supreme Court met in this city on Thursday last, present Justices Pearson, Battle and Ruffin. We learn that the position of Chief Justice was tendered to Judge Ruffin, who declined it, and it was then bestowed upon Judge Pearson.

The following gentlemen were licensed to practice in the county courts of the State:

Nathaniel Allen, Warren,
Cicero F. Lyon, Hertford,
Lucien D. Starke, Pasquotank,
James L. Bail, do
Frank Vaughan, do
Jesse Wilson, Perquimans,
Allen B. Parker, Harnett,
Ed. Sanders Parker, Johnston,
James Bulla, Randolph,
Thomas N. Hill, Halifax,
George W. Blount, Nash,
Thomas S. Kenan, Duplin,
Lewis W. Howard, New Hanover,
Evander J. McIver, Moore,
George H. Gregory, Guilford,
Hamilton C. Jones, Rowan,
Samuel M. Brinson, Craven,
Charles W. Spruill, Warren,
P. Evans Spruill, do
Nathan S. Patterson, Franklin,
John Ralston, Missouri.

The Election on Thursday last.

On Thursday the people of Wake County, under a writ of election issued by Mr. Speaker Settle, voted for a member of the House of Commons to supply the vacancy occasioned by the resignation of Ed. Graham Haywood, Esq.

The returns from all the precincts had not been received when we went to press, but we learn that about one thousand votes were cast for Henry Mordecai, Esq., the Democratic candidate. Considering the shortness of the time which was necessarily allowed between the notice and the day of election, and the inclemency of the weather on Thursday last, Mr. Mordecai's vote is a most flattering one.—Some two hundred votes were cast for Maj. Willie D. Jones, who we learn, notwithstanding the announcement in the *Register*, was not a candidate.—A few scattering votes were cast for two or three other gentlemen

Mr. Mordecai is a sound Democrat—a gentleman of intelligence, integrity, and excellent judgement, and will make a useful representative.

The official vote will appear in our next.

Get the best Detector.

Petersons' Counterfeit Detector and Bank Note List for January has been received by us, and is corrected by Drexel & Co., the well known Bankers and Brokers, and it is the best and most reliable Detector of Counterfeits or Altered Notes published in this country. The number issued this day fully describes Fifty-two New Counterfeits, and contains a fac-simile of a Bogus Bank Note that is being altered to suit various banks all over the country, and which is being put into extensive circulation. It also contains several other pages of very valuable information of everything appertaining to Bank Notes. It has been considerably enlarged this month, having now forty-eight pages, and contains also fac-similes of several hundred Gold and Silver coins, besides. We have no hesitation in pronouncing it the most complete, reliable and best publication of the kind in the United States, as it is not used to subserve the interest of any banking house, as most of the so-called Detectors are. It should be in the hands of every storekeeper in the whole country, and we would advise all persons who handle money to send two dollars in a letter, for a year's subscription, to the publishers, and thus subscribe for the semi-monthly issue of it at once; or one dollar for the monthly issue. It is published by T. B. PETERSON & BROTHERS, No. 306 Chesnut Street, Philadelphia, to whom all letters should be addressed. A copy of "Petersons' Complete Coin Book," the most perfect and complete one in the world will be given gratis to all subscribers for 1859.

HARPER FOR JANUARY.—We are indebted to Mr Pomeroy for the January number of Harper's Magazine. This is the best number we have seen. The engravings are numerous and fine, and the matter is entertaining and useful. The New York *Ledger*, each number containing an article from the pen of Mr. Everett, may also be obtained at Mr. Pomeroy's.

JUDGE DOUGLAS.—Judge Douglas and wife arrived at New York City on the 28th, in the steamer Empire City from Havana. He was waited upon by a committee of the Common Council, and tendered the hospitalities of the City. It was expected he would remain two or three days, and then proceed to Washington City.

INAUGURATION OF GOV. ELLIS.—The inauguration of John W. Ellis as Governor of North Carolina, will take place to-day at 12 o'clock, in the Commons Hall, in presence of the two houses of the General Assembly. The oaths of office will be administered to the Governor by the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court.

FRESH AND FINE OYSTERS.—We return our thanks to Mr. Charles Reid, back of the Express Office, for a can of very fine oysters. Mr. R. is now receiving some of the finest oysters we have ever seen. He receives them fresh every day, on the arrival of the trains.

☞ General James Gadsden of South Carolina, not long since the U. S. Minister to Mexico, by whom was negotiated the treaty by which this country acquired Arizona or "the Gadsden Purchase," died on Sunday afternoon at Charleston, full of years and honors.

☞ Mr. Bohnstedt, agent for the Chickering Pianos, will be in Raleigh about the 10th instant.—He will remain but a few days. Orders will please be left at the Yarborough House.

☞ The communication of "R. M. S." in reply to the Minority Report on the Greensborough and Danville connection, shall appear in our next.

A GOOD PRINTER is wanted at the *Gazette* office, Newbern. See advertisement.

CORRESPONDENCE OF THE STANDARD.

Christmas Enjoyments in Gotham—Success of the Mt. Vernon Festival—Stuffing in "gift books" and annuals—Compensation for omission of Southern Poets—W. G. Simms in the list of famous Poets—Successful interweaving of Art and Poetry—Permanent value of Literary Gems—Mrs. Palmer's addition to Shakespearian Literature—The children not forgotten in Christmas Preparations.

NEW YORK, Dec. 24, 1858.

Christmas eve in Gotham is an interesting season. The descendants of the Stuyvesants, Schuylers, Von Tossols and other old Knickerbockers, keep up the customs of their ancestors to a great extent. St. Nicholas continues to be honored. He is worshiped, just now at least, more than any other saint in the calendar. Visiting and feating, besides some drinking of wine and cider, are the tributes mostly laid before his altar. The Germans, however, don't give up their lager bier, nor are their pipes laid aside by any means. The claim the privilege of enjoying themselves according to their own notions, leaving others to exercise the same; for here in New York, it seems to be settled that not only may men do as they please, but that one man, or set of men, is just as good as another, and a great deal better, especially if the former be well versed in scientific pugilism.

The enjoyments of the season commenced some days ago, especially in the way of public amusements. The Theatres and Concert Halls have had out a week their progammes for the holidays. All sorts of shows and exhibitions are open to patrons, and extra performances are advertised for the afternoons.

Many of the churches are holding fairs to raise funds to pay some debt; to pay for repairs, or to obtain funds for their poor. In most cases these church fairs are very successful, and it is estimated that not less than $100,000 will be realized by all of them during Christmas week.

The Mount Vernon festival is the principal attraction of the kind. It was gotten up at the right time. Picalomini has gone "down East," and one or two other cynosures are now absent. This circumstance left people somewhat free to patronize the popular and patriotic cause, which has engaged the services of Everett and a noble band of women, worthy the name of being daughters of the land of Washington. The festival is proving an eminent success, and will go very far toward advancing the national interests of the cause. The proprietor of the Campbell Minstrels', 444 Broadway, has tendered the gross receipts for Monday night, the 27th inst., of a performance, or concert. The ladies in acknowledgement, have gratefully accepted the offer. Thus we hear of friends coming up from various sources for the worthy cause of buying the home and tomb of our nation's father.

In no one thing have more extensive preparations been made for the present season of gifts and good feeling, than in the art and literary line. Some publishers have taxed their skill and taste, in getting up costly books for presents, and for center-table display. Many of these are truly beautiful, while others are only a humbug, being filled with stale stories and vapid rhyme, the reading of which would be an expense of time. In some of the very fine works, it is said that injustice has been done many writers of merit in the Southern States. In one, the name of Wm. Gilmore Simms, of South-Carolina, is quite omitted, but compensation is done him in another, and far more superb affair, namely, the "Gallery of Famous Poets," by E. H. Butler & Co., of Philadelphia; which is a collection of the choicest gems of such men as Tennyson, Byron, Moore, Macauley, Burns, Southey, Thompson, Goldsmith, Wordsworth, Scott, Campbell, Mrs. Hemans, Keats, Montgomery, the late Judge Conrad, Longfellow, Holmes, Geo. D. Prentice, Edgar A. Poe, and many others of like eminence and genius. In this large selection, only a few New England poets are given a place; and with the above names of the standard poets of Great Britian, the poet of the Palmetto State finds himself duly and deservedly honored. In an article of two columns upon the gift books of the season, in one of the dailies of this city, this production is adjudged to be one of the most substantial and splendid in the extensive market. In the book are portraits of the men whose writings adorn the pages, and here and there are rich and original illustrations of the most striking scenes in the various poems. They were executed upon steel, by designs after such distinguished, and skillful artists as Devereux, Lawrence, Schmöltze, Hamilton, Vassari, Fletcher, Leslie, Scharf, and others, the whole embracing more than one hundred brilliant illustrations, and unexcelled by any similar issue. As these engravings are in several instances, upon the same page with letter-press, it may be regarded as the first successful attempt to interweave art and poetry in America, for it will be borne in mind that steel engravings have heretofore occupied a separate page from the letter-press. To this achievement the critics have unhesitatingly given their praise, and the printers as well as the artists have received warm encomiums. It is not often that connoiseurs in literature and art, find high, judicious and tasteful attractions in the same volume; and very often, I have noticed at this season of the year, when so many persons are investing money in books, for presents, that often the eye is filled with the blue and gold binding—the Turkey morocco and glittering exterior, when, if they were only to examine the inside, they would find insipid trash enough to sicken any refined and intellectual person. Against being deceived by the outside appearance of these *souveniers*, too much caution cannot be exercised. If one has no taste nor brains of his own, let him ask some person of intellectual cultivation—one whose heart, as well as eye appreciates the beautiful and the useful, in the ornamental, and not suffer deception in the bronze and golden "Annuals" that are sometimes palmed off. In selecting a work, which contains the writings and the records of illustrious genius, like the collection of famous poets, under consideration, we have no need to apply the doctrine of *caveat emptor*, for we have nothing to fear, and we will have little occasion for any emotion, but that of gratification afterwards. Such a gathering of gems do not lose value, but will retain their original beauty and brilliancy so long as the productions of world-noted minds continue to be admired. Although this gallery in which specimens or selections of these eminent bards are embalmed, is adorned elegantly and expensively (it sells for $12) yet it will not be difficult to perceive, that we place our highest estimate upon its poetic and interior excellence, as being of more permanent attraction and enduring worth.

One other work is claiming great attention in New York and elsewhere, for its solid and artistic attractions. It is Mrs. Henrietta Lee Palmer's "Stratford Gallery," issued by the Appletons. This gorgeous volume is the work of no ordinary female mind, and will doubtless give the accomplished authoress an enviable reputation. It is a choice gathering of Shakspeare's heroines, portrayed and described in a graphic and attractive style of thought and language, according to her own original ideas and views of them. The portraits are all *ideal*, and number forty-five, representing a charming and immortal sisterhood. It is a galaxy of beauty upon which much time, talent and expense have been bestowed, and of course it will find its place among other splendid displays of Shaksperian literature.

Nor have the little folks been forgotten. The stores contain for them a thousand little articles of value or beauty, as those who purchase may desire. Sheldon, Blakeman & Co. have exhibited a fine lot of pretty books for their instruction and amusement; and Mr. R. L. Delissu, opposite the St. Nicholas, has devoted considerable care to the publication of several choice Christmas stories, such as the "Yule Log," "Buds from Christmas Boughs," "Life among the Children," "Bye and Bye," and numerous others, some of which may find their way among the younger portion of your readers, to charm their eye, to improve their mind, and gladden their hearts. May the holidays be to them and to all others, little merry and happy. CHRISTOPHER.

LATER FROM ENGLAND.

Arrival of the Asia—A French Slaver overhauled by a British Cruiser—Reported Death of the Emperor of Japan.

NEW YORK, Dec. 27.—The Cunard Steamship Asia, with Liverpool dates to the 11th, has arrived. Her news is of some importance.

The arrests near Cork of parties connected with the projected invasion of England, had their origin in America.

It is fully expected that the Government will guarantee a new capital of a half million of pounds for the Atlantic Cable, and that a new contract to re-lay it will immediately be made.

It is reported that the French Commission recommends a continuance of the African Emigration scheme.

A French negro emigration vessel is reported to have been overhauled by a British cruiser on the African coast, and compelled to discharge her negroes, altbough the shipment was perfectly regular.

The Spanish Expedition to Mexico is reported to be on a larger scale than was at first supposed.

The Emperor of Japan is reported to be dead.

COMMERCIAL.

LIVERPOOL, Saturday, Dec. 11.—Sales of Cotton for the week 42,000 bales. Uplands Middling declined an eighth, and Orleans one-sixteenth. Other qualities unchanged. Stock in port 346,000 bales, including 257,000 bales American.

Reports from Manchester unfavorable.

Flour and Wheat dull and nominal. Corn dull and lower; yellow 27 a 28 white 30 a 31½. Provisions dull. Coffee, Sugar and Rice quiet and unchanged. Rosin steady. Spirits Turpentine 39 a 39½.

Consols 97¼ a 97½. The bullion in the Bank of England has increased 155,000 pounds.

Fillibusterism—Vigilance of the Government.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 29.—Contrary to recent rumors, there is official authority for saying that our government, up to noon to-day, had not received one word relative to the alleged return of the schr. Susan to Pensacola. The Government is in daily telegraphic communication with the Federal officers at several Southern ports, and will be kept advised of any filibustering movements, as far as can be ascertained. Every effort is being made to suppress them. The recent chartering of a steamer at New Orleans was by authority of the Government.

Case of the Wanderer.

SAVANNAH, Dec. 29.—The case of the Wanderer (the vessel which brought the negroes from Africa,) has been continued. The first witness refused to testify, and was imprisoned.

Capt. Frazier, of the steamer Augusta, testified that he carried one hundred and seventy negroes within two miles of Augusta on the 13th of December. He believed them to be Africans.

Capt. Christy, of the steam tug Lamar, refused to testify.

The case was then continued. Numerous witnesses were in attendance.

WARRENTON FEMALE COLLEGE.

SPRING SESSION, 1859.

THE EXERCISES OF NEXT SESSION will commence on WEDNESDAY, the 12th of Jan'y, 1859, and close the 1st Thursday in June. Pupils should be present the first week.

TERMS FOR FIVE MONTHS—(PAYABLE HALF IN ADVANCE.)

Board including lights, washing, fuel, &c.,	$67 50
English, according to advancement, $12½, $15,	37 50
Latin, Greek, French, German, Music, Painting, &c. Extra.	

Apply to
E. E. PARHAM, A. M., Pres't.
January 1, 1859. 1—w&sw6w.

NOTICE.—THE UNDERSIGNED HAVE THIS day purchased the entire interest of RICH'D A. YOUNG, in the Concern of BRITTON, TODD & YOUNG.

All persons having claims against the Concern will please present them for payment, and all persons indebted to the Concern, will please settle their respective accounts as early as possible.

RICHARD O. BRITTON,
BERNARD TODD.

DISSOLUTION.—THE CONCERN OF BRITTON, TODD & YOUNG, is this day dissolved by mutual consent. Either partner will sign the name of the Concern only in liquidation.

RICHARD O. BRITTON,
BERNARD TODD,
RICHARD A. YOUNG.

CO-PARTNERSHIP.—RICHARD O. BRITTON and BERNARD TODD, of the late Firm of BRITTON, TODD & YOUNG, and JOSEPH TODD, of the late Firm of TODD, BINTON & TAYLOR, have this day associated themselves together under the Style and Firm of

BRITTON, TODD & CO.,
FOR THE PURPOSE OF CONDUCTING THE
Grocery and Commission Business.

We return our sincere thanks to our numerous patrons and friends for the past nine years, and solicit their favors for the new Concern. BERNARD TODD will give his personal attention to the sales of Tobacco, Cotton, Wheat, and other Country Produce, which he has done for the last nine years.

RICHARD O. BRITTON,
BERNARD TODD,
JOSEPH TODD.
Petersburg, Jan. 1st, 1859. 1—w1m.*

35 OR 40 NEGROES FOR SALE.

AS THE AGENT AND ATTORNEY OF WILLIAM J. Walke, I shall offer at public auction, at Garysburg, in the county of Northampton, North Carolina, on Wednesday the second day of February, 1859, thirty-five or forty negroes, consisting of men, women, boys and girls. Most of them are farm hands and are familiar with the cultivation of cotton. Such a lot of slaves is rarely offered at public sale, and the terms will be accommodating. The place of sale is immediately at the junction of the Petersburg and Seaboard and Roanoke Railroads, within two miles of Weldon and accessible by Railroad from all parts of the country.

DAVID A. BARNES.
Jackson, N. C., Jan. 1, 1859 1—w4t.*

GLEN ANNA FEMALE SEMINARY,

THOMASVILLE, DAVIDSON CO., N. C.

THE SPRING SESSION will commence FEBRUARY 1st, 1859. Board exclusive of washing and lights $8 per month. Tuition in regular branches $12 per session. Music and Ornamental correspondingly low.—Pupils are admitted at any time; but it is very desirable they should be present at the commencement of the term. Catalogues containing all necessary information respecting the course of instruction, terms, &c., will be forwarded on application to

J. W. THOMAS, President
Board of Trustees.
January 1, 1859. 1—w tf.

NOTICE TO BUILDERS.

THE JAIL OF ALAMANCE COUNTY will be let to contractors for repairing or rebuilding on the 15th of January next. The job will be worthy of notice. Specifications made on that day.

BAKER GRAYSON,
JESSE GANT,
EDWIN M. HOLT, Sen.,
A. H. BOYD,
S. L. HOLT, } Com'rs.
January 1, 1859 1—w2t.*

ROXBORO' ACADEMY.

THE NEXT SESSION of this school, under the charge of the undersigned, will begin on THURSDAY, January 20th, 1859, and will continue twenty weeks. The course of studies and method of instruction will be such as are required to ensure admission into the Freshman Class at the University. The true interest of the pupils will be, at all times, consulted in every respect.

TERMS PER SESSION.

Classical Department,	$20 00
English "	from $10 to 12 50

HASELL NORWOOD.
January 1, 1859. 1—w6t.*

Randolph Macon College,
DECEMBER 27th, 1858.

BY ORDER OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF said College, at a meeting held this day, notice is hereby given to those persons who have contributed by bonds and subscriptions to increase the endowment fund of the College—that the said fund has been raised to the amount of one hundred thousand dollars in bonds and valid subscriptions—that their obligations have become absolute, and it is hoped they will pay at an early day, in order that the money may be invested as soon as practicable.

WM. A. SMITH, President.
R. B. BAPTIST, sect'y pro. tem. 1—

TO PRINTERS.

A GOOD COMPOSITOR can get a permanent situation in this office.

Recommendations will be required. State terms, and apply immediately to

THOMAS R. MURRAY,
Ed. & Prop. "Gazette."
Newbern, N. C.
January 1, 1859. 1—tf.

NEW BOOKS!

A WREATH FROM THE WOODS OF CAROLINA—Illustrated with colored native Wild Flowers.

For sale by
H. D. TURNER,
N. C. Book [illegible]
Raleigh, June 1, 1858.