

The State Chronicle.

Equal and Exact Justice to All Men, of Whatever State or Persuasion, Religious or Political.--Thos. Jefferson.

Raleigh, N. C., Friday Morning, December 4, 1891.

Price Five Cents.

the *Daily Standard*, edited by Jos. W. Holden, Esq., on the 26th of May:

YANCEYVILLE, May 23, 1870. SIR:--On the evening of the 21st instant we were startled by one of the most shocking murders that can be classed among the outrages of modern times. During a meeting held by the Democratic or Conservative element of this country, Jno. W. Stephens, Senator from this county, was most cruelly and barbarously murdered. About 4 o'clock in the evening of the 21st instant, Senator Stephens was in the public court room in the court house in the town of Yanceyville, attending a public county convention, when a supposed friend of his touched him on the arm and said "let's go down," and he did go down with him and was not afterwards seen. Mr. Stephens, on leaving home that evening, told his wife he would return as soon as the meeting was over, and as he did not return at the time designated his family became alarmed and sent in search of him. He could not be found anywhere on the streets and no person could give any account of him since he was seen to leave the court-room with this man. His friends concluded to obtain the keys to the various rooms of the court house, and search for him.

All the keys could not be obtained and the building could be only partially searched. His friends not being satisfied with the search, concluded to keep a watch on this building during the night and did so.

Early next morning some person looking in at the window of the clerk and master's room saw him lying with a small hemp or grass rope around his neck, dead. The coroner was immediately sent for, and when he arrived on the ground summoned a jury and went to the keeper of the building and asked for the key of that room; but the key could nowhere be found. They then opened the door and went in, and upon examination found that he had been choked with a rope made in a loop and put around his neck, and his throat cut in two places with a knife and stabbed in the left breast to the hollow.

The inquest was continued all day on the 22d, and all proper means are being used to bring the guilty to justice, and it yet remains to be seen what the consequences are.

CASWELL.
The following we quote from the *Standard* (Holden's paper) of May 26th:

"Charlotte *Observer* of the 24 instant says that two young men by the name of Hubbard were arrested on Sunday at Bethel church, in Caswell, by a constable and posse, charged with having connection with the assassination of Mr. Stephens." The *Standard* commenting further upon the death of Mr. Stephens says: "It is alleged that Mr. Stephens was a man of bad character. It is charged that he stole chickens. During his lifetime he explained this charge, and we now give his version of the matter. 'He was about to be conscripted in the Confederate service, and determined to cross the lines. He ordered his servants to kill two chickens, and with these and other provisions, he made his endeavor to escape. They were killed in his own barnyard. When he returned after the war, he was indicted by his neighbor, who was a violent war man, for stealing his chickens. A prejudiced jury found him guilty. But no liberal or fair-minded man in Rockingham or Caswell believed the charge that he stole them; and the accusation has always been considered as one of malice, and not-

ing else. This, therefore, accounts for the charge of stealing."

The *Standard*, continuing, says the *Daily Sentinel* of the 25th reports even a more base and slanderous rumors, against the dead Senator.

"But a few months ago, the mother, or mother-in-law, of this man was found dead, in a room in his house, with her throat cut. No one outside of his family was ever suspected of the murder. No one but the family had been in or about the house. There is a rumor that Stephens committed a murder in Virginia years ago, and that the friends of the murdered man have now, in retaliation, murdered him; but as this rumor seems to have originated only since the murder of Stephens, we give no credence to it."

The finger-post of this murder points to a proclamation, written in the skies, that we must have peace or war—a peace of law and order, or a war of bitter retribution, wherein no public man's life will be safe in the Southern States. We have surely fallen upon evil times.

The *Citizens of Yanceyville* condemn it. The *Standard* of May 27th said: A large meeting of the citizens of Yanceyville and vicinity, was held on the 23rd, in consequence of the death of Mr. Stephens, presided over by Col. J. C. Wilkinson, during which Hon. John Kerr denounced in a forcible and impressive manner his utter condemnation of the atrocious deed. After speeches by Bedford Brown, Col. E. B. Withers and others, Judge Kerr offered a series of resolutions condemning the murder, discountenancing secret political societies, calling on all good citizens to aid in the arrest of the murderers, which was adopted.

Wilson Carey's Account.
The *Standard* of May 27th contains a letter from Wilson Carey, now and then a prominent colored Republican, from which we quote: "There was a Democratic meeting held in Yanceyville on last Saturday, and late in the evening while the meeting was going on Hon. J. W. Stephens was called out as if on business in the clerk and master's room, and was assassinated in the most brutal manner. Soon after the mischief, etc. occurred he was missed by the colored people, and it being supposed that he must be in the court house, they remained there until morning and searched every room and finally found him in the clerk and master's room on a pile of wood with a rope around his neck and stabbed in three places and the knife lying by his side. The key of the clerk and master's room has not been found as yet, and he was only found by the colored people getting in the window last Sunday morning and seeing his stick."

The Hillsboro Recorder's Account.
The Hillsboro Recorder, of May 31st, says: Three negroes, it is said, offered a negro who used to belong to a Mr. Bigelow fifty dollars to swear that he saw three white gentlemen in Yanceyville take Stephens into that room. A young man from Yanceyville who was on his way to Richmond was understood by the conductor to say that the room in which Stephens was found dead was thumb bolted inside and the windows has been fastened down.

It is a little singular that the same brutal manner in which the negroes murdered poor Blalock in Hillsboro, was adopted in the killing of Stephens, viz., found dead with his throat cut and a piece of rope tied tight around his neck. It behooves the good people of Caswell in tracing out the author or authors of this horrible deed to consider well all these points. That there

may have been strangers from Orange or Alamance or other counties in town at the time is no more a point to be considered than that there might still be lurking in that county strange negroes, and some who have escaped from jail, and who have been tried once for murder very much similar to that of Senator Stephens.

Was He a Chicken Thief?
The *Sentinel* of May 27th, replying to the *Standard's* explanation of why Stephens was called the "chicken thief," says:

For awhile the Governor's departed friend had been in the habit of "impressing" his neighbors' chickens, by opening the door of the corn-crib on his lot, and when the chickens went in, would shut the door on them, killing only two at a time, except when he had company, and then take three. Stephens' cook, a hired woman, fearing that she might be suspected, told the merchant's wife of what was going on. She urged her husband, time and again, to have Stephens arrested for these thefts, but he answered that he disliked to fall out with one living so near him for the sake of a few chickens. One day Stephens entrapped and killed two favorite pullets in the usual way. The lady then told her husband that if he did not have Stephens arrested she would. Accordingly he took out a warrant, had Stephens arrested and brought immediately before a magistrate, in the meantime notifying the cook not to pick the chickens. Stephens, of course, denied stealing the fowls, when the gentleman proposed that, with the officers, they should visit his premises. This Stephens refused to do, and he was bound over to court. There was no conscription about the matter, as stated, and no "prejudiced jury" to decide against him, for the case never went before a jury at all. Stephens pleaded guilty, submitted, agreed to pay the costs and sentence was not prayed against him.

The *Sentinel's* Account.
The *Sentinel*, edited by Josiah Turner, Jr., said on Tuesday, May 24th:

The *Standard* of this morning announces upon the authority of a telegram from Greensboro, that J. W. Stevens, State Senator from Caswell county, was, on last Saturday night, taken by a band of masked persons from his house and shot, his body being pierced by forty balls, and then hung up in the court house at Yanceyville. The story appears to us incredible. We are strongly inclined to believe that it has no more foundation, probably, than the hanging and shooting in effigy of Mr. Stephens, who has made himself exceedingly odious to the people of Caswell, and which has doubtless been increased by the recent instances of burning and crime in that county. His past course has identified himself, no doubt, with the outrages of the members of the Union League, and hence it is not to be wondered at that he should be the object of much hatred and ill feeling. . . . If, however, Mr. Stephens has been thus brutally shot and hung as reported, we do not hesitate to denounce it as a most wicked and diabolical act. Offensive as Mr. Stephens has made himself to the people of Caswell, we can conceive of no outrage on his part, which could palliate, much less justify, so diabolical a deed as is alleged to have been committed on him. We can well conceive that the most bitter feelings must be engendered in a community, when, almost every week, the property of the most estimable citizens of the county is consumed by the incendiary torch, and by parties supposed to belong to the Union League. The influence which Mr. Stephens, has in the

Leagues and his alleged threats of vengeance against the people of Caswell, might justify the most rigid surveillance of his conduct and his arrest on the first suspicion, but we cannot justify or excuse so violent and summary an outrage against the laws of the land, as in this instance is said to have been committed.

WELCOME WEEK.

The Grand Parade at Wilmington Last Night.

SPECIAL TO STATE CHRONICLE.
WILMINGTON, N. C., Dec. 3. People who were at Charleston's gala week say Wilmington has surpassed that city in the extent and enthusiasm of Welcome Week. The crowd to-day was far and away the largest ever seen here. Sixty counties in the State were represented. There were 20,000 people at the notable fire-works display last night, but nearly twice that number saw the sights to-day. There were many events; first the firemen's contests, then a military prize drill, the winners being Company G, 2nd regiment, of Charlotte, N. C. This afternoon Sprunt & Son, cotton exporters, paraded 400 of their employes and illustrated the cotton industry from the plant to the ocean steamer with an admirably constructed steamer as a part of the display. Sprunt is the largest single cotton exporter in the United States. To-night what was perhaps the largest trades parade ever made in a place the size of this was the crowning attraction of the week. There were 65 floats and 2,000 men in line, extending a mile and a quarter. The best estimate of the number of visitors is 25,000. The outlay by the citizens for the week's celebration is \$4,000, and they are well repaid for their investment.

Big Tobacco Exposition.

SPECIAL TO STATE CHRONICLE.
ROCKY MOUNT, N. C., Dec. 3. The Tobacco Exposition was a grand success. 140,000 pounds of bright tobacco was on exhibition. Prices were very high and satisfactory to all. Tobacco from many counties—20,000 pounds from Pitt.

The banquet at night was one of the best ever held. Address by Hon. B. H. Bunn. The attendance was very large and the whole day was a big success, and will be productive of much good to Rocky Mount and the whole section.

Pickpockets at Work.

SPECIAL TO STATE CHRONICLE.
WILMINGTON, N. C., Dec. 3. Pickpockets were at work to-day. They robbed the messenger of the Navassa guano company of \$500 on the principal street. In an hour the thief was caught and the money all recovered.

Wilmington's Y. M. C. A.

SPECIAL TO STATE CHRONICLE.
WILMINGTON, N. C., Dec. 3. The Y. M. C. A. building here which cost forty thousand dollars and is one of the handsomest in the South is formally opened.

When you get up in the morning with a swell-head, bring it to natural dimensions by taking Bradycetine.

CRISP SAID TO BE IN THE LEAD.

The Speakership Contest Wages Warm.

CAUCUS SATURDAY.

The Official Call by Chairman Holman—Gossip and Talk of the Candidates.
By the United Press.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 3. It is said that 200 members of Congress are in the city to-night. It is expected that not more than 225 members will be present at the caucus. The total Democratic membership is placed at 233, but as a matter of course the candidates will not be present and voting. The claims of the several candidates on the first ballot is Crisp, 98; Mills, 67; Springer, 59; McMillin, 29; Hatch, 13. This total gives more votes than there are Democratic members, so that somebody is overestimating his strength. The Crisp people claim that they cannot be beaten. At the request of all the candidates Judge Holman issued the following official call to-night for the meeting of the caucus:

"CAUCUS.—There will be a meeting of the Democratic members of the House of Representatives at the hall of the House on Saturday, December 5th, 1891, at 2 p. m., for the purpose of nominating candidates for the offices of the House of Representatives for the Fifty-second Congress.

(Signed)
W. S. HOLMAN, Chm'n."

UNPRECEDENTED SUCCESS.

Big Prices Realized From Lot Sale at North Wilkesboro.
SPECIAL TO STATE CHRONICLE.

WILKESBORO, N. C., Dec. 3. The auction sale of lots at North Wilkesboro to-day was an unprecedented success in North Carolina real estate. At its sale, in spite of an extraordinary snow storm, one hundred and ninety lots were sold at an average of about six dollars per front foot. Nearly all the buyers were residents of Wilkesboro and adjoining counties acquainted with the county, and the development being made by the Winston Land and Improvement Co., which owns the property.

ANOTHER ACCOUNT.

WINSTON, N. C., Dec. 3. The first public lot sale at Wilkesboro was held yesterday by the Winston Land and Improvement Co. One hundred and thirty-eight lots, 25x14 feet brought \$20,089, fifty lots in woods \$1,743.

The "Absconding" Treasurer.

By the United Press.
CHARLOTTE, N. C., Dec. 3. It was learned here yesterday that J. M. Benson, treasurer of Bladen county, had absconded with \$6,000 of the county's money. It is also believed that Benson has taken with him about \$10,000 belonging to farmers in the county which they placed with him on deposit.

Don Pedro's Condition.

By Cable.
LONDON, December 3. A Paris dispatch says that the condition of Don Pedro has so much improved that his physicians now believe him to be out of danger.