

THE GLEANER

E. S. PARKER, Editor.

GRAHAM N. C. AUGUST 20 1879

THE NORTH CAROLINA SYSTEM.

For some weeks passed these words have frequently appeared in many newspapers of the State, and they refer to our railroads, or rather to those roads that we should be able to properly call ours. It was the dream of the early advocates of internal improvements in our State to have a trunk line from the extreme West to the East, and build up a North Carolina port, from which the produce of our State would largely be shipped.

The new board of directors of the Atlantic and North Carolina Railroad Company have elected Col. A. B. Andrews, Superintendent. Col. Andrews has the reputation of being an efficient manager of railroads; and his qualifications for the position are hardly to be questioned. But, if the purpose is to carry out, after such long delay, the idea of a system that would carry North Carolina produce to water transportation on the North Carolina coast, when we remember Col. Andrews' other engagements, we can but feel some surprise at the selection.

Col. Andrews is now, and has for some years been, the Superintendent of what was the North Carolina Railroad, in the employ of the Richmond & Danville Railroad Company, and how he can serve the interest of both roads, entirely untrammelled, may well be considered a question in the minds of ordinary mortals. Allowing however that the appointment is an entirely proper one, and that no conflict of interest between the two roads, managed by Col. Andrews, can, or does arise; and that an earnest effort is made to make Newbern and Morehead City large shipping points; there is something else needed, besides a railroad and favorable freight tariffs, and water, and a harbor, to build up commerce. Capital, energy, enterprise, business qualifications and experience are all essentials. Now, when we consider these do we not see a great obstacle in the way of the achievement of that North Carolina System which contemplates Morehead City as the place at which our freights, from the Mountains all along the line, are to find carriage to the various markets of the world.

North Carolina ports and not against them, and should like to see Newbern, and Morehead City, and Wilmington, and all our cities and towns, and all our people prosperous, but it does seem to us that Wilmington affords us about our only hope of realizing a North Carolina System, that will ship any considerable portion of North Carolina produce from a North Carolina port.

HIGH SCANDAL.

At the home of ex-Governor, and ex-United States Senator Sprague, at Narragansett Pier, in Rhode Island, there was a little more than a week ago quite a scene, in which were mixed up Mr. Sprague himself, Senator Roscoe Conkling, of New York, and Mrs. Sprague, with occasional glimpses of a German teacher named Linck, but this last person is so vaguely seen as to give rise to doubt whether he was really there in person, or whether his presence is the creation of an excited vision. The first account of the affair only presented Mr. Sprague and the German teacher, as actors, and it is charged that this was with intent to deceive. About all there is of the German teacher is that there is such a man, something unknown to the public before, and that he might have been there, whether he was or not. As to the other actors, who, to say the least, were leading characters, they are well known to the public, and they were there, as was also a shot gun, and some profanity. The reporters have been busy, and one account after another has appeared, until columns have been printed, and we plead guilty to reading all we have seen, and from it all we learn about as follows: Mrs. Sprague, who is the daughter of the late Chief Justice Chase, spends much of her time in Washington city, and that she is fair to look upon. Her husband does not stay much in Washington. Senator Conkling also spends much of his time in Washington, and Mrs. Conkling does not. Mrs. Sprague and Mr. Conkling, through sympathy perhaps, each for the lonely condition of the other, became very fast friends, so much so that an immoral public insinuates ugly things concerning their manifest intimacy, and liking for each other. Hints of dark hue found their way into the public prints, Mr. Sprague saw these; probably heard much more. On the occasion of the scene, Mr. Conkling had gone to Sprague's house, taken his baggage and set himself up for a pleasant visit. Sprague got a shot gun, cursed the handsome Senator all into heaps, gave him five minutes to leave his house, and in default of his so doing declared his intention to open fire upon his wife's best friend. Conkling had nothing in his hand but an umbrella, and what was that to a shot gun? and so he left—within the time, perscribed. During the truce, Mrs. Sprague appeared upon the stage, and she also left, taking with her whatever she could hurriedly have packed.

The troupe appears to have broken up for good, and no repetition of the play is likely to be witnessed. Conkling claims that there is political significance attached to it, while Sprague claims that its character is purely social.

CANDIDATES FOR GOVERNOR

In another column we publish a Raleigh letter to the Goldsboro Messenger, giving the correspondents views upon the present status of the aspirants for Governor, together with the names of those prominently spoken of for that exalted position. In the Democratic list we find eighteen, and they may be called an assorted lot. Some of them will never be Governor, and never ought to be. It is more than likely however that the name of the next Governor of the State may be found in the list. Some of the gentlemen mentioned can hardly be called aspirants for the place, while others are, and have been for some time, aspiring very laboriously. An ambition grossly in excess of ability, coupled with egotism and flattery will hardly do for the make up of the Democratic candidate for Governor in 1880. A nomination, if prudently made, will insure an election, but these radicals may wake up, and give us something of a campaign after all, so we had better be a little particular for that reason, if for no other. By the way, what does it take to make a man prominent for Governor, anyway? Isn't there some mistake about a few in that list? Well, perhaps it will do no great harm to say they are spoken of in that connection, and it doubtless does them a power of good. It is fortunate that some people can so enjoy simply being spoken of for Governor, instead of deferring their pleasure until spoken of as Governor.

"METROPOLITAN MATTERS."

NEWS AND VIEWS AT OUR STATE CAPITAL.

(Special Correspondence of the Messenger.)

RALEIGH, August 13, 1879.

The dog days are dull at the Capital. Many residents are away at the summer resorts, trade is fallen down between seasons, and there is a conspicuous absence of the politician element in the slack stream of travel that flows through Raleigh at this time of the year. The Supreme Court is still in session, and will be until September, the cutting down of the Court to three members imposing almost double work on the Chief Justice and associate Justices. The conviction is very general that it was a mistake to have reduced our court of last resort from five to three Judges, and already a constitutional amendment restoring the Court is under discussion. Fewer lawyers from a distance have attended this session than has been since the war, owing to the act of the last Legislature taking away what is known to the profession as the tax fee to attorneys. The Treasurer is at his post daily, issuing new and cancelling all State bonds, and with reasonable time he will have adjusted the old debt of the State and brought it under a figure easy to manage. The Governor, Attorney-General and Superintendent of Public Instruction are also in their places, the Secretary of State and Auditor alone being absent. The former at the North Carolina Warm Springs and the latter at his home in Haywood county. Late advices from Col. Saunders are to the effect that he is not so well, and he is expected to return in a few days to attend the Press Convention at Beaufort, of which he is President, after which he goes to Buffalo Springs, seeking restoration of his impaired health.

THE NEXT GOVERNOR.

The absence of the usual number of lawyers and professional politicians from the State Capital during the summer has left the gubernatorial question not definitely settled, but the subject is having due consideration at the hands of the laymen. Thus far the number of candidates, probable and possible, seems limited to the present incumbent, Judges Fowle, Merrimon, Howard, Ashe, Cox, McKoy and Shipp; Hons. Wm T. Dortch, James M. Leach, A. M. Seales, M. S. McGehee, Robert B. Vance, A. M. Waddell, James L. Robinson, George Davis, William M. Robbins and Col. Thomas M. Holt, a round dozen and a half, representing an array of fitness to select from seldom, if ever surpassed in any State. The strength of the incumbent is at present and must remain an unknown quantity until near the nominating time, dependent always on the success and popularity of his administration, a result impossible to forecast at the end of his first half year of governing. Of all others mentioned, Judge Fowle has developed decidedly more strength than any, and as matters now stand would carry off the nomination. But the incumbent will undoubtedly improve as his administration grows older, and but for permitting the election of the present President of the North Carolina Railroad, might have held the West solid, whereas he may not score one beyond the Ridge. The third and last mentioned have each an organ at the Capital, but they may both be safely counted out from the start. Howard is positively strong only in a section of the State pretty well divided between Jarvis and Fowle. Cox will command the nomination for Congress from this district, if he wants it, and will not, therefore, probably be in the gubernatorial way. The support of all the others would be local, or at most, confined to a district, except Ashe, who could unite the Cape Fear and Pee Dee regions. The race, viewed this early, is between Jarvis and Fowle, with present odds in favor of the latter, but with the final chances that the former will win; Judge Ashe, of all others, alone commanding strength enough to decide the contest between Jarvis and Fowle.

MAKING WAR ON JARVIS.

The effort which has been made to render the Governor unpopular in regard to what is known as the "State System" will end in a political boomerang which will fall at the feet of those who sent it up, to the destruction of their influence and their friends, and leave the gubernatorial game to laugh at the hunters. Senator Vance is reported to have warmed up at the changing of his pet management on the Atlantic and North Carolina Railroad, and is said to be bringing the power of his ridicule to bear on the North Carolina scheme. He doubtless feels keenly alive to the nomination of his brother Robert for Governor, but his warmth over the Atlantic Road must have grown into intense heat when he read in the papers that his management of the road had gotten away with ten per cent. of the gross, and half the net earnings for a whole year. With all due regard for his ability, unfortunately, Gov. Vance was never, himself, capable as an Executive head, of protecting the State's interest, from his utter lack of administrative vigilance, and while no one is disposed to be unnecessarily harsh of the late management of the Atlantic Road, or to attach any particular blame to Governor Vance for the state of affairs down there, or for the escape of his European agent at the close of the war. It would be only fair and commonly decent for him to keep his mouth shut respecting the administration of his successor. There may or may not be anything in a North Carolina system, but any effort in that direction must be an effort in behalf of North Carolina, and he who essays to do something for the good of his State, whether he fail or be successful, surely deserves well of his day and generation. During the administration of Governor Vance, the freight on a barrel of apples from Old Fort to Raleigh was more than the prime cost and freight added on the same article from the orchards of New England. It has been said that a North Carolina System is designed to alter this state of things, and it may be well to suspend judgement until it is seen if these things can be done.

HOSPILITY OF THE PRESS.

There is developed in the press an unexpected hostility to the State System, and the simultaneousness of the movement was sufficient to raise the suspicion that it was a common inspiration. Charlotte, the most magnificent railroad cen-

tre of the State, and our queen city of the Inland, suddenly became alarmed at the threatening attitude of the sandbanks that fringe the waters of Bogue and Cocco Sounds at Morehead city. Wilmington, in the midst of commercial splendor, less real only because we have had no North Carolina system to foster her, grew panic-stricken at the roar of the waves which alone distress the solitude of the deserted Beaufort Harbor. The leading paper at the Capital, and the chief power of the press of the State changed its policy in a night, and looking only to Wilmington, turned its back upon North Carolina, and whatever is called North Carolinian, in contradiction to the country of the Cape Fear. But strangest of all, the great will-o'-the-wisp of the press, penetrating and penetrating everywhere—owned and controlled by the President of the North Carolina Railroad Company, the main centre, the soul and substance of any possible North Carolina System, has furiously flashed its fire-fly lamp in opposition to the State Policy and every other possible, present and remote interest of the State. In its spirit of personal malevolence it even assails the Agricultural Department, while its owner and controller is President of the Agricultural Society, and by virtue thereof the chief director of the Agricultural Board. But then each of these metropolitan dailies have their candidates for Governor. Such species of warfare on the present incumbent is calculated, with the sober second thought, to strengthen him, and therein lies the danger to his chief opponents.

OTHER POSITIONS OF STATE.

The gubernatorial question has overshadowed all other considerations of minor importance. The Lieutenant Governorship has scarcely been thought of here, and will not be talked of until the first position shall have apparently centered on one of sufficient prominence to make him a possible nominee for the Senate in 1882. Thus far about the only name suggested with anything like a possible following is Col. Thomas M. Holt, of Alamance. There will likely be no change in the office of Secretary of State, while it would shake human credulity to suggest any other name for the position filled by Treasurer Worth, unless he should decline, die or run away with the State wallet between now and nomination day. Nothing has been said about the Auditor or Superintendent of Public Instruction, while only the names of C. B. Watson, Esq., of Winston, and Col. Walker Clark, of Raleigh, have been mentioned for the position of Attorney General, which considering the efficiency of Judge Kennan, speaks volumes for their strength and popularity.

THE REPUBLICANS.

The Republican slate is not made up. Dr. Grissom is an almost unanimous choice for Governor, as their conversation and speculations now turn. But his closest personal friends say he is not in politics, and cannot afford to throw away the advantages of his splendid professional reputation for political pretense and especially to enter the doubtful field of Republican politics in North Carolina. The name of Judge Reade has been suggested and also Judge Buxton, but the strongest candidate, excepting Grissom, appears to be Judge Wm. P. Bynum, of Charlotte, and late of Supreme Court. But whoever shall undertake the nomination next year must lead a forlorn hope, as under no sort of circumstances can the Republicans hope to carry North Carolina in 1880. B. HUNT.

THE NIGGER.

The Lamars Sentinel a stalwart Republican paper of Iowa has this to say of the negro: While the amiable idliocy that prevailed in Congress during the reconstruction days was at its height, the nigger was enfranchised. He was invested with the ballot on the pretty theory that he was a man and a brother; with an infusion of sand in his make-up. It was given him on the school-girl notion that affection for the party that gave him his freedom would make him its perpetual instrument. But the nigger is less serviceable to the Republican party, as a voter, than he was as a slave. He needs too much coddling—too much protection. He can only vote the Republican ticket when surrounded by a cordon of Republican bayonets. There is no grit in him. There is more voting energy and party strength in a dozen raw Irishmen than in a thousand well fed niggers. There is not an ounce of Stalwartism in a ton of nigger. The more nigger the less strength. As a slave, the picturesque misery of the nigger was an unending army of party weapons—as a freeman there is no romance in him—cowardice is not romantic. All over the South he is throwing his ballot for rebels and traitors, when he votes at all. He is too cowardly to vote his convictions or too stupid to have convictions. When the stalwarts get into power in 1880, he must either be disfranchised or compelled to vote right. The free nigger is a fraud.

ACCIDENT ON THE WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA RAILROAD.

On last Thursday, the mail train from Salisbury west was benighted time, and just as it emerged from the western portal of the first tunnel this side of Swannanoa, the engineer saw rushing down grade to meet him four flat cars, one at least loaded with stone and dirt, at a speed of fifty or sixty miles per hour. He reversed his engine and pulled the throttle wide open, but the rushing flats were upon him. Mr. Charles Gordon, the engineer Conductor Newland, and the fireman were painfully but not very seriously injured. The passengers were considerably jolted, but save some bruises were unhurt. The wonder is that no lives were lost.

GO WEST YOUNG MAN

And old man, and young lady and old lady, and those of uncertain age, and children all

GO WEST of the court house to the store bearing the sign

J. W. HARDEN To buy YOUR GROCERIES YOUR HARDWARE YOUR DRY GOODS YOUR SHOES & BOOTS YOUR HATS & CAPS YOUR READY-MADE CLOTHING YOUR LEATHERS YOUR BUGGY FINDINGS YOUR EDGE TOOLS YOUR NOTIONS YOUR CROCKERY & GLASS WARE YOUR TIN & HOLLOW WARE YOUR LADY'S HATS & BONNETS AND EVERYTHING ELSE YOU WANT To sell YOUR CHICKENS, YOUR EGGS, YOUR BUTTER, YOUR WHEAT, YOUR FLOUR, YOUR OATS, YOUR CORN, YOUR PRODUCE, OF EVERY KIND. Come and see 7. 2. 79. tf J. W. HARDEN.

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All these and many other articles in the greatest variety, from common to the finest, Burial Cases and Coffins from common to the very finest, always on hand, in large numbers, of assorted sizes, so that any application can be filled at once. Also

BURIAL ROBES, of all sizes, beautiful and convenient, always on hand. I shall be obliged if people will call and look for themselves. R. GULLETT, Greensboro, N. C. 50c-79. 1y.

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