

Department of Agriculture

State Board of Agriculture, Immigration and Statistics.

Z. B. Vance, Governor and ex officio Chair... W. C. Kerr, State Geologist and ex officio member of the Board.

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Hanged.

On Friday last two North Carolinians one white, the other colored, paid the penalty of capital crimes. At Harrisonville, Missouri, in the presence of 5000 spectators, Richard T. Isaacs was publicly executed for the murder of Henderson Clark, a youth, the son of a man from whom Isaacs had purchased a drove of cattle on trust. When out on the prairie Isaacs shot the boy three times in the back, and left him a prey to the dogs, while he proceeded to St. Louis, sold the cattle, pocketed the money, and murdered like, returned to the place where he had committed the crime. Captured, he confessed all, revealed the hiding place of the money, (which as usual did not prove of the least benefit to him) and went to his doom with a warning to all evil-doers not to follow in his foot steps.

Isaacs was born near Boone, Ashe county, N. C., and his parents still reside in that county at Perkinsville. Singularly enough the second case occurred in the adjoining county of Caldwell. We give a synopsis of the case as reported for the Herald, from Statesville where the execution took place:

Laxton, at the time the crime for which he died to-day is alleged to have been committed, lived with his mother, sister and child—his wife being dead—in Caldwell county, about six miles from the village of Lenoir, the county seat. He was a well to do, well behaved, intelligent full blooded negro, with a pleasant face. Social and even race distinctions were but slightly marked, and Laxton, being a tolerably good farmer lived along in ease and enjoyed the society of a number of his white neighbors. Among these neighbors was a Mrs. Louisa Barlow, who, with her two daughters and little son, lived within sight of Laxton's house. Nancy is a good looking mountain girl, with dark hair and eyes, rosy cheeks and well moulded figure. At the time of the alleged offence she was seventeen years of age. She, like the other members of her family, is ignorant, and all the facts go to show that, at least so far as Laxton was concerned, she totally disregarded all those natural distinctions of race and color which the average person recognizes by intuition. The Barlows visited the Laxtons and the Laxtons visited the Barlows. Jim called frequently after supper and spent the evening with Nancy and her mother and sister. A welcome visitor at the Barlow fireside. Nancy borrowed, on one occasion, the best dress of Laxton's sister, and these neighborly acts were of frequent occurrence.

These amicable relations were, however, wrought to a sudden termination. One day in April, 1876, the little neighborhood rang with the news that Laxton had committed a criminal outrage upon Nancy Barlow. Some of the neighbors accepted the statement, and others shook their heads. The arrest of the negro followed, and by a justice of the peace he was committed to jail in Lenoir, having been found by the officer who went to arrest him, pursuing the even tenor of his way to his little farm, and apparently not alarmed by the prospect before him. The trial came on in the Superior Court of Caldwell county at the fall term, 1876. Judge R. P. Burton presided. Colonel G. N. Folk, of Lenoir, and R. F. Armfield, of Statesville, appeared for the defence, while solicitor W. H. H. Cowles was assisted in the prosecution by ex-Judge Clinton L. Cilley, of Lenoir, and R. F. Linney of Taylorsville. There were many witnesses examined and the attorneys fought the case with great skill, ability and energy. For the State Nancy Barlow herself was the main witness. The told the story of the alleged offence with great minuteness and no effort of the could betray her into any contradiction of the tale of the violent assault she charged against the prisoner, and of her fruitless efforts and earnest entreaties to escape or dissuade him from the execution of his design. Her mother in part corroborated her testimony. For the defence it was testified that Nancy had called Laxton her sweetheart, and that on the evening following that on which it was claimed the offence was committed Nancy had been seen at Laxton's fence talking with him as he was at work in his field. Much testimony as to character was given on both sides. After the evidence, the material points of which are here given, the lawyers submitted their arguments, the Judge delivered his charge and the jury retired, returning shortly afterward with the verdict "Guilty." Judge Buxton thereupon sentenced Saxton to death. An appeal being taken, the Supreme Court decided that there had been error in the decision of a law and ordered a new trial.

A change of venue was obtained by the defence and the case was again tried at the spring term, 1877, in Iredell county. The same counsel appeared and the case was fought with the greatest care and ability. The verdict was the same as before, and Laxton was again sentenced to death, the date for execution being fixed for July 25. In response to very urgent and numerous signed petitions Governor Vance twice respited the prisoner, but at last declined to use his prerogative further in opposition to the verdicts of two juries. The prisoner injured his prospects of a final commutation or pardon by escaping from the Statesville jail with

others on the night of the 7th inst., by overpowering the jailer, and then suffering himself to be recaptured within forty-eight hours. Here his physical condition told against him. After a start abundantly sufficient to have permitted the other prisoners to escape easily, Laxton was caught six miles from Statesville, exhausted and confused, impressed with the idea that he had travelled thirty miles instead of half a dozen.

The condemned man spent last night wretchedly. He barely touched breakfast, and when the Herald reporter called upon him he found him in a deplorable state. He had made a statement yesterday to Mr. Ramsey, of the Landmark, denying most emphatically the crime charged to him. To the question of the Herald reporter he replied that he had nothing to add or subtract from that statement. He confessed criminal intercourse with Nancy Barlow, extending over a period of six months, but protested vehemently that this had not been effected by violent means. Laxton had made a profession of religion yesterday and had received the communion from Rev. T. A. Coon, of the Methodist Church.

THE EXECUTION. At about twelve o'clock he was led trembling out of the jail door, and between an open file of the Iredell Blues conducted to the scaffold. He was almost carried, between two deputy sheriffs, and with head hung down and humming a hymn, was seated on the scaffold, a rude affair, consisting of two upright posts, with crossbeam and drop. He made a lengthy and rambling statement, the gist of which was a protestation of his innocence. He sat while he spoke, and spoke in a very low tone. Religious services were held, and the prisoner, trembling in every muscle, resumed his mumbling. When the time had nearly expired Sheriff Watts pinioned his legs and arms, adjusted the noose and cap and bade the prisoner goodby. At thirty-nine minutes past 1 p. m. the drop fell. The legs arms and body twitched convulsively for several minutes, and fourteen minutes after the fall Dr. W. M. Campbell pronounced life extinct. The drop was two and a half feet, and death resulted from strangulation.

Public opinion, as already related, is greatly divided as to the guilt or innocence of the deceased. That the negro had illicit intercourse with the girl is believed, in fact is not denied by him, but that this was against her consent is a question which, to say no more of it, admits of grave doubt.

STEAM FROM PETROLEUM

SPRAY INSTEAD OF COAL NO SMOKE, NO DUST, NO DANGER!

The Twin Discovery to Edison's Electric Light!

Sulphur and carbon, the two deteriorating elements that are present in all the wrought iron now made, are utterly cast out by this new process. In the salisbury furnace the pig metal is melted to a thin liquid in fifteen minutes. It is then drawn off into a second furnace, one foot lower than the first, and which is heated by a continuous of hot air and superheated steam of 1,000 degrees and immense pressure, which keeps every particle of the liquid metal in agitation, and burns out the carbon utterly in from eight to ten minutes, when it is ready for the puddler. At no time in this operation can any cold air come in contact with the liquid, and consequently every particle becomes united. In the two melting processes every trace of sulphur is taken up. The instant the metal is run off into the second furnace, the first is filled with pigs; when No. 2 is taken out by the puddler, the new lot is ready to run into the second furnace, and so on in ceaseless alternation. Not some points in contrast with the methods where coal is used as fuel: (1.) It has always been impossible to free the iron from carbon and sulphur with the old methods. (2.) Ten charges are run off in a day and a night with the present process; the same number will be run off in ten hours with the new. One puddler will turn out in ten hours the amount that four puddlers and helpers now turn out in twenty-four hours. (3.) The furnaces will be kept hot for three months continuously, as the fire brick, becoming invitrified by the intense heat, will last that long; under the present methods, owing to the action of the sulphur, and the necessity of scraping off the fine cinders and ashes which form clinkers on the brick, the latter must be removed every day, and a new hearth made, during which time the furnace is allowed to cool. (4.) Not only is the quality—adhesiveness—of the iron improved by the new process, but the quantity is increased 100 pounds to the ton of material. (5.) One-half the labor in finishing is saved. (6.) The heavy labor of handling coal and removing ashes is dispensed with. (7.) The cost of fuel is reduced one-half, reckoning coal at only \$3 per ton.

The Bessemer steel process is also to become antiquated through the Salisbury inventions. This practical savant assumes to make steel superior to the Bessemer at one-eighth of the outlay for material! The great point here, as it is iron, is the ease with which he removes all traces of sulphur, a point where the Bessemer steel is defective. In the latter process, the carbon is burnt out by pressure of cold air, and the steel is cast into large ingots which are heated to white heat by gases containing a large proportion of sulphur. These ingots are cut while hot into the sizes required for rails, and these smaller pieces again heated by the same kind of gases, whose sulphur is absorbed every time. The iron has a greater affinity for sulphur than for the oxygen in air, as is evidenced by the fact that coal gas is now purified by passing it through oxide of iron. The

superlative quality having been gained by the entire exclusion of sulphur, the cost of making is reduced by a saving with the Speddlowen iron which Bessemer depended upon for the supply of the necessary carbon to make steel. Mr. Salisbury proposes to make steel rails so cheap as the present iron rails.

The experiments in glass-making yesterday were of special interest, on account of the presence of the largest glass manufacturer in the United States. He was rebounded in his enthusiasm over the new process, which he then saw for the first time.

The advantages of the new system will readily occur to the reader after the explanations already made in this article. The absence of smoke, ashes, sulphur, and other impurities enable the operator under this system to use open instead of closed pots, so that the intense heat is thrown upon the material direct. The time for melting is thus reduced from fifteen or sixteen hours to two hours. This astonishing result was achieved on Saturday. But Mr. Salisbury claims that the improvement in quality will be as remarkable as the saving of time. The experiments on Saturday went far to confirm this view, for the glass taken out of the furnace was almost perfectly annealed, and was drawn out into thin wire without breaking. This freedom from impurities, which cause specks in the glass, will enable the manufacturer to cut it into large plates, avoiding the very severe losses he now suffers through having to cut the glass small, in order to escape spots and imperfections. Mr. Salisbury proposes to reduce expense in glass making in still other ways. He will triple the daily capacity of the furnaces, reduce the cost of fuel one-half, save all the expense of cleaning out ashes, cooling the furnaces, &c., make the furnaces and pots last five times as long as at present, and confine each pot to a separate space, so that it may be removed without disturbing the whole number as must be done now.

Summary of State Scraps.

Cotton receipts of Fayetteville have been larger than usual this season. Over 3,000 bales thus far. Prof. Congdon of Rhode Island, writes to Prof. M. E. Hyams, Botanical manager for Wallace Brothers, Statesville, that a plant which had been forwarded for examination, was *Stortia Galacifolia*, which no man has gathered for 75 years, and of which one single cluster had been known to exist, to wit one in the Herbarium of the Jardin Des Plantes at Paris. Congdon calls it a "great discovery, a very great discovery, and you had better keep the locality known only to yourself for the present as it will create a general stir, and will be a very valuable acquisition to any herbarium." Thus it is seen that our boast that North Carolina contains the widest range in varieties of minerals, soils, flora, and medicinal herbs, of any country on this continent, was not an idle one. Chief Marshal, J. Shakespeare Harris, of the Charlotte Fair has conferred the Order of the Red Sash upon the following assistants:—Edgar H. Walker, Edward Grier, A. B. Young, Eli B. Springs, Robert Stokes, Latta Johnston, Manlius Steele, C. J. Harris, Jr., J. D. Pharr, R. B. Caldwell, M. P. Peggam, Jr., William Dixon, W. C. Maxwell, John F. Leeper, and a few others. At Greenville, S. C., Miss Josie Miller of Hendersonville, carried off the premium from all competitors as the most accomplished equestrienne the most graceful and fearless rider, the most excellent manager of her steed. The North Carolina fairs should offer a first-class Sewing-Machine to the best horse woman. It is in the interest of the human race that horseback riding should be encouraged among women. There is no awkwardness of carriage, few female ailments, and rarely a sickly family, among ladies who regularly and frequently exercise upon horseback. Chief Marshal R. S. Williams, of Fayetteville Fair names as his trusty Squires of the Red Rosette, W. M. Giddie, W. C. Fields, J. A. Williams, D. G. Blue, R. S. Strange, P. Emit, G. W. Herring, J. S. Hobbs, W. R. Rivett, J. A. Marchison, N. A. McLean, J. G. McNutt, E. McKeithan, J. McClan, N. A. Crommartie, Charles Robinson, Col. J. R. Davis, of the Norfolk Purcell House has been unfortunate in business; will probably take the Weldon Hotel.

THE QUAKER CHURCH.

We learn that Wilson & Shober, of Greensboro, hold a trust on Friendship church, in Guilford county, for \$80,000. A big sum for one church. But when we hear that the building is 300 feet long and contains over 400 rooms and is lodging quarters for all the Quakers from all parts of the country in their annual gatherings in Guilford, then we can understand it. It is said the Quakers will re-deem the church. The Methodists, too, have some interest in the church, and they will help their part. —Bridgeton Times.

We commend the annexed article taken from the "Rural Sun" to the readers of the FARMER AND MECHANIC and advise the Tarheels to give the Tar Water a trial next Spring and report progress to the FARMER AND MECHANIC.

TAR WATER.—A correspondent of the "Chicago Tribune" says:—For the last five years I have not lost a cucumber or melon vine or cabbage plant. Get a barrel with a few gallons of gas tar in it; pour water on the tar; always have it ready when needed and when the bugs appear give them a liberal drink of the tar water from a garden sprinker; and if the rain washes it off and they return repeat the dose. It will destroy the Colorado potato beetle and frighten the old long foot bug worse than a thrashing with a brush. Five years ago this Summer both kinds appeared on my late potatoes, and I watered with tar water. The next day all of the Colorado beetles that had not been well protected by spraying were dead and the others though their name was legion were all gone, and I have never seen one of them on the farms since.

the vicinity of the heart. Great excitement ensued, as the wound inflicted was believed to be mortal. Hartman was still living at last accounts, but very low. Explanatory of the affair, Miss Linkhaw a few hours later gave birth to a healthy child. She asserts, we understand, that Hartman refused to marry her. There are other ugly stories connected with the matter, which leave it questionable how far justifiable she was. A bond of \$5000 was accepted, and she remains at home quite ill.

From Currituck to Cherokee.

Hat Farrow of Charlotte fell through a trap door into the cellar, and was badly bruised. Mrs. Hettie Litzker's house in Concord caught fire, but not seriously. Alphonso Young, Revenue agent, captured two wagons, and four mules, with blockade tobacco, in the yard of Geo. Beatty, at Concord; the owners Frank Williams, and M. Kimbrough vanoused to parts unknown. The N. C. Life paid \$2000 to Mrs. Dr. Gibson, insurance on her late husband's life. Rev. Dr. Patterson of Wilmington has returned home from his tour. He was on the Bay-Line steamer, which came so near destruction in the storm last week, when the captain was in despair, the doctor went to prayer; fortunately all escaped, though exposed to a good deal of hardship and suffering. The Eastern District Fair at Elizabeth city, occurs on the 14th of November; the Rich Square Fair on the 13th and 14th.

All Sorts from all Sections.

John Keener and Alexander Klutz appointed Revenue Storekeepers for the 6th North Carolina District. Mexican and Indians raided near Wilson's Rancho, and killed three girls and a boy. Four hundred illicit distillers and tobacco blockaders, under indictment at Statesville, N. C., asked for same clemency as that shown to the South Carolina cases and the plea has been granted.

Marblesboro Equities: a handsome new, brick Masonic Hall is being erected at Winton. W. D. Prudden and Tom Skinner make good speeches at Gatesville during court week. The Blackwater river has been opened for navigation from Franklin nearly to its mouth; the government dredger clearing the obstructions right along. Henry Stephens picked 496 pounds cotton in about two-thirds of a day, and thinks he could pick five hundred.

The death roll by yellow fever is more than 12,000. Of these 3,733 were in New Orleans; 3,327 in Memphis; 1,106 in Vicksburg; Grenada, 327; Gaitia, La., 53; Patersonville, La., 40; Thibodaux, La., 80; Baton Rouge, 185; Plaquemine, La., 120; Greenville, Miss., 278; Port Gibson and county, 200; Canton, 197; Bay St. Louis, 71; Hernando, 56; Water Valley, 48; Jackson, Miss., 43; Lake, Miss., 45; Goodrich Landing, Miss., 42; Meridian, 40; Chattanooga, 115; Grand Junction, 56; Brownsville, Tenn., 137; Colliersville, Tenn., 41; Florence, Ala., 43; Mobile, 37; Key West, 37; Hickman, Ky., 139; Louisville, 34; Holly Springs, 297; Tangipahoula, La., 42; Morgan City, La., 89; Biloxi, 37; Bolton, 51; Ocean Springs, 31; Moscow, Tenn., 34. Besides these 35 other cities and towns had from 1 to 31 deaths.

A QUAKER CHURCH.—We learn that Wilson & Shober, of Greensboro, hold a trust on Friendship church, in Guilford county, for \$80,000. A big sum for one church. But when we hear that the building is 300 feet long and contains over 400 rooms and is lodging quarters for all the Quakers from all parts of the country in their annual gatherings in Guilford, then we can understand it. It is said the Quakers will re-deem the church. The Methodists, too, have some interest in the church, and they will help their part. —Bridgeton Times.

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LENOIR, N. C., Oct. 26. In the case of State vs. Robinson, Brothers, charged with the murder of Hoak, last summer, and moved from Burke to this (Caldwell) county, the jury last night returned a verdict of not guilty. The opinion prevails that the parties were guilty of a most foul murder, but the State was unable to present before the court testimony necessary to a conviction.

LONDON, Oct. 29.—The Manchester Guardian publishes a statistical showing that about 60 per cent of the looms and spindles in the Lancashire and Cheshire cotton districts are stopped or are working on short time.

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