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NO. 17

NOTE.—It may prevent misapprehension to state that the managing editor of this paper does not attend to the business and mailing departments of the office. This will explain why some of our friends who wrote him have not received direct replies. His hands are full attending to the EDITORIAL conduct of the paper, for which alone he is responsible. Though, of course, all letters addressed to the office will receive prompt attention.—R. A. S.

### Raleigh and Round-About.

—Wayne sent 5, Cumberland 4, to the penitentiary last week.

—There will be a partial eclipse of the moon Sunday night next.

—Prof. Kerr's article on the Big Meteor will be read with interest.

—Gov. Vance has appointed J. W. Purdie, a commissioner of Bladen in place of D. M. Hallow, resigned.

—Young man, read the article on "Pawing," printed on our 24 page. You've often been guilty of it: you know you have!

—Rev. Father White spent Sunday in Baltimore, witnessing the ordination of Archbishop Gibbons, by conferring the *Pallium*.

—The Masquerade Ball, which is designed to close up social festivities prior to Lent, is the topic of chat among young folks of Raleigh.

—At Wake Inferior Court last week Henderson Jeffreys, and Joe Lewis, negroes, were sentenced to 2 years each in "Pen," for stealing.

—North Carolina is quite a railroad State; half a dozen, or more, persons have been killed, while walking the track, since the first of the year.

—The article last week on our farm page headed "Ashes and Salt," was from the *Prarie Farmer*, of Chicago, Ill., a most excellent farmer's paper.

—Coloring photographs by the new process is now the "rage." There is a "secret" connected with it, and that secures its popularity among the ladies.

—Thanks, kind friends; you that have been sending us words of cheer. We value your good opinion and would like to answer each letter, had we the time.

Happy Milton? The little bob-tail Iron Horse trotted into the ancient town on Monday last, announcing the completion of the Milton & Sutherland N. G. R. R.

—Halifax handed into the State Treasury last week, \$11,769.95; Currituck, \$1,908.13; Watauga, \$1,630.54; Madison, \$1,689.56; Yadkin, \$3,061.53; Pamlico, \$478.42.

—Mrs. Judge Merrimon and daughters, Mrs. Jos. J. Davis and daughters, Mrs. Gen'l A. M. Scales, Miss Mary Robbins and Miss Gales are spending the winter in Washington.

—The ladies of the Edenton Street M. E. Church gave a pleasant and novel Valentine Party at the Metropolitan Hall last night. It was an entirely successful affair, we believe, and no doubt netted a snug sum.

—Sea going vessels are rated in five grades, A No. 1, A 1½, A 2, A 2½, and A 3. The latter is equal to condemnation, and insurance men will underwrite no lower grade than A2½. The lost *Metropolis* was rated A2½!

—We congratulate friend Bonitz on his change of base to a new and handsome office designed especially for the *Messenger*. Now, send us the Tri-Weekly instead of the Weekly, and good luck will follow you—if it never catches you.

—The fact that Parepa Rosa, Nilsson Cary, Kellogg, and other *Prima Donne* are growing stout—actually fat, and Aldermanic—is attributed to the inhalation of oxygen in their lungs as they screech out the high notes. We suspect it is the good living resulting from a pocketful of bank-notes; but adies, who desire to be corpulent may now see how to do it: they must talk and screech more.

—Mr. M. A. Park will take the foremanship of the FARMER AND MECHANIC office to-day, and, as there is no better printer or more efficient foreman, in the State, we expect to see the Mechanical Department much improved.

—The Ladies of the 1st Presbyterian congregation will hold another "Dime Party," at the residence of Mrs. Julius Lewis, to-morrow night week. It will be a very charming affair, we doubt not, and we have begun saving to get our dime ready.

—"Don Pasquale," in English is pronounced *squeal*, and people unaccustomed to operatic airs, will consider it *squealing*, indeed! By the way, Brignoli's high-priced, *falesetto* voice is attributed to a \$250 set of false teeth he recently bought.

—Prest. Jones took 36 convicts from the Pen, on Tuesday, to begin work on the extension of the Western R. R. from Egypt Station to Greensboro. When the road is completed we shall have three routes to Charlotte, and two to Greensboro.

—Was Fanny Davenport 40 years old, or only 28? This is the question which racks society. But for all the dreadful possibility of the former being the fact she had a \$700 or \$800 house in Raleigh, and sold \$500 worth of reserved seats in Charlotte.

—The Boston Agricultural *Flapdoe* asks this conundrum—"Why does a black hen lay white eggs?" We reckon it is because she is opposed to negro suffrage. If that isn't the answer, give us another that isn't one of your family secrets, you goose!

—The amateur concert for the benefit of St. Paul's church, Wilmington, was a large success. Prof. Van Lear was assisted by Messrs. Geo. Myers, W. F. Hargrave, W. H. Northrop, Prof. Hater, Hall, Johnson, Thorpe, et al; and lately performers of high talent.

—At a fashionable ball in Baltimore last week, the tickets of admission were \$20 apiece; every lady had a bouquet costing between \$12 and \$20; and the aggregate cost of jewelry exhibited was above half a million dollars. But the times are very hard.

We regret that we were not in the office, when Bro. W. J. Yates, of the *Democrat* called. He is one of the level-headed editors, in the South, and the only one in the State, who can give his check for half an hundred thousand, the fruits of his own industry and foresight.

—24,000 copies of Fanny Davenport's photograph have been sold; Maggie Mitchell and Clara Morris had 25,000 apiece; Parepa Rosa's picture sold to the number of 50,000 copies greater than any other in the world. Mrs. Siddon's went to 40,000; John Wilkes Booth's, sold 10,000.

—Greensboro *Patriot*, established in 1821, P. F. Duffy, Editor and Proprietor, Wednesday, \$2.10 a year.—Nurserymen preparing to do a large business.—Survey of Fayetteville Railroad making good progress.—Bal masque at the Benbow, and lots of poetry in the description of it.

—Judge W. A. Moore is one of the Honorary Commissioners to the Paris Exhibition. He will have G. W. Childs, of Philadelphia, as a colleague and can amuse himself making funeral epitaphs as they sail o'er the salt seas. Gen. Pierce B. M. Young, of Georgia, is also one of the commissioners.

—Rev. Wm. Grant, with Miss Kate, his daughter, of Jackson, Northumberland, chaplain of the State Grange, spent a day in the city last week. He was appointed to act as lecturer for Eastern North Carolina; Rev. Dr. Davis to hold the same position in Western North Carolina. Good men for the work.

—Bishop Gibbons, who was installed Arch Bishop of Baltimore, with great pomp and ceremony on Sunday last, was born in Baltimore, July 23, 1834. He was ordained a priest in June 1861; was consecrated Vicar-Apostolic of N. C. by Archbishop Spaulding in 1868; and succeeded Bishop McGill of Richmond, Oct. 20, 1872.

—Speaking of Turkey, (not the big one over there in the Orient, whose bones the Russians are picking,) there is in Neuse township, Wake county, a turkey hen owned by Mr. T. C. Robinson, that laid 200 eggs last year, and didn't half try. She began laying in March, and after hatching a fine brood let loose again, and kept it up until Christmas.

—When you come to think about it there are few more remarkable facts than that the old man, Pio Nono, who died in Rome the other day while all the civilized world stood upon tiptoe of expectancy, listening for his death-gurgle, had for more than thirty-two years controlled the hearts, and to some extent the lives of above twenty five millions of human beings.

—Of the fifteen bridal parties among the upper-ten of Richmond, Va., says a dispatch to the *Cincinnati Enquirer*, ten were elopements. The latest sensation of the kind happened last night when Miss Nannie Freeland, a beautiful belle, 17 years of age ran off with James Fox, an attache of the Richmond, and Danville Railroad. Miss Freeland is the daughter of a deceased millionaire, and Mr. Fox is poor but handsome.

—The trial of the steam, hand and chemical fire engines on Monday night resulted in a drawn battle. There should have been a fire for each company, instead of allowing the third engine to play a part of the time on each of the two fires. The working of the chemical engine, however, was quite satisfactory, and shows that this apparatus is the very thing for small towns where water cannot be obtained in sufficient quantities.

—Jake T. Brown, formerly a Republican member of the Legislature from Davidson, was found on Monday morning, lying in a pool of water in the public road, frozen stiff. The similarity of the death of Creed Young, (who was a member of the House in 1870 with Brown) is rather a remarkable coincidence, or would be, if they could reasonably be attributed to the weather. Other causes, doubtless, produced the deaths, and the bodies were frozen after life had ceased its functions.

—North Carolina will receive about \$4,000 from the Peabody Fund this year. Schools which enjoy his munificence ought to have a portrait of the good old man ornamenting the wall above the clock, so that the youthful mind might be impressed and stimulated to follow his life-example. Most of them probably have a very vague idea that they are enjoying the benefit of a philanthropic liberality; but if they daily looked upon the noble features of Gen. Lee's friend, they would learn to set a higher value on benevolent actions.

—Decorating bottles and earthenware is becoming all the rage. Don't you know how? Get you a vase, a button-pot or ginger-jar, and put on a thick coat of black paint. When it becomes fully dry, get some of the colored and embossed pictures, (fancy labels from the dry good stores will answer) which sell for 25 cts. a sheet, and cut out such as you like; paste them on the black back ground, and when dry, give the whole a coat of white varnish. Then show it to your beau, who if much "schmidt," will vow he never saw anything half so pretty.

—When Mary Anderson was playing *Parthenia* in the play of *Ingomar*, at Memphis, Col. Lewis Selby who sat near the orchestra, and had a hatful of liquor under his vest, became incensed at the rude barbarian, Ingomar, for his treatment of the beautiful Greek girl. So when Ingomar called her a "slave," Selby sprang up and called him "a liar!" Of course there was a sensation, and poor *Parthenia* (Miss Anderson) looked in amazement at her unexpected champion. She performed in the same play at Wilmington on Thursday night to a large audience, winning raptures from many but criticism from a few.

—We feel tempted to publish Judge Kerr's letter reviewing the indefensible action of the Supreme Court (Judge Reade's opinion) in reversing the sentence of one DRIVER, tried at Yadkin Court in 1877; but really the conduct of this unblamed villain (whose full name should have been given by Judge Kerr, so that eternal infamy might cling to it), is so abominable we do not wish the public outside of the State to know there is such a wretch within it. And, by the way, the testimony in the case of Alex. Hendrix, of Davie county, and his mother, for maltreating his wife, hastening, if not causing, her death, shows how brutally some wives are treated.

K. of P.—The Grand Lodge Knights of Pythias convened in this city on Tuesday—Grand Chancellor W. C. Troy, of Fayetteville, presiding. Nine lodges were represented. G. C. Troy was re-elected for the ensuing year.

THE METEOR.—Since the article in another column was written, parties in Greensboro have informed me that the detonation was distinctly heard there; and a friend in Charlotte states that the report was heard also at that point, distant 130 miles. W. C. K.

OUR VALENTINES.—As to-day is Valentine Day, we send, with our paper, the compliments of the season, and wish that every one of our readers may have, during the coming year, whatever his merits entitle him to; and failing that, may enjoy the next best thing, namely—CONTENTMENT!

LABOR MOVEMENT.—In a letter from B. Duncan explaining the objects of the call for a convention of delegates from the "National" (or Labor-Greenback) Party to meet at Toledo, on Washington's birth-day, (Feb. 22) and giving the list of the signers, we notice that Mr. N. Plumadore, of Raleigh, is spoken of as a zealous friend of the movement. This gentleman informs us he will attend the convention, but mainly with the view to impress upon leading delegates the advantages of North Carolina for immigrants.

STATE GRANGE.—Our last number left this body still in session. It adjourned after the night session on Thursday. The changes proposed by the National Grange as to reduction of fees, &c., were adopted. The stock law was recommended. Messrs. Winston, Cobb and Harris, of Iredell, were appointed the committee to decide about a newspaper organ. Granges that are dormant will be relieved of past fees for membership while dormant, if they revive and go to work. Next meeting to take place in Raleigh, on 1st Thursday in February, 1879, when the subject of "Sheep Husbandry" will be reported by Messrs. Cobb, Cheek and A. T. Mial. The Ex-com. reported that on the 18th of October, all delinquent granges were notified to pay arrearsages to first January, 1878, or surrender charters.

THE EUROPEAN COMPLICATIONS.—The eyes of the civilized world are intent upon the march of events, which seem crystallizing into a condition of hostility between England and Russia, with Austria and Italy leaning with the former, and Turkey inclining to favor the latter. The Porte refuses to allow the British fleet to pass the forts at the Dardanelles, and sail up to Constantinople. The Russian government has warned the English that should the fleet go to Constantinople, it will find the town occupied by its troops. At this, the *London Times*, and nearly all the English press, declares that British honor, and British interests, now have no alternative but to go to Constantinople. The channel fleet has been sent to reinforce the squadron at Gallipoli; and the English navy yards are working night and day—a condition of things unknown since the Crimean war. All army officers in America and elsewhere have been ordered home by telegraph. Still, there is evident reluctance on both sides, and a war of words may end the matter.

FROM CUMBERLAND.—Fayetteville *Gazette*, J. H. and G. G. Myrover, proprietors, Thursday, \$2 a year.—Mrs. H. I. McDuffie was looking when the cars ran over old man Merritt at Fayetteville, and was so overcome she fell down in a swoon. Merritt had been complaining the same day that his lot was so hard it mattered little whether he lived or died.—The Fayetteville National Bank has a signette of Gen. Lee upon its checks. Recently one was returned from Morris, Tyler & Co., of New Haven, Conn., having a penny-and-ink gallow erected above Lee's head, and a rope attached to his neck. Bet you that was did by some sneak who never dared face "Uncle Robert's" ragged Rebs when bullets were flying.—An issue of constitutionality has been raised as to Judge Buxton's holding the special term of Cumberland court. The constitution forbids but an act of the Legislature authorizes. Well, then?

STATE SCRAPS.—Geo. Pethel of Mooresville, Iredell county, gave his wife with whom he had quarreled, a white powder, after which she died. His actions were suspicious and he was arrested, but subsequently discharged. A new warrant is out, but so is he, and cannot be found.—Davenport Female College will mortgage its property to raise funds to improve the building &c.—The Jones bridge over the Neuse will be completed next week.—A new plug-tobacco factory will soon begin operations at Hillsboro; Webb & Co., owners.—The negro, Robert Jones, has been convicted of killing Randolph Eaton at Rocky Mount.—Geo. H. Bellamy's store, at La Grange, Brunswick county was burned on Thursday night; insured for \$900.—Jesse Davis, a negro, was jailed at Louisburg on the 6th charged with attempted rape of Mrs. Margaret Champion.—Miss Ellen Sellers, step daughter of J. M. Oliver living near Princeton, drank by accident (being deranged) a cup of lye, designed to be used in making soap, and died in great agony.—Rachel Murphy, colored, near Wilmington, died suddenly under circumstances indicating poisoning.

### MENTION.

—Col. W. L. Steele is said to be the only N. C. Congressman opposed to the Southern Pacific Railroad. Better go for it Colonel; every mile of railway helps the South, no matter who builds or steals it.—John Alexander, of Iredell, eloped with Mrs. Margaret Sherrill, who left two children to console the abandoned husband. John has dark hair and complexion, and is 34 years old; Polly is 22, has blue eyes, fair skin, and very light hair. Husbands with light-haired wives will make a note, and shoot any dark-haired chap caught "hankerin'" round the premises.—Alfred V. Dockery was confirmed consul at Leeds.—Osman Pasha will certainly be court-martialed. He is charged with burying Russian prisoners alive.—Although Washington, and Washington's ways, are no longer fashionable, or even remembered, it seems there is some danger of his bones being stolen, as a burglar-alarm telegraph has been arranged connecting his coffin with the old mansion on the hill.—Judge D. L. Russell, having discovered that he would have to live in Raleigh if he took the District-Attorneyship, vacated by Mr. Badger, withdraws from the race, and thinks Judge Albertson will get the place. Who wants sour grapes, anyhow?—A class of 50 students has been formed at the University to take lessons in vocal music from Prof. E. A. Wilson, employed by the Faculty.—Gideon Wells died at Hartford on Monday.—John E. Davis, and a child of Moses Walters both of Union county, though in different neighborhoods, were slain on the 1st inst. by falling trees.—Rev. D. McQueen has resigned his pastorate of the Presbyterian church of Wadesboro.—Messrs. T. C. James, T. C. DeRosset, and H. M. Green, are the new Lieutenants of Wilmington Light Infantry.

—As we have before remarked, Raleigh is essentially a city of churches and schools. The Episcopalians, Presbyterians, Methodists, Baptists, have each two churches, and sundry schools. There are six churches within pistol shot of the capitol; besides the present worshiping place of the 2nd Presbyterians. In schools, the city is no less rich; the Presbyterians, Episcopalians, and Baptists each having a well known female seminary; and there being several academies for youth, not of a denominational status. Public schools abound, and the graded school provides for a little army of children. A city tax of about \$4,000 supports this institution with \$500 from the Peabody fund. Besides these schools for whites, are Shaw University, for colored youth, and half a dozen public schools for the same color. In short, the magnificent sum of \$9,598.75, nearly ten thousand dollars, is spent in supporting FREE schools in Raleigh; in addition to the widely reputed subscription and boarding schools above mentioned. Nearly 15,000 is spent in Wake county for the support of public schools. Northern men desirous of settling where they can enjoy a splendid climate, high, healthy location, good society, and unsurpassed church and school facilities, should enroll as citizens of RALEIGH.

INSANE ASYLUM VILLAINY.—When Chas. Reade and Dickens portrayed the wrongs and tortures of imaginary victims of false imprisonment in Lunatic Asylums, people said the picture was horribly over-drawn, and beyond the range of possibility. But within the past year, and in our own enlightened country, more than one or two or three instances of wrongful confinement in the mad cell of both private and public asylums, have come to light. The false imprisonment of a minister's wife in Columbia some years ago, is familiar to many of our readers. A recent case is mentioned in the editorial columns of the *New York Sun*, showing that a lady has been confined by her relatives for seven years, who is not now insane, and has never been insane. Well may the editor add: "This is a startling fact, equalling in real life the wildest dreams of romance. The state of the law which renders such an occurrence possible is alarming; for if this person, perfectly sane all the time, could be imprisoned, without relief, here in the heart of a great city, for seven long years, who may not be imprisoned likewise? No one is safe."

But perhaps it will be interesting to quote the *Star's* statement in full:

—Miss Dickie was committed to the Bloomingdale Asylum in 1871, on the certificate of Dr. William Hanford White that she was insane. The testimony of Dr. White before the Sheriff's jury who have just passed upon the question of Miss Dickie's sanity, is almost incredible. Dr. White stands condemned out of his own mouth. It is amazing that a practising physician, enjoying the confidence of the community, could do what this man admits he did. It would be charity to believe this Doctor himself insane. Dr. White testified that he had not himself treated Miss Susan Dickie, had not spoken to her, and had only seen her in passing through the rooms of the house when attending her father. He examined her for a few minutes, and then certified that she was insane. He did not know the day or the year when the certificate was made, and refused to tell what he was paid for it. He also admitted that he had given certificates upon which other persons had been confined under similar circumstances.

The motive which led to the unlawful imprisonment of Miss Dickie appears to have been money. Her aged father was worth not less than a million of dollars. If she was insane, she could not dispose of her inheritance or of any legacy left her out of this estate; but it would ultimately go to the other heirs. The conspiracy against Miss Dickie was worthy of the dark ages. Every person concerned in it deserves to be confined as long as she has been, not in a lunatic asylum, but in a State prison—to say nothing of the enormous pecuniary damages to which she is justly entitled. An immediate overhauling of insane asylums, their management, and the defective and dangerous system of consigning people to seclusion within the impenetrable walls of these institutions, is imperatively demanded.