

Mr. DUNCAN McNEILL, editor of the Wadesboro' Argus, arrived in this city yesterday and honored us with a visit last evening.

From him we learn that the Conservatives of his county and district are alive to the issues of the campaign and, at a recent meeting, had put forth Major Wm. E. Smith for the House and Gen. A. J. Dargan for the Senatorial District composed of Anson and Union counties.

Mr. McNeill also states that the crops in his neighborhood are very promising, the wheat, in especial, being about the finest that has ever been known in that part of the State.

The Conservative Convention for the Fifth Congressional District, which nominated the Hon. JAMES M. LEACH, of Davidson county, for Congress, was very large and its deliberations most harmonious.

The following platform was adopted: Resolved, 1. That the platform of principles advanced in the strong of the conservative members of the General Assembly of the 26th of March last, is endorsed by and most hearty approval of this Convention.

2. That the civil and political equality of the white and colored races is an accomplished fact, which the conservative party has no inclination to disturb.

3. That the conservative of this District are a law-abiding and peaceably disposed, and are opposed to lawlessness and anarchy, whenever and by whomsoever committed, and that the proclamation of the Governor of the State, declaring the county of Anson to be a state of insurrection, and that the civil law cannot be enforced therein, is a foul slander and libel, and stamps the author as a partisan, who for party will betray a people whom he has sworn to protect and defend.

4. That Joseph C. Abbott and John Pool, by their speeches recently delivered in the United States Senate, have added their names to the list of official enemies of the conservative party, and that the conservative party will not hesitate to expose the fair name and fame of the good people of North Carolina, that while we would support nothing but the fair name and fame of the good people of the State, regardless of differences of opinion as to past events, now join in a declaration of war from the hands of those who have abused their trust to do further wrong, and to place the management of our affairs in the hands of those who have no interest in the honor of the people at heart.

Lawlessness and its Causes. The murder of ex-Senator Stephens, of Caswell county, the particulars of which we have already published, is another repetition of one of those bold and heinous offenses against the law which have too frequently occurred in our State, and which have done much to injure the good name of North Carolina.

We learn that the Sheriff and other authorities of Cumberland seem to be very slow to make any move to capture the murderers. In connection with this terrible affair we also publish a letter from a responsible citizen of Robeson, giving an insight into the condition of affairs in that county.

These two letters picture no fancy sketches but are the plain and unvarnished accounts of real transactions—deeds so unnatural and so atrocious as to wear the appearance of fiction. They present a condition of affairs in North Carolina that demands the most anxious and earnest consideration upon the part of good citizens all over the State.

We have said that we believe the crimes which are so frequent now result from the effects of the bad government under which we live, and we are satisfied that we are correct in this belief. The people of North Carolina, good and bad, are fully convinced that every department of their State government, executive, judicial and legislative, is more or less imbecile and corrupt. Good citizens have no confidence in the ability or the disposition of their officials to do their duty impartially and efficiently, and bad men seem justified in their belief that the boldest and most inhuman crimes go unpunished.

This state of things, added to the great depression in all industrial pursuits, resulting from the loss of State credit and the heavy burden of taxation, is calculated to create disturbance and commotion, and to engender a disregard and violation of law. The political aspect is the least of the evils which ensue North Carolina under the infamous government and the more infamous officials now controlling State affairs, and unless checked by the united efforts of good men at the ballot-box it will go from bad to worse, until the government becomes a miserable farce, and the wildest and most dangerous anarchy ensues.

What man can calmly review the history of the State for the past two years, and observe how rapidly every moral, social, civil and political attribute of our people has degenerated under Governor Holden's administration, and through causes for which it is directly responsible, and conscientiously vote to endorse it. Such an act surely cannot have the welfare of the State at heart, or care for its honor and prosperity. The reasons for defeating Governor Holden and his party are so far above the ordinary purposes of a political victory that we wonder how men who value peace and quiet and their own characters can deliberately vote to sustain them.

We must defeat this administration; we must drive bad men from power; we must restore confidence in our officials; we must renew the old respect for law or there is no honorable or prosperous future for North Carolina. Crimes will continue and increase, State credit will never be restored, taxes will never be decreased, the public debt will never be paid, railroads will never be completed, public schools will never be put into operation, the University will never revive, business will never prosper, the people will never be quiet and happy until we control and eradicate the active agents of these evils. Let the people speak in August.

ed with the recital of rapes and murders and arsenic, which are without parallel in the history of North Carolina previous to the accession to power of the present State Government? In all countries and in all periods such crimes have been committed, but ordinarily they have resulted from passion or motives of plunder. But such murders as those of Colonel Nethercutt, the Foscoe family, Sheriff Colgrove and Mr. Stephens, as well as the frequent burning of dwellings and barns, were certainly unknown in this State previous to the reconstruction acts and the appointment and election to office of bad men to carry them into operation. Here, then, we have the solution. These crimes result from the existence of a bad government. They arise from a want of confidence in their officials by good men, and from a supposed or real security by the bad and ignorant. When men know to be corrupt are elected and appointed to important executive, judicial and legislative offices; when convicted thieves make laws, and convicted forgers execute them, it is wonderful that crimes are not more frequent and appalling.

The ballot-box is the surest cure for these evils and it is a matter for congratulation that our people have the opportunity to apply the remedy so soon. If we condemn the administration of Governor Holden, and guard against many of its more dangerous effects, by electing an honest and efficient Legislature, and condemn the party by defeating its candidate for Attorney General, much will be done to insure a renewal of the old respect for, and observance of, the law. Peace and good order and prosperity will follow a return to efficiency, economy and honesty in our State government. Let us try it.

Criminal Echoes of Bad Government. Following in quick succession upon the diabolical assassination of ex-Senator Stephens, we have to record the startling murder of the McLeod family in Cumberland county. We are enabled to-day, through an intelligent correspondent, not only to confirm the report published yesterday, but to furnish many interesting and reliable particulars of the bloody deed. We have seldom been called upon to record the account of a more horrible murder and robbery.

The victims of this fiendish tragedy were excellent men—plain, upright, useful citizens—living under their own vine and fig tree, and beloved by their neighbors. The McLeod family as long been noted for respectability and character, and some of the branches have settled in Alabama, South Carolina, Mississippi and Texas, and number among their descendants some of the most distinguished and respected citizens of those States. Mr. McSwain, editor of the Fayetteville Eagle, and Kenneth McLeod, of Bladen county, formerly for many years Clerk of the Court of that county, are nearly related to the victims of this last and most heinous murder.

Why is it that we are so...ationally shock-

Thunder Against the Income Tax. The New York Journal of Commerce is showing what motives are at work to secure a prolongation of the odious income tax. Thoughtful, sensible men condemn it, whether they are rich or poor, and say that paper, they would probably create a sufficient public opinion to secure its discontinuance but for the secret purposes of the party in power, who find it an excellent auxiliary in their schemes for keeping men of means and intelligence more or less in their grasp. Some Democrats wish the time extended for the same reason, looking forward to their own resumption of power, and eager to clutch at the hold it would give them upon the class it most affects. It may be that the exposure of this motive may defeat the attempt to renew the tax, but we shall be disappointed if it does. The party in power will make the tax still more one-sided to silence all popular clamor, and they will care nothing about the Constitutional restrictions, which they have already by law prohibited the courts from interfering with the collection of this or any other tax. All that can be done, if the tax is revived, will be the payment under protest and suits for its recovery. This may not be generally adopted, but the Journal thinks enough suits will be brought to convince the governing party that they have mistaken the extent of their power over the rights of the people.

The Ku-Klux. The Raleigh Standard, of a recent date, to keep up the excitement over ex-Senator Stephens, and to leave the impression that it was the work of political foes, publishes several columns purporting to be the sworn testimony of one Daniel A. Graham, of Moore county, which it says has been on file for several weeks in the Executive Office, divulging the names of several gentlemen living in that county, who are members of one or the other of nine Councils of Ku-Klux in existence in Moore. We regret to see that several Conservative papers have published extracts from this testimony before inquiring into the character of the witness. If his statement is true every man concerned in the crimes of which he gives an account should be arrested and severely punished. And if Governor Holden had any reason to believe the evidence he should be impeached for not acting upon it instead of keeping it for weeks and then publishing it to the world for political purposes, thus giving the suspected or guilty parties the opportunity to escape. But Governor Holden, we presume, knew very well that the whole statement was false, and the character of his witness was very bad, so he used it for political capital, thus endorsing the falsehood.

We are reliably informed that this man, Daniel A. Graham, is an outlaw, being a fugitive from justice, and under indictment for horse-stealing. A letter in our possession from a leading citizen of Fayetteville, detailing the particulars of the McLeod murder, its publication in full being unnecessary, as the facts had already been anticipated by another correspondent from that place, says: "We think we know the leading spirit in the transaction, but for prudential reasons will not give the name just now. I will, however, say that he is, in crime, an accomplice of Graham, who furnished the Ku-Klux information to Holden."

When we saw the acknowledgment that testimony, which implicated so many well-known citizens in the worst of crimes, had been in the possession of the Governor for weeks, and no effort had been made to arrest the parties, that it was unworthy of belief, and the political uses to which it had been put we knew was characteristic of our Governor. The haste with which he had Senator Nye to have read the sensational telegraphic report of the murder of Stephens in the Senate, and when "Mr. Nye also read a telegram from Governor Holden, of North Carolina, setting forth that a colored Representative had been driven from the county," which was false, and which the Governor has not taken the trouble to correct, convinced us that Governor Holden intended to use the whole affair for party purposes. Alas! we fear that our Governor will sacrifice the people of North Carolina—yes, he seems to take pleasure in the atonement—to promote the interests of party, to lead which and to secure its support, he has sacrificed so much in self respect and personal honor.

We call upon the Governor to prosecute the man whom Graham implicates in crime. The murder of the McLeods in that very section of the State should be an incentive for his prompt action. The Judge and Solicitor of that judicial district are his party and personal friends. He has no excuse for delay, but many urgent reasons for vigorous action. An example should be made—crimes must be punished. The condition of the public peace demands action. Let the Governor act upon the testimony he has in his possession, which he has published as worthy of belief. In the name of the people of North Carolina, we call upon him to do something in the interest of peace and law. In this important crisis in our State we beseech him to forget his secret obligations to the Loyal League, and remember his duty to the people and his sacred oaths of office.

Another Outrage by Leaguers.—The Robeson county desperadoes are still at work. Information has reached here that on the 25th inst., in Moore county, near the Cumberland line, an old and highly esteemed citizen, Capt. Daniel McLeod, was killed outright, and his wife and his brother, Mr. John McLeod, very dangerously wounded. As soon as the fact became known a party started in pursuit of the murderers and traced them to within the neighborhood of Southtown, in Robeson county, but, at last accounts, none of them had been secured. It is very reasonably presumed that these are a part of the Robeson county gang and are the same parties who lately stole the horses in the neighborhood of Shoe Heel, but which were afterwards recovered. The object of the murder of Mr. McLeod was probably money, as it was known that he had re-

cently sold a piece of land and had received the money. This, however, had been deposited in Fayetteville. The murder was a most inhuman one, no resistance, it is said, having been made by Mr. McLeod or his lands.

RICE LANDS—A SUCCESSFUL INNOVATION. There has been much speculation since the close of the war in regard to the ultimate purpose to which the valuable rice lands in this section will be applied in order to render them profitable to the owners. Rice culture has been fully tried under the new regime, and has proved a failure.

Dr. J. E. Winants, the purchaser, two or three years ago, of the rice plantation formerly owned by Mr. S. P. Ivey, has been and is still engaged in a series of experiments with various cereals, and has, we believe, attained an encouraging degree of success. He has already made a profitable crop of hay, and is now trying what can be done with corn, cotton, &c. To obviate the difficulty arising from want of drainage, a wind mill, with pumps attached, has been recently put into successful operation, and even with imperfect drains, insufficient ditches, &c., it keeps 50 acres of land dry enough to admit of ploughing.

Regulating the extent of surface exposed to the wind, according as the wind may be, high or otherwise, and always keeping faced to the wind, it requires no care, except oiling, and performs its work steadily at night as well as in the day. When at full speed it will pump from six to seven thousand gallons per hour.

If Dr. Winants succeeds in raising cotton on these (since the war) useless lands, they will no doubt soon be put into a state of cultivation. The entire cost of one of these wind mills and pumps is about \$500. We should think truck gardening would pay on rice lands. The soil requires no fertilizers and the money saved in that direction would easily purchase the windmill.

LATEST NEWS BY TELEGRAPH. From Washington.—Proceedings of Congress, &c.

SENATE.—The Senate resumed the executive session on the Sandwith treaty at half past one o'clock.

In responding to the enquiry resolution of the Senate, Mayor Bowen places the debt of the city at a million and three quarters. The last sale of bonds were made at 80 cents.

Henry A. Duhaime was confirmed as Consul General to Tampico.

Mr. Conkling introduced a joint resolution authorizing the use of the patent arrangement for making up mail matter, and paying for the patent.

Petitions were presented for the organization of a society for the promotion of immigration, and against the income tax.

The Reconstruction Judicial Circuit was re-organized.

The transfer of Virginia from the 3d to the 5th and Tennessee from the 5th to the 3d circuits was debated and lost by a vote of 23 to 35.

Mr. Drake offered an amendment to correct what he held to be an illegal and improper designation in the act of 1866, by virtue of which the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States wrongfully assumed in the impeachment trial the title of Chief Justice of the United States, when there was no such office.

The bill was argued to executive session and finally passed.

CRIME IN ROBESON. One afternoon, last summer, a lady and a gentleman were seated under the horse chestnuts in the main avenue of the garden of the Tuileries, at Paris, which as most folks know, is a public promenade, and where numberless chairs are placed in rows and filled with fatigued promenaders at six cents a piece.

After having chatted for some time watching the gambols of the little children who were lost in admiration of "Punch and Judy," and of the non-commissioned officers who were lost in admiration of their nurses or two promenaders rose to leave, when they were confronted by the proprietress of the chairs, who demanded her twelve cents.

The lady searched in her pocket. "I declare," said she, laughing, "I've forgotten my pocket."

"Upon my word," said he, also laughing, "I've done the same."

"That's played out," said she, or words to that effect. "It's all very fine for people to come here and lounge upon chairs half the morning without paying, but I don't see the joke. I want my money."

"Her name," said he, "take this glove and return it to the person who will bring you its fellow, and hand you your money."

So saying, he departed with his companion, who with difficulty refrained from bursting out laughing.

Suddenly the blue sky was overcast with dark clouds, which piled themselves in a threatening manner, and our two promenaders had hardly left the garden before large drops of rain began to fall. They hurried along, but had nearly reached the entrance to the Rue de Colonne when the rain poured down in torrents, and the street was converted into a miniature river. There was not a cab to be seen, and our two pedestrians were forced to seek the shelter of an open gateway, as well as a bucket of water.

"Madame," said he, "you can't remain here, you will catch cold, and, your death of cold. Come into the lodge, you will be comfortable."

The lady, after glancing at her companion, both entered the lodge.

The gentleman proceeded to ascertain the names of his guests, and began to entertain them with all the gossip of the neighborhood.

"Well, what do you think about politics," said he?

"What do you think yourself?" replied the gentleman.

"Why, I think everything would be much better if everything was not so bad," returned he. "We want reforms. I know very well that the Emperor is ready to grant them, and would be only too glad to do so, if I was his cousin, for instance, I'd show him how to go to work."

"You don't mean that! Do you think he would listen to you?" replied the gentleman, laughing.

The lady rose, and not so violently. "The lady rose, and going to the door, said: 'Not a cab disengaged.'"

"I can lend you an umbrella if you wish to go home," said the porter.

"With pleasure," replied the gentleman; "we will be here in five minutes; we live near here."

It was a regular family roof, and might have easily sheltered three persons.

After having thanked the gatekeeper for his hospitality, the couple withdrew.

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