

The State Chronicle.

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

Vol. X. No. 75.

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

Price Five Cents.

CONFESSED AFTER TWENTY YEARS.

The Mystery of "Who Killed Chicken Stephens" Solved.

THREE PROMINENT MEN DID IT.

The Confession of a Dying Man--Particulars of the Crime and the Incidents Connected Therewith.

May 21st, 1870 was a notable day in the exciting history of the most exciting times in North Carolina. On that day State Senator STEPHENS, whom JOSIAH TURNER called "chicken STEPHENS" was murdered, and his lifeless body found Sunday morning in the office of the Clerk and Master at Yanceyville, Caswell county.

When the news spread abroad it created a great sensation. It was a terrible deed and stunned all the people. For more than twenty-one years the perpetrators of the deed have been unknown and much speculation has been indulged in as to who they were. Government and other Republicans

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 corner 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 *Standard's* Comments.

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 Blacklock 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 behoves 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 Choked Thief?

The *Sentinel* of May 27th, replying to the *Standard's* explanation of why Stevens 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 contest, 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. O. A.

Special to STATE CHRONICLE.

WILMINGTON, N. C., Dec. 3. The Y. M. O. 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 Brandycre-

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 the 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.

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If at any time your paper is not delivered, or if it is delayed. Papers should be on the door steps of every city subscriber by six o'clock in the morning. If not somebody is at fault, and if so we want to know it. If you fail to receive your paper, therefore, or if it comes late, drop us a postal at once, giving your address, and stating your complaint, which will receive prompt attention.

NOTICE TO CORRESPONDENTS.—Correspondents of the CHRONICLE will please bear in mind that no communications are published excepting on the author's real name. Brief letters upon current topics will always receive attention, and, if found available, will be used with the condition above named.

This hour little needs the loyalty that is loyal to one section and holds the other in enduring suspicion and estrangement. Give us a broad and perfect loyalty that loves and trusts Georgia alike with Massachusetts—that knows no South, no North, no East, no West, but endears with equal and patriotic love every foot of our soil, every State in our Union.—Henry Grady.

I am a Democrat, pure and simple. I believe in fighting for reforms inside of party lines. I believe that any attempt to organize a third party in the South would be an absolute failure.—Ben Tillman.

NOTICE.—The Chronicle is daily in receipt of letters with no name signed, and frequently money enclosed. WE MUST KNOW WHO AND WHERE YOU ARE TO GIVE YOU CREDIT.

FRIDAY, Dec. 4, 1891.

BEGINNING life on a salary of \$2.00 a week, Mr. CYRUS W. FIELD has amassed a large fortune. His favorite son, unworthy of such a father, has ruined him, and the great man says "I am as poor as the day I was born." It is a sad illustration of the unworthiness of a son who had been implicitly trusted.

THE TELEGRAPH AND TELEPHONE.

We recently published an article from the pen of Judge WALTER CLARK urging the adoption by the Postoffice Department of the telephone and telegraph, advocating a uniform rate of five cents for messages over fifty miles and two cents for shorter distances. The principal feature of his plan was the adoption of the telephone for all postoffices including those off the line of railroad with only one or two telegraph stations in each State for the purpose only of forwarding long distance telephones. The plan seemed to us feasible and worthy of consideration, and we submitted it to the judgment of our readers.

The Postmaster General of the United States having seen the article in the CHRONICLE, has taken occasion to write Judge CLARK a letter of thanks, in the course of which he says:

"I have read your very clear and excellent argument upon the telegraph and telephone as a part of the postal service. On the making of my annual report, which went to the printer a few days ago, I used a number of your suggestions and arguments not so much in words as in substance, but sometimes in your better words. I have made reference to your paper in connection with the article, but desire to thank you personally."

Every country but ours has cheap postal telephonic and telegraphic service, and we can get it easily and soon if the press will do its duty. The truth is, so many dailies are under bonds to the "telegraph monopoly" for news that they are not "fearless tribunes of the people" as to this subject. But for this we would have had this reform years ago.

We hate the domination of the corporate spirit, but we do not hate it any less when it shows its hideous head in a secret political society than in a railroad, a bank or a standard oil company! The man who corrupts the remedy is no better and in some sense worse and more dangerous than the man who creates the disease. ROBESPIERE and MURAT were more dangerous and mischievous than LOUIS XVI and his courtiers. So long as we can feel that the residuum is honest and patriotic we need not lose hope, but when the people are corrupted, then comes the end.

BROOKLYN Republicans have sent a committee to Washington, D. C., to protest against General B. F. TRACY's management of the Brooklyn Navy Yard on the principle of civil service reform. They want him to order the employees to become Republicans strikers. He is the only cabinet officer who makes any pretence of obeying the law, and it would seem that he might be allowed to do so without such violent opposition at home.

The best way to strengthen the Democratic party is to defend its principles and not to get on the low plane of abuse or detraction of its open and secret enemies. The next best way is to attack all measures that are undemocratic. We believe that while this country may and will exist without the supremacy of the Democratic party, we do not believe that it will ever be safe in the hands of men who are undemocratic.

Do not weaken the stomach with strong chemicals. Simmons Liver Regulator is mild, but effective.

A BIG MUDDLE.

The fight over the New York Legislature gets hotter and hotter. A Democratic and a Republican Judge are each holding court at Syracuse, each deciding in favor of "our d—n rascal." A Democratic official has run away with the returns from a close ward and cannot be found. Each side says the other is trying to steal the State Legislature and overturn the will of the people.

Judge KENNEDY, the Republican judge, who has been most active in helping his party and has more than once abused Gov. HILL from the bench, is shown up by the New York World to have been a tool of the TWEED ring twenty years, and the intimation is that he was paid \$15,000 for it. It is also stated that several years ago he rendered a judicial decision that is in direct conflict with his present position. Then the Republicans didn't want to "correct" the returns, and he held that the Board did not have the power to do so. Now the Republicans need to "correct" to win, and he decides that the Board has the power.

The nearest we can arrive at the situation above the din that comes from the seat of war, is that the Democrats have won the House fairly and the Republicans have a fair majority of one in the Senate, looking at the matters from the expressed desire of the people. But both parties are seeking to win by availing themselves of legal technicalities. The Democrats defend themselves by saying (and saying truly) that the Republicans made the law and have used its technicalities more than once to defeat the will of the people, and that if they employ the same technicalities to secure power that would forever do away with unfair apportionment and unfair discrimination against the cities, it is right. Anyway, they say, the end justifies the means. The Democrats have the "innings" at present and the outlook is that they will control the Legislature.

We commend to all the officers of the law in North Carolina the example of THOMAS H. BATTLE, mayor of Rocky Mount, in aiding in the extinction of the Louisiana State Lottery. The lottery company being deprived of the use of the mails and the newspapers has adopted a new means of advertising, by distributing free to retail merchants through the State illustrated almanacs, giving full information about the lottery and containing the merchant's card. This coming to the notice of Mayor Battle he immediately gave orders to have the whole lot confiscated and destroyed under section 1047 of the Code.

We hope this course will be generally adopted as it is the duty of all good citizens to do everything possible to aid the government in crushing out this deadly and gigantic sin.

The Herald says that the impression after the meeting of the New York Democratic Executive Committee was that it had a decidedly FLOWER flavor for the Presidency. SHEEHAN, the new committeeman, will naturally desire to see FLOWER elevated because it would make him Governor. That's the way DAVID BENNETT HILL got the governorship first.

When you feel uncomfortable about the stomach, take Liver Regulator.

The letter of Mr. ELIAS CARR advocating that the Board of Agriculture make a display at the World's Fair has struck a responsive chord throughout the State. The press, without a dissenting voice, Democrat, Republican and Alliance-advocate such action and look to the Board of Agriculture to take steps at its meeting this week to secure the products &c., to be displayed. In good faith the Legislature made an appropriation which all thought would be available. As is well known that fund cannot be used. The intention of the Legislature was that the Board of Agriculture should have charge of the display, and the World's Fair Commissioners were made ex-officio Commissioners, and that together they should procure the display and cause it to be made.

The Board of Agriculture has made magnificent displays at Boston, New Orleans and Atlanta, and is anxious to do even better at the World's Fair, which they can do if they have the co-operation of the counties, towns and individuals of the State.

In 1876 the people of North Carolina, who visited the Centennial at Philadelphia were very much chagrined because the State had no exhibit there, and every public spirited citizen felt the humiliation which his State's pride suffered. In 1877, having this mortification in view, the Legislature in creating the Department of Agriculture incorporated a provision requiring the Board to make an illustrative exhibit of all the resources of the State at international exhibitions, whenever practicable. Under this act it was "practicable" to hold exhibits at Boston, New Orleans and Atlanta. The Board now has surplus funds which can be used for this purpose, and the State will gain more from the expenditure of this fund in making a grand display at Chicago than in any other way in which it could be spent.

North Carolina must march in line with the other States. We cannot afford not to put our best foot foremost at Chicago. The Board of Agriculture is the only power that can obtain this exhibit, and it is not doubted that it will be as progressive now as in the past.

That is a very handsome compliment the Sun pays Mr. SHEEHAN in saying: "The future is all before him." It is to be hoped the future is not behind the gallant young Lieutenant Governor.

PERSONAL AND SOCIAL.

HUNTINGTON.—We emphatically dissent from the opinion of the United States District Attorney of New York that Miss Agnes Huntington's tights are "wearing apparel" and therefore dutiable. Everybody ought to know that while tights may not fall within the ordinary meaning of "tools of trade" they are not to be classed with tailor-made dresses. Miss Huntington, since she imports her tights, has doubtless seen abroad Gerome's famous picture, "Phryne before her judges." She might take a hint from it, and, by appearing before the United States Supreme court in tights, secure an equally unanimous verdict—Columbia State.

Bucklen's Arnica Salve.

The best salve in the world for cuts, bruises, sores, ulcers, salt rheum, fever sores, tetter, chapped hands, chilblains, corns, and all skin eruptions, and positively cures them, or no pay required. It is guaranteed to give perfect satisfaction or money refunded. Price 25 cent, per box. For sale at John Y. MacRae's.

How's Your Liver?

Is the Oriental salutation, knowing that good health cannot exist without a healthy Liver. When the Liver is torpid the Bowels are sluggish and constipated, the food lies in the stomach undigested, poisoning the blood; frequent headache ensues; a feeling of lassitude, despondency and nervousness indicate how the whole system is deranged. Simmons Liver Regulator has been the means of restoring more people to health and happiness by giving them a healthy Liver than any agency known on earth. It acts with extraordinary power and efficacy. NEVER BEEN DISAPPOINTED.

As a general family remedy for dyspepsia, Torpid Liver, Constipation, etc. I hardly ever use anything else, and have never been disappointed in the effect produced; it seems to be almost a perfect cure for all diseases of the Stomach and Bowels. W. J. McLENNON, Macoon, Ga.

Be Not Imposed Upon! Examine to see that you get the Genuine; Distinguished from all brands and imitations by our red Z Trade-Mark, on front of Wrapper and on the side the seal and signature of J. H. Zeffin & Co.

Farming and Mineral Lands Mill For Sale.

1,320 acres, composed of seven adjoining tracts lying on Haw River, the southern boundary within two hundred yards of the Saxapahaw Cotton Factory, on which there are five comfortable dwellings and outbuildings and three tenant houses. 340 acres west of the above, on Haw River, on which are two dwellings and outbuildings. 75 acres adjoining this, on Haw River, two and a half miles above the Saxapahaw Cotton Mills, on which there is one of the best constructed mills in the country, with four run of stones, a circular saw mill, smith shop, storehouse, and three tenant houses. 75 acres three miles south, on which is a vein of gold ore at a depth of 20 feet, tested to yield \$3 to the ton. Two tracts adjoining this, on which there is iron ore. Specimens can be seen in Agricultural Museum. The farming lands are all well watered, and taken as a body, is the best in Southeast Alabama. A rare chance for a small colony or any desiring to invest in lands. Reason for selling: Old age and inability to attend to it. Write for more particular description. JAMES NEWLIN, Saxapahaw, N. C.

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