

THE GLEANER

GRAHAM N. C. August 27 1879

E. S. PARKER, Editor.

General Grant has expressed himself to a high Chinese official in regard to the Presidency as follows—as reported:

"I have held the office of President as long as it has ever been held by any man. There are others who have risen to great distinction at home and who have earned the honor, who are worthy and to whom it belongs, not to me. I have no claims to the office. It is a place distasteful to me, a place of hardship and responsibilities."

We hardly believe Grant said it. It is rather sensible chat for him, and not at all like Grant. We hope for his fame, and for the reputation of the country, in so far as he effects it, that he did say it, and will stick to it.

The Greenback party in Texas has assumed such proportions and developed so much life and activity as to be a serious apprehension to the Democrats. The great number of aspirants for United States Senator have created a jar in the Democratic organization, and the Republicans, being in a hopeless minority, will join the Greenbackers on account of their position on the public school question, and so it is thought possible that Hammond who led the Greenback ticket as candidate for Governor in the last campaign may succeed Maxey in the United States Senate.

The Ohio campaign is in full blast. John Sherman and Carl Schurz are both their speech making, and another assessment of five per cent is made upon department clerks in Washington, for campaign purposes. Many of these clerks are women, and it is proper to force them to contribute to a campaign fund while forbidding them to vote? They are forced to pay the fiddler and are not allowed to participate in the dancing. By the way, when the salary of a clerk is fixed, say at one hundred dollars per month, with the tacit understanding that five or ten per cent. of that salary is to go into the Republican campaign fund, is it not a pretty thin trick by which the revenues of the country are made to do partisan service? Why not put the salary at just what the clerks get, and deliberately take the percentum from the treasury? It would be a more manly, open course, and the effect would be precisely the same.

POLITICS AND SHOT GUNS.

The very foundation of our system of government is the liberty of the people in casting their votes. This liberty has never been full and complete. Extraneous influences have always in some degree been brought to bear upon voters. For instance, the employer has perhaps always in a measure controlled the votes of the employed. Corporations and large manufacturing establishments, whose hands are more than ordinarily dependent upon them, have manifested a growing disposition to control the votes of those whose situations mean bread for themselves and families. Recently we have heard much of force and violence as means of controlling votes when there were no relations existing between the parties to be used for the purpose. That there has been something of this must be true, but that accounts of it are for party purposes grossly exaggerated is no doubt also true. While this coercion has in various ways been practiced upon voters, in every State in the Union, and for a great number of years, yet candidates have, for being such, been unmolested, certainly as a rule and probably without exception, only in so far as they stood threatened with the pains and penalties of party discipline. In Yazoo county, Miss., force, or rather a show of force and threatened violence have been used to drive a man from a candidacy for office.

Henry M. Dixon, a Southern man and a Democrat, declared himself an independent candidate for Sheriff of the county. A meeting of citizens was held, at which about three hundred are reported to have been present, and after resolving that the candidacy of Dixon was dangerous to the peace and welfare of the county, he was waited upon, and induced by dire threats to himself and supporters to withdraw, and he signed a card to that effect. In extension of this unheard of proceeding it is argued that the character of Dixon was such as to raise the gravest apprehensions of riot and bloodshed, and that the action of the three hundred was really in the interest of peace and order. Affairs must have reached a desperate condition when such a remedy was considered necessary. That Dixon was a man of desperate and reckless courage seems to be well established. The negroes, who are in a majority in that county were his followers, through fear, not because of their liking for confidence in him. He stands charged with no less than six murders. He is said to have upon one occasion, solitary and alone, approached a crowd of negroes, and with drawn revolver,

compelled them to hang, until he was dead, one of their own number. The history of his crimes, and of his life for years past, forms a story of blood and murder that is scarcely credible, for its atrocity: On the 19th day of this month the man who had so mercilessly murdered others, was himself shot down in the streets of Yazoo City by a man named Jones Barksdale. Of this tragedy the telegraph furnishes the following account:

A difficulty occurred at Yazoo City yesterday between Jones Barksdale and Henry M. Dixon, resulting in the death of the latter. Dixon, while passing down the west side of Main street, was hailed by Barksdale from the east side, who advanced to the middle of the street armed with a double-barrelled shot gun. Dixon halted and immediately drew a pistol. Barksdale raised the gun to his shoulder and Dixon seeing this moved toward a stairway when Barksdale fired, four buckshot taking effect in Dixon's back. Dixon then fired several times at Barksdale but without effect. Barksdale then fired a second shot but it missed his victim. Dixon bled internally and died at 4:30 p. m. A preliminary trial will take place to-morrow. The difficulty is represented as of a personal nature by Barksdale's friends.

If Dixon was anything like the man he is represented to be he was a curse to the community in which he lived. Whatever may have been the immediate, or proximate cause of Barksdale's murderous attack, it will be set down as political, and to the discredit of the State and section where it occurred. As manifestly unjust as it is, the people of Mississippi and of the South will suffer in reputation as an orderly people, from this occurrence. Upon the heels of this comes another awful tragedy in California, some particulars of which we publish in another column. That bad men are to be found in every State and community, and that crimes more or less horrible will always be committed, as they always have been, is probably true, but whenever these occur at the South, there is a united effort on the part of the Republican press to charge them to a general lawlessness characteristic of the Southern people, and especially of the Democratic party. It is useless to point to the fact that crimes equally atrocious and greater in number in proportion to population, are perpetrated at the North. The charge of lawlessness and absence of political freedom at the South has been so frequently and so persistently made, and every transgression so grossly exaggerated, not to mention actual and totally unfounded misrepresentations, that it is not strange if many people, seeing nothing of us, and hearing nothing save what reaches them through a designing partizan press, should believe us to be little better than a set of desperadoes and cut throats. The injustice of holding a community responsible for the acts of one or two reckless and lawless individuals is not considered.

WASHINGTON LETTER.

One of the knaves have come to grief who stole the vote of Louisiana from Tilden and gave it to Hayes. He yielded to the blandishments of men who are now Supreme Judges, Cabinet ministers, and ministers to foreign countries, and is now left alone to pay the expenses of the theft he aided to commit. His name is Casanave, and he is here to complain in person to the men whom he assisted to wealth and honor. The members of the Returning Board were prosecuted criminally for changing the returns of the Presidential vote of Louisiana, and when the Board's lawyers came to collect their fee they found this man Casanave the only one of their clients who had any property. They propose to sell that property, and Casanave justly says that it is hard that he, the only member of the Board who hasn't a fat office, should be compelled to lose his property while the others go free. If we hadn't had years of experience of Louisiana politicians we should all think from this story, that there was something extraordinary in this treatment of Casanave. It is however, only in keeping with what has happened among the radicals of that State constantly for years.

It is a pity that Mrs. Sprague has rushed into the newspapers with accounts—two at least—of the quarrel between her husband and Senator Conkling. The accounts so far published as coming from her are not consistent with each other or with probability. Neither does either of them agree with facts which are well known here, but which Mrs. Sprague seems to think were not known. The lady in the case has spoken, and Senator Sprague, through a friend, has had his say, and now explanation and denial from Senator Conkling are in order. It would be a pleasure to hear from him on the subject. He listened to words from Senator Sprague that "no good man would deserve and no brave man wear." He ought, at least, to speak.

All your readers will be glad to know that the report of the death of Genl. Grant's only daughter, Mrs. Sartoris, was false. She is alive and well in England. We in Washington hear only good news from the Maine campaign, and have assurances from every county that the result will be all that could be hoped for. Radical letters from Augusta show that Senator Blaine has no hope of the election of Davis, his candidate for Governor, by the people. HILTON.

A CARD. BEAUFORT, N. C. August 20, 1879. EDITOR OBSERVER: I desire, with your permission, to give a brief account of the destruction of the Atlantic Hotel at Beaufort during the late storm.

At 1 o'clock Monday morning I was aroused by the whistling of the wind and found my clerk and night watchman up. The wind was then blowing very fresh and increasing with a beating rain. From 2 to 4 o'clock there was no change, but after the latter hour it commenced to blow a gale, and the tide was coming in. It was still very dark, and the rain pouring in torrents. I then thought it best to make provision to scuttle the floors so as to let out a portion of the water which was dashing against them with such force as to result in tearing them up. Just here, I will say that no alarm or notice had been given the guests of the danger, because it was yet dark, and I was fearful in the panic many lives would be lost, for the reason that they would have been unable to see their way out of the hotel.

As soon as I discovered that there was no hope of the wind abating or of the tide receding, and at the first peep of day, I ordered the clerks and boatmen to go through the hotel and notify the guests that they must leave the building at once and especially charged them to allow no trunks to be removed. The reason for this order will be explained a little later on. I then notified my own family to get ready to move, and while they were dressing I went down stairs and assisted a number of ladies across the bridge to the main land, and I then took my own family out.

If all the guests did not relieve timely notice it was because of the howling of the wind through the building and the slamming of doors and shutters. The women and children were gotten out safely, thanks to a good Providence, and all the men were reported safely on land before the bridges were swept away. But it turned out that two young men from Newbern, Owen Guilin and William Disoway, did not hear the alarm and they were caught in their rooms on the third floor, and there was no escape for them except to jump out of the third story window, which they did, and were driven by the force of the waves to the shore, with some scratches. After this an alarm was given that three ladies were seen to wave from the windows, appealing for help; and this alarm, unfounded as it appears it afterwards turned out to be, no doubt was the cause of the sad death of John D. Hughes, of Newbern, who, when he thought he saw women in such danger, madly rushed to their assistance, and it is supposed was killed by the floating debris in his frantic efforts to reach the hotel and carried off by the strong current that was then running.

I was in company with Mr. Hughes through the trying scenes of saving life, and no one worked more faithfully and earnestly than he. It seems that he thought the lives of all depended upon his ability to snatch them from the fury of the waves, unmindful of danger himself, and turned a deaf ear to the warnings of his friends to be more careful of his own life. Those who knew him will not be surprised to hear of his noble and heroic conduct, as through his whole life, he has been remarkably noted for just such shining traits of character; forgetful of self when others could be served. To his bereaved mother and father and his entire family and large circle of friends, let me offer my deepest sympathy and mingle with them my tears over the remains of one who died as he had lived, noble and self-sacrificing and with a character and example worthy of imitation.

Another sad death occurred as the result of the storm, W. H. Congleton, a resident of Beaufort and a boatman. He was at the hotel about 2 o'clock and was among the number who gave the alarm to the guests. The last I saw of him was about 4 o'clock when I gave him an axe to scuttle the floors and it is supposed he was washed off one of the piazzas. He was an industrious and hard working man, and his loss is sadly felt by his friends in this community. He too died in the discharge of a high and noble duty. A few moments after the last person was rescued from the hotel, the long plank bridge was swept away, then the building on the main-land, used as a billiard and bar room, and after this, the roof of the hotel began to fall, and portions of it were blown several hundred yards before falling to the water. The kitchen began to tumble and then followed the hotel proper, which was completely swept from the blocks at one stroke. The guests took refuge in the houses near by, but were compelled to abandon them very soon and seek shelter on the back street, which was strewn with huge trees that had been torn up by the roots and were falling on every side as the people were passing through.

The citizens of Beaufort opened wide their doors and gave all a cordial welcome. Wearing apparel was furnished to those who were drenched with rain and sea-spray, as also were tables set with provisions. If there are any who are disposed to attach any blame to me for the loss of their valuables and baggage, or for the hurried manner in which they were compelled to abandon the hotel, I have this to say: At 4 o'clock in the morning, it was pitch dark with a driving rain, and the tide coming in rapidly but not high. I saw and felt the danger that was ahead and, in the midst of all this, about one hundred and fifty precious souls were in the hotel entirely ignorant of the storm that was raging outside, and the fearful destruction to life and property that was likely to ensue. I shuddered when I thought of the consequence if the guests should receive the alarm during the darkness, and besought every one to keep quiet till daylight.

There were only two courses to pursue: to notify them or wait and take the chance of the tide not being too high at break of day, and the result has confirmed my judgement, as not a single accident occurred while leaving the hotel. In regard to loss of clothing, jewelry, &c.: I well knew if a longer notice had been given many of the guests would have packed their trunks and insisted on taking them away, and in that event the passage and hallways would have been blocked up, thus completely shutting off all means of egress. JOHNSON.

If any mistake has occurred, it is an error of judgment, and I am perfectly willing to share all the responsibility of it, especially when not a single life has been lost by such a mistake, if it was one. In that period between four and five o'clock, I would cheerfully have surrendered all I possessed or expected to have if I could have been honorably relieved of the great responsibility that I felt was resting upon me.

I sympathize with those who have been such heavy losers of clothing, &c., but nearly all of us are in the same condition, as my own family have not a single change. After the storm abated, and as soon as Governor Jarvis (who was one of the guests) saw there was no organized force to clear up the debris for the purpose of recovering the baggage, he promptly ordered out a gang of men and paid them to do this work. Gen. B. C. Manly and Dr. Blacknall also rendered valuable assistance to the guests in reclaiming their property. The Beaufort Light Infantry, Capt. Geo. Charlotte, were on duty protecting the property during the excitement. B. L. PERRY, Proprietor late Atlantic Hotel.

SCHOOL ORGANIZATION. BIG FALLS, N. C. August 15th 1879.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE GLEANER:—Through your paper as a medium we will say a few words about School Organization. We think that in no profession among men is there such a want of uniformity, and such diversified views on the general principles that should govern us, as this subject. Our Churches have their conferences, synods, assemblies, associations &c.; lawyers their legal clubs; physicians their medical societies; mechanics their Boards of Trade, and mechanics their union leagues &c. But how few are the organizations of our school teachers, especially county organizations. This fact my fellow teachers is worthy of our consideration. If we, as a body of men ever expect to receive that consideration which the noble work which we are engaged in entitles us to, we must work harmoniously together. There must be concert of action. Then we must have our State and County Associations more perfectly worked up. We have, it is true, our State Teachers Association. But every county should have its Association. Gentlemen, we must rally, if we ever expect to accomplish anything worthy of combined effort and action. So long as we try the one man power just so long may we expect our profession to be looked down on and the work of training and educating children of minor importance. We can mould public opinion if we try; we can command the highest regard and respect; we can receive the most profound respect if we will do our whole duty. Then let us labor to endow our profession with that zeal and devotion it deserves. We should endeavor to rid ourselves of all clogs that hinder forward movements. Let men and women who know nothing and care less for the success of the schools and their reputation be banished from the schools, and let the brotherhood recognize and own as a worthy member he who most earnestly strives to elevate and make the profession better by his membership. We should strive to let no tramps enter our ranks, the earnest working bees in the hive should sting the useless drones out. Just so long as the large army of incompetent teachers crowd our ranks, so long may we expect to find bitter and powerful opposition to us as a class of men. The public is not slow to perceive what is to their advantage educationally. Let true men and women fill the schools of the land, and let the people see that good and solid work is being done in the schools; abolish your sham exhibitions and stuffed examinations and prove by honest labor that you are rendering an equivalent value for value received and the cry of high taxes for school purposes will no longer be heard in the land. Fill our schools with men and women who have not only thoroughly prepared themselves for the responsibilities of the teacher, but who have determined to die with the harness on.

"The hand that rocks the cradle rules the world" is as applicable, it not more so, to the teacher than the mother. The mind of the child is no mere bangle or playing that we can amuse ourselves with for a few moments and then carelessly toss aside. It is by far the most brilliant gem the Great Teacher of all has ever vouchsafed to our keeping. Then the teacher should study its structure well. The child is as plastic clay in his hands, subject to his will to be moulded and fashioned, trained and educated to grace every walk in life or to become, by false education and bad training an incubus on society. The school room is the nursery of the future destiny of the child, and as it there learns its lessons, so will be the failure or the success which will attend its after years. To the teacher is entrusted the power of fashioning his pupils' character, and tilling the virgin soil of their young susceptible hearts. With what watchfulness and care should this most sacred of all duties be entered upon and when entered upon, what fidelity and earnestness will it not demand at his hands. The responsibilities of the teacher when viewed from a true standpoint, is not to be undertaken without a full appreciation of the nature of the duties he may be called upon to perform. To impart the lessons of every day life, to instruct in the various branches which constitute an education are not the only tasks that lie within the sphere of his duty. There are others of far greater importance, because they become part of the very nature of his pupil, and are as lasting as the years of his life. Then the teacher should guard well the sacred trust committed to his keeping and study child-nature, and never assume the high position of teacher unless he is fully imbued with love for the noble work. JOHNSON.

Col. A. B. Gorrell, of Winston, Chief Marshal of the next State Fair has appointed three Assistant Marshals from each Congressional district in the State. From this district Thos. C. Worth of Randolph, Neal Ellington, of Greensboro, and Wm. C. Holt, of Alamance, have been appointed.

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

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WHAT! NEVER?

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