

# THE GLEANER.

E. S. PARKER, Editor,  
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[These columns are open to the free discussion of affairs. The GLEANER is not responsible for the opinions expressed by correspondents.]

## INTRODUCTORY.

We propose editing and publishing at this place a weekly newspaper, and as an evidence of our intention so to do, we, to-day, introduce to the public THE ALAMANCE GLEANER. We have put forth no prospectus, as a precursor of its coming, nor have we otherwise advertised its expected appearance, partly for the reason, that until quite recently we did not know positively that we would be enabled, so soon, to give an earnest of what we have for some time contemplated doing. Our hopes are to make the GLEANER valuable as a newspaper, and by so doing to insure the success of our project. The enterprise is undertaken with a view to permanency. As a newspaper, we fully intend and confidently hope, to make the GLEANER the equal of any paper in the State, to those who have opportunity or inclination to take only a weekly paper. This can be done as well here as anywhere. From our exchanges we expect to condense and collate such news of the State as our judgment tells us will be of interest to our readers.

From papers of other States as well as our own, we expect to select, condense and collate whatever, in our opinion, will be most useful and interesting to the people of our section.

In all matters of public concern, whether county, state or national, of which we may feel called upon to speak, we shall in an humble way, express our candid views; commending where we approve and censuring where we condemn. Our endeavors shall be to faithfully serve the public, and thus, in a small way, to serve ourself.

In politics the GLEANER will be Democratic; firmly believing as we do, that upon the triumph of the principles of that party, depends Republican government and civil liberty in this country. In the discussion of political questions and principles, in which we may, and expect to engage, we shall ever bear ourself with that courtesy, toward our opponents that a consciousness of right renders natural and easy to those upholding truth and combating error. We enter upon our career editorial free and untrammelled, and we shall so continue. Our arrangements for publication are safe and complete—for some time to come at least. We are not, nor is it any part of our ambition to become the advocate or organ of any man or set of men. To the doctrines and principles of the great, and now successful Democratic party of the country, we will be found ever true and faithful; for to be false to these now, is, in our opinion, however humble it may be, to be false to our ancestors, false to ourselves, false to human liberty, and false to those who are to come after us.

To those who shall favor us by becoming our readers we can only promise that, whatever latent ability, as an editor, if any, we may possess, and which may be developed by our efforts, shall be energetically devoted to the task of giving them a paper, worthy of their confidence, patronage and encouragement.

So far as in our judgment, it may become our duty, to speak of men, we shall confine ourself strictly to their official and public acts. We shall, upon all occasions, use language sufficiently forcible to express our views; but shall studiously avoid the use of scurrilous phrases and approbrious epithets which, we think are sometimes uselessly indulged in for no better reasons than that their utterance may have a soothing effect upon the embittered feelings of the writer.

To the Democratic editors of the State we come as an enlisted co-laborer in their good work. To the Republican editors of the State we come as one determined, by reason and not abuse, to faithfully if feebly, strive to win them from the error of their way.

To the people at large we come to advocate and promote, to the fullest extent of our power so to do, what we honestly conceive to be for their good and their best interest. We look to them for encouragement and support.

E. S. PARKER.

## TO OUR FRIENDS.

In starting this paper in your midst, we have met with nothing but encouragement and good wishes. While it will be in politics purely Democratic, it will not be filled with trite party matter and state politics to the exclusion of other subjects, interesting and useful to all classes of our fellow-citizens. It is an enterprise in which you all are interested and should feel an interest. A newspaper in any section of country tends to the good and benefit of that section. For your patronage we shall

feel thankful; yet feel that we are giving a full equivalent in return. Very soon the size of our paper will be enlarged by four additional columns. Published in a country village it is not probable that its pages will be, to any very great extent filled with advertisements. It will therefore contain more reading matter than a great many weekly papers of larger size. And to those who patronize us as advertisers it will be all the better on this account. An advertisement, where not a great many appear, will much more readily strike the eye, and much more likely be read than one forming, perhaps, a small part of an entire page of advertisements. Our subscription price is low—the same charged for such a newspaper before the war. No one regrets the pittance invested in the price of a newspaper. The great Daniel Webster is credited with having said that he never picked up and perused a newspaper, however unpretending it may have been without learning something—without finding in its columns what was information to him. We shall keep up with, and keep our readers well informed of all matters of local importance—of our county affairs and of all other matters of general news and interest.

We send out this issue to many of our friends in order that they may see for themselves the paper we are offering them. Of course, this our first issue is not a fair sample of what the paper will be. As we get in our exchanges, and grow somewhat accustomed to the work and duties devolving upon us, we shall steadily improve.

We have in connection with our newspaper a job office, where we are prepared to promptly execute all kinds of job work. We shall keep constantly on hand blanks for magistrates, administrators, executors and all county officers.

In a word we shall by every means in our power strive to make our newspaper and job office an acknowledged necessity to the county. Our terms for newspaper, advertising or job work are strictly cash. From these terms there will be no departure in favor of any one. First, we are unable if we were inclined to do otherwise. Secondly, we establish our paper with the firm determination of making it a permanent institution, and there is no other than a cash system that can accomplish this where the aggregate is composed of so many small amounts to be gathered from so many different sources.

We send out this issue to many of our friends, and to the Postmasters for distribution. We could not send to all. Where we have sent to parties we have simply addressed such of our friends as occurred to us. We shall have no dead heads—not one. We look to our fellow-citizens for support and, especially those of Alamance county. We think it their duty to lend us a helping hand.

## LOUISIANA.

To many who may read this article there will be found nothing new, but to some there may be. No occurrence in the history of this country, save those immediately connected with actual war, has caused such wide-spread excitement and apprehension, as the recent interference, by a portion of the Federal army, in the organization of the Legislature of the State of Louisiana. The Legislatures, of a number of States, where they have been in session, have passed, by both Democratic and Republican votes, resolutions strongly condemnatory of this gross outrage. The Congress of the United States shared in the general apprehension, and took solemn notice of this unprecedented act of Federal intermeddling with the domestic affairs of a State. Grave indeed, must have been the act of unauthorized violence that can find no equal in the administration of this government by the Republican party; and could arouse to apprehension and action a people apparently grown lethargic, or careless, in all matters pertaining to their rights or liberties.

Public meetings have been held in nearly, if not quite, all the States of the Union, for the purpose of giving public expression to public opinion upon this subject, wherein Republicans, prominent supporters of Grant in the last Presidential election, have joined Democrats, prominent opposers of Grant's election, in denouncing this forcible subordination of the civil powers of a State to the military power of the nation. The facts as we understand them are briefly these:

On the 4th day of January last, the lower House of the Legislature of Louisiana met to organize. There were present in the Legislative hall a number of soldiers under command of a Colonel; under whose command this Col. was not we believe known to the public. There were five members, or five men who claimed to be members present who had not been returned as elected by the board of canvassers, but whose cases had been referred to that branch of the Legislature to which they claimed an election for decision. The

house met and organized and declared these five members duly elected and entitled to their seats.—That each branch of every Legislative body is the sole judge of the election and qualification of its members is conceded by all.—Immediately upon the seating of these members the military by force dispersed the house. On the eighth of the month the Senate of the United States, by resolution asked the President for information as to this military interference with the organization and proceedings of the Legislature of Louisiana. On the 13th the President replied by message, in which he incorporated all the newspaper horrors, gotten up by partizan journals for campaign purposes, of crime and outrage charged to have been committed in Louisiana for the past eight years. He says he sent Sheridan to New Orleans to assume command or not as he pleased; but no one did wrong,—or if wrong was done no one intended it; that Sheridan never proposed an illegal act, and this too after he Sheridan had suggested that the President by proclamation should declare citizens outlawed to the end, as unmistakably intimated, that he, Sheridan, might butcher them at pleasure. The President had no idea that anybody was going to interfere with the Legislature.—So he says; yet, it comes to light that on the 24th of December last from the war department at Washington a confidential letter to Chicago, where his headquarters then were, was written to Sheridan, containing instructions from the President that he Sheridan should proceed to New Orleans, and from there suggest to the President what to do. The same letter gave Sheridan the power to assume command or not, at his pleasure. He was permitted to tell Gen. McDowell but not obliged to. Now why was he to assume command if he chose unless it was for the purpose of using the army? Grant in his message apologizes for his, Sheridan's, brutal suggestions by saying he is no lawyer. Then why did he send him there to make suggestions about a matter in which he was incompetent to form an opinion? In the language of Henry the VIII it is "too thin." Well, to proceed with the facts, Congress appointed a committee, to go to New Orleans, inform itself, and report upon the condition of affairs there. This committee appointed a sub-committee of three, composed of two Republicans and one Democrat, to go, take evidence, and by every means to inform itself fully of all matters pertaining to any alleged disturbances, intimidations or elections in Louisiana. This committee went, and after a fair and impartial investigation has reported, that they find no intimidation; that they find the white league to be only a political organization as harmless and as free from violence as other political clubs are, save in New Orleans, where they have armed themselves for protection against leagues among the blacks. This committee reported that not a single negro could be brought, or was brought before it who had been threatened, assaulted, discharged from or refused employment, by any Conservative because of political opinion. In a word the report of this committee, in which the two Republicans and the Democrat agree, shows conclusively the only need and use for soldiers, in New Orleans, was to enable the accomplishment of fraud and usurpation, on the part of the Republican party, and to uphold that usurpation after accomplished. This could not be disposed of as a rebel falsehood, born of hate and disloyalty, so it created consternation and dismay in administration circles; and party interest required its force to be weakened, and its effect to be diminished if possible. In other words, that the truth be smothered and its influence, as far as might be, destroyed by a contradiction, emanating from an equally high and authoritative source, however reckless of truth party necessity might require that contradiction to be. The party first, the constitution country and liberty afterwards is the test of loyalty! To this end the whole committee repaired to New Orleans and the telegraph brings us the news, that a compromise is likely to be effected.—That the five members are to be seated and other conciliating matters effected. Of course they want the matter hushed up. The people have shown a disposition to condemn the one man power enforced by the people's army. Grant tested their servility too soon! In the mean time Republican Senators in Congress are caucusing upon the policy of the party;—whether it will endorse Grant in his Louisiana trouble and thus share his responsibility or not? No decision yet arrived at. It is understood that there are eight Senators who are opposed to leading the party further with Grant's sins as it appears he will never get his cargo aboard.

Why was all this you say? Why Grant had a brother-in-law in New Orleans who wanted to be U. S. Senator, and the people elected a large majority of Democrats to the Legislature; and they were a contrary unaccommodating set, of small discernment, who preferred some one else to represent their State in the National Legislature, —and they blabbed this—so they were dispersed.

In the absence of a better reason, and in the light of the past, this is generally accepted by all who do not allow Grant to determine for them, as the true cause of all the trouble. Family affection is commendable but there may be too much of it.

Grant said he had no policy.

## THE UNCERTAINTY OF THE CONSTITUTION UNDER WHICH WE LIVE.

Certainly no people ever lived, whose fundamental law was so uncertain, and so capable of different constructions. And when a construction of the highest judicial tribunal, to which we can appeal, is placed upon any of the provisions of our Constitution, it is frequently not so supported by reason as to insure it against reversal, at some future day, when other men shall fill the high places of those now on our supreme bench. Not because of any want of ability in our present Judges but because the instrument itself is not sufficiently explicit to bear, in many of its parts, anything like a certain interpretation. For now nearly seven years, differences of opinion, as to the meaning of its provisions, have gone in great numbers, to the Supreme Court for decision, and yet we are apparently further from certainty than at the start. The Court itself in its various and numerous decisions upon Constitutional questions seems to have fallen into doubt and uncertainty, and not strangely either, for many of the provisions it has been called upon to construe would seem to bear different interpretations with equal ease. So that now, different opinions of the same court, composed of the same members, might be cited as authority, for different conclusions upon the same constitutional questions. If then, the Judges themselves cannot find sufficient reason for a definite and certain construction, how can the people be expected to know scarcely anything of their Constitution; save only that its provisions are beyond their comprehension; and that, so far as it effects their rights and interests, they are, in many respects as completely in the dark as if those rights and interests were to be effected by the uncontrolled will of a taciturn man?

We were thrown into this reflection by a recent decision of the Supreme Court of our State. In the second Judicial District Judge Jones elected in 1868 resigned; W. A. Moore was appointed to fill the vacancy. The Constitution in such cases provides that the appointee shall hold their places until the next regular election. The Legislature at its session of 1873-'74 provided for an election in this district in August, 1874, that being the regular election for Superior Court Judges. Louis Hilliard was elected and took his seat upon the bench, held courts, rendered judgments, punished offenders, and may have hung some. Judge Moore all this time claiming that he was the Judge and that Hilliard was usurping his place and was no Judge. The matter finally came before the Supreme Court where it has just been decided, that Hilliard was as Moore said, no Judge, and that he had been sitting upon the bench, administering the law effecting the rights of property and the rights of persons without due authority so to do. So in the eighth Judicial District, Starbuck was elected in 1868, but being shortly thereafter appointed United States Solicitor, we believe did not even qualify as Judge. John M. Cloud was appointed Judge in his district. At the last August election Thomas J. Wilson was elected by the people of that district to the bench. Cloud fussed and said ugly words but Wilson donned the ermine, traveled around the district, held courts; and disposed of the rights of persons and property, as they came before him; and left Judge Cloud free to devote his time uninterruptedly to the prosecution of whistling boys, all without due authority so to do. This case found its way, first before Judge Kerr who held that Wilson was the rightful Judge, and then before the Supreme Court which held that Cloud was the man to hold courts and deal out justice to the good people of the eighth district, —and if there was another place for the matter to go to, we would as soon look for Wilson to be replaced as for Cloud to be reinstated in his claims. And all this after a legislative construction, of the Constitution, which is next to the highest and most authoritative it can receive.

We want a Convention, so that the Constitution as a whole can be considered, and its different articles and sections can be rendered intelligible and harmonious. It has good features we wish retained. The uncertain parts we want so written as to bear one reasonable interpretation; and the parts, bad in themselves, and unsuited to our people, we wish expunged. We want it sufficiently ample in its provisions, and sparse in its restrictions, to enable the Legislature to enact such laws as it, in its wisdom, may deem good for the people. The Legislature has no such power now. It is hampered to an extent manifestly detrimental to the public good. When we elect Clerks, Sheriffs and Judges let us understand for how long we are electing them; and whether in fact we are electing them all.

R. M. Douglas, U. S. Marshal, for the Western District of North Carolina is called to Washington to explain the heavy expenditures of his district.

## UNITED STATES SENATORS RECENTLY ELECTED.

The late elections for members of the House of Representatives of the United States Congress, having resulted in the return of a large Democratic majority to that body, the public felt more than an ordinary interest in the result of the elections for United States Senators which were to occur in several of the States. We believe there are but two States yet to hold elections. While the Senate branch of the next Congress will not be, and by possibility could not have been Democratic, yet, the great success of that party begun in the fall elections, has continued undiminished in the selections of United States Senators.

Ohio elects the Hon. Allen G. Thurman, of great ability, rare attainments, and of unimpeached and unimpeachable character; the leader of his party in the Senate; the defender of the Constitution and the rights of the people thereunder;—a Democrat who wins the admiration and respect of even those who will not heed his teachings.

Little Delaware re-elects the Hon. Thomas F. Bayard, Democrat. He has large experience, and will, doubtless, maintain his already high reputation in the Senate.

Connecticut sends Hon. W. W. Eaton; and Virginia sends Hon. R. E. Withers, both Democrats; and both possessed of those qualities calculated to render their career in the place to which they have been chosen, useful to the country, and honorable to themselves. Neither has been Senator before.

New Jersey elects ex-Governor Randolph, a pure man, an able lawyer, an experienced statesman, and a Democrat.

From New York comes the Hon. Francis Kernan as the successor of Senator Fenton, a Democrat selected from his great State, where there are so many of his party, famous for their statesmanship, he cannot fail to become famous in his country's councils.

Judge McDonald, a Democrat, is sent from Indiana, in place of Senator Pratt, a Republican. The Judge is a pure man, of ability, distinguished, among the many able men of his section.

The great State of Pennsylvania has selected from the able men she had to choose from, that sterling Democrat, the Hon. William A. Wallace, a fit man for the high place he is chosen to fill.

Carl Schurz from Missouri gives way to General F. M. Cockrell, a lawyer of the first order of ability, and an ex-Confederate officer, and a Democrat.

Andrew Johnson, ex-President of the United States is again to take his seat in the Senate as the Representative of Tennessee;—and as he declares, of ante-bellum Democracy. He is we believe the second ex-President who has been elected to the Senate, in the history of the country.

Paddock, of Nebraska, a Republican, defeated the regular nominee of his party by the aid of Democratic votes, and is therefore, we take it, an improvement upon the man he beat, and whose intended place he will occupy.

Dawes, Republican, will take his seat from Massachusetts, as soon as Washburn gets out of it.

Judge Christiancy, a Republican, helped to his election by Democratic votes, beats Chandler in Michigan. Chandler should hope that forgetfulness of the reputation he earned for himself while in the Senate, will follow his defeat, and thus console himself.

Rhode Island, though small, puts in a prominent General and ex-Governor in the person of General A. E. Burnside to answer for one half her power in the Senate of the National Legislature. We believe, he is the same in whose honor a certain style of whiskers are called.

Judge Augustus Cameron, a Republican selected by Democrats, has defeated Carpenter of Wisconsin. When Democrats can't elect they select the best Republican they can find.

West Virginia will elect a Democrat, and Minnesota will elect—somebody.

So, it will be seen, that very soon, without very great change in the public mind, the Legislative department of the government will be fully in the control of the Democratic party. This is, we suppose, sad news to the great number of office-holders, whose places, in many instances, were created for their benefit. With the people generally it will be hailed as the harbinger of pure legislation; and the end of official positions as rewards to party favorites for party services. We want only such officers as are necessary to the administration of the government.

The people are beginning to see and understand that one mode adopted by the Republican party to recruit its ranks, was, by its acts, to proclaim a reward in the shape of place and pay, to those who would forsake party and conviction, and work for its continued supremacy, and if it had no place at hand, that it would create one. They are tired of it. The masses are honest. They are not looking for place or pay at the hands of any party. Their interest is in having a simple, just and economical government; one that will allow them, to till the soil and sell the product to a neighbor if they choose, and can agree about the price; one that will allow them, molesting no one, to convert the products of their own soil, raised by their own labor, into any article of commerce sanctioned by law, without having one of these officials, who it may be has sold his politics for his place, watching them as he would a thief while they handle their own

property. And they already rejoice in the prospect of better times; when their burdens will be lightened by a diminished number of officers and place men whom they have to support, and generally make rich;—when their privileges and rights restored, shall make them once more free men.

## IMPORTANT DECISION OF THE SUPREME COURT.

In the case of the Trustees of the University against Alexander McIver, former Superintendent of Public Instruction, which was argued at the last summer term of the Supreme Court, the Court took an advisory and has just rendered its opinion.

One of the questions involved was the validity of the constitutional amendments proposed by the General Assembly at its session of 1871-'72; submitted to the people for ratification by an act of the Legislature of its session of 1872-'73, and ratified by the people at their August election of 1873.

At the sessions of 1871-'72 there were a large number of amendments, all contained in one act, proposed by the Legislature; which act was published as required. The Legislature, at its session of 1872-'73, adopted only eight of these amendments; and each of these in a separate act. These eight were ratified by the people and declared duly adopted. Under one of these amendments the Legislature elected a Board of Trustees for the University. This Board was the plaintiff in this action.

It was contended that the eight constitutional amendments, under one of which this Board was appointed, adopted as recited, were not made a part of the Constitution according to the true meaning of that instrument providing for its own amendment by Legislative enactment.

The Court has decided that they were regularly adopted, and that, their all being contained in one act, together with others when proposed, and after wards contained in eight separate acts, made no difference; and that they are now as valid and as much a part of the Constitution as any section in it.

The Court further decided that the Legislature had the right to elect the members of the Board of Trustees.

In consequence of this decision the Board will meet in Raleigh on 10th instant, when it is expected that something practical will be done looking to the resuscitation of that once proud but now dilapidated seat of learning.

## CHRISTIAN CHARITY AND BROTHERLY LOVE.

[From the Boston Herald, Jan. 19.]

At the regular weekly meeting of the Methodist preachers of Boston and vicinity, held at Wesleyan Hall this forenoon, the recent difficulties in Louisiana were discussed at considerable length. Bishop Bowman gave an account of what he knew about the treatment of colored people in Louisiana, narrating a number of instances in which they had been shamefully abused and deprived of their even. By invitation Rev. B. I. Ives, of New York, addressed the meeting and his speech was of the Radical kind. He declared there is altogether too much toadyism on the part of Northern people in their treatment of the South.

He said we are undertaking now to coax the devil out of the miserable whelps down South, when nothing but strychnine and cannon ought to be used. He rather agreed with Phil Sheridan's declaration during the war, "that if he had owned hell and Texas he would lease out Texas and live in the other place." Mr. Ives administered a castigation to the church declaring that there is not a paper in the Methodist church that dares discuss the civil rights bill, and ask that it be enforced. He said he believed the meanest rascals in the South are in the Methodist church South. He declared himself a Radical of the strongest kind. And he said he believed the more he hated the rebels of the South the more he loved God.

He declared he believed that the spirit now rampant in the South has got to be crushed out by another war, and he longed for the appearance of some colored man able to become a leader among his people, wielding the sword and torch. He said the bishops ought to come out publicly and declare the whole truth about the treatment of the colored people in the South, but they didn't believe they would. If they did, he knew they couldn't return to the South, for if they did, they would be hung; but he intimated that it was no worse to hang a bishop than a minister, but he suggested if it was done it might wake up the people quicker than anything else.

He thought the bishops were too tender hearted and they reminded him of the man who wanted to cut off his dog's tail but he was too tender hearted to cut it off where it ought to be, so he cut off an inch at the time. The speech of Mr. Ives was received with frequent demonstrations of approval; some of his most radical utterances exciting considerable applause, mingled with laughter.

How they love us! and how they try, by gentle words, to win us! All the bitterness and bad feeling is with the south! All the forgiveness and gentleness is with our northern brethren! None but those of the south, are violent in word or deed, and they persist in so being against the mild and persuasive efforts of those of the north who so love them. What savages they must be! not to appreciate, and be influenced by, the affection lavished upon them. Can any one of the south, feel otherwise than grieved at having provoked the brother to the use of such intemperate language?—[Ed.]

Brown of Kentucky, and McLean of Texas, have been telling Butler of his meanness to his race.—No information to Butler or the country.