

The Carolina Watchman.

VOL X.—THIRD SERIES

SALISBURY, N. C., MARCH 13, 1879.

NO 21

THE GREAT FRAUD.

Majority Report of the Potter Investigating Committee—The Presidential Theft Clearly Proven—The Great Danger of Returning Boards and Federal Troops at Elections—Noyes, Sherman and Others Named as the Conspirators—Tilden and Hendricks Declared the Real Choice of the People—Other Reports to Follow, &c., &c.

WASHINGTON, March 2.—On Saturday the Chairman of the Potter Investigating Committee submitted the Report which he had prepared to the Committee, and it was adopted by a vote of six Democrats to three Republicans, Mr. Butler being absent.

The three Republicans present, Messrs. Hiscock, Cox and Reed will prepare a minority report.

Mr. Butler will draw up a separate statement, giving his views in reference to the bargains with the Hayes party, by which the Democrats recovered the States of South Carolina and Louisiana.

Mr. Stinger, Democrat, a member of the Committee, who was chairman of the sub-committee which sat in Louisiana, has also prepared a report.

Mr. Potter's Report is necessarily long, as it deals with all the points that have been before the Committee, except the cipher dispatches, which will be made the subject of a separate report, and presented to the Committee to-morrow.

Mr. Potter's report is regarded by the Democrats who have perused it as singularly impartial and judicial. It is entirely devoid both of rhetorical ornamentation and vituperative denunciation, and derives its force solely from a close logical deduction of the facts presented by the Committee. Some of the Democrats regard it as wanting in color, or not so strongly expressed as the facts warrant, and it is not unlikely some member of the Committee belonging to the party will present an additional expression of their views more vigorously.

The Report opens with an introduction, which sets forth what was proper for Congress to investigate, and what not, and the difficulties of conducting an investigation into conspiracies which have been successfully carried out, while the successful party remains in power. It admits that the confessions of the conspirators who have become dissatisfied amount to but little, but points to the fact, not generally understood, that about the essential features of the election and canvass in Florida and Louisiana there is no substantial dispute before the Committee—the Republicans having called no witnesses in Florida at all, and but few in Louisiana, except as to the conduct of the visiting statesmen, and incidental to intimidation.

It dismisses entirely the testimony of Anderson, Jenks, Mrs. Jenks, Weber, and that class of witnesses, and deals with the case upon the general controlling facts alone.

The Report is divided into three parts, the first of which refers to Florida, the second to Louisiana, and the third to the alleged forged election certificates.

Beginning with Florida, it cites the law directing electors to be appointed by the votes cast, and the Returning Board to canvass the votes cast, and claims that the Tilden electors, having received a majority of the votes cast in the State, were thereby necessarily entitled to be declared elected; and that the Canvassing Board, by rejecting, without warrant of law, a portion of the votes, so as to show the majority for Hayes, unlawfully counted Tilden out. The Canvassing Board, it recites, delayed this announcement until the morning of the day on which the electors were to meet and vote, so that, although action was instantly taken to oust the Hayes electors by the Tilden electors, no decision could be had until the Hayes electors had met that same afternoon and voted.

The Report then recites the judgment of the Supreme Court, which subsequently decided that the Hayes electors were not elected, nor entitled to vote for the State, and that the Tilden electors were; also the judgment of the Court in the action brought by Drew, the Democratic candidate for Governor, to obtain a re-canvass, where the Court directed a re-canvass and decided that the Returning Board, in refusing to count the votes cast, had defrauded Drew and unlawfully seated Stevens. The Legislature of the State therupon directed a re-canvass of the electoral vote in accordance with this decision of the Supreme Court, the Judges of which were Republicans, and the re-canvass showed the Tilden electors chosen. The Governor then issued his certificate to the Tilden electors, as the true electors, but the Electoral Commission refused to consider the judgment of the Court, the action of the Legislature, and the certificates given by the Governor in favor of the Tilden electors, and held that it could not take notice of any action by the State after the 6th of December.

The Report draws attention to the fact that such a wrong might be repeated in any State, at any Presidential election, by the canvassers withholding their announcement of the result of the election until the day fixed for the meeting of the Electoral College, and then declare persons, who had never been voted for at all, to be electors, when, according to this decision, they would be entitled irreversibly to cast the vote of the State. It therefore recommends a law providing that where there was a dispute as to who were the real electors, the judgment of its Court of last resort, if certified to Congress before the meeting of the two Houses of Congress to receive and count the electoral vote, shall be conclusive as to the right of the disputing electors, and of which vote from the State shall be counted, unless the two Houses of Congress shall otherwise agree.

The Report then argues that the action of the Canvassing Board was not only illegal, but fraudulent, and cites the instance in which they rejected Democratic votes on unwarrantable grounds, and refused to reject fraudulent Republican votes, illustrating this.

It deals at length with the claim of the Republicans that they were entitled to the vote of the State on the face of the returns, by reason of the Digger fraud, by which a bogus return from Baker county was furnished the Canvassing Board, which they at first rejected, but which, after they were ordered to count the vote as cast, they fraudulently accepted in place of the true return.

It then deals with the conduct of the visiting statesmen, and particularly with that of Mr. Noyes, as contrasted with that of General Francis C. Barlow, whose integrity, independence and fidelity to all his obligations, and at the same time his justice, fairness and truth, the Report especially commends.

In regard to Louisiana, the Report begins with reference to the power possessed by the Returning Board, which, it says, never before existed elsewhere. Under it the electors and the returning officers held the greatest power over the receiving and counting of the votes. Under the pretext that the color line divided the political parties, they had used this power to fraudulently count the State for the Republicans, and had been exposed by the Republican Committee of the Forty-third Congress, which had reported that the whites and blacks of the State, being equal, and some of the blacks and all the whites having voted for the Democrats in 1874, the State had necessarily been carried by them, although counted for the Republicans. Whereupon the Republicans set about a false census, in which they made it appear that there were 25,000 more black voters in the State than white, and as illustrating the fraudulent nature of this census, the Report refers to the fact that, while this census reported but 57,000 colored men, women and children in New Orleans, it made out of them nearly 25,000 colored voters. It then instances the fraudulent registration that was based upon this disintegrated census, whereby it was made to appear that the registered Republican voters exceeded the white voters in the State more than 25,000, while actually there were no more, and the refusal of the authorities to correct this false registration in the cases where its falseness was pointed out.

From this the Report proceeds to touch upon the directions given by the Republican Campaign Committee to the election officers, requiring them to return the votes according to the census, that is, stating that the colored vote by that census in a certain parish was so much, and that they were expected to return Republican vote corresponding to that, if they were ever to have any reward or preference.

Notwithstanding this organized fraud, says the Report, when the elections were over the Democrats had a majority, as returned by the Republican election officers, of some ten thousand, the vote polled being the largest ever polled in the State, and larger in proportion to the population than that of other States. The Republican officers made returns of the vote accordingly, and declared that the election was perfectly peaceful and fair. The conspirators, in order to overthrow this majority, usurped power not given to them.

The Report then deals with the question of intimidation, and endeavours to show how it was utterly impossible for the Democrats to gain anything by it, because the Returning Board had been created on purpose to neutralize any such action, by throwing out votes in localities where it should prevail.

As to the conspiracy in East Feliciana Parish, the Report states that after the Democrats had got control of the negro vote there, Kellogg and Clark, his private secretary, were privy to it; that Tilden and Hendricks received a true majority of the electoral vote, and were the real choice of the People of the United States at the last Presidential election.

SUPERVISORS OF ELECTIONS.

Special to the Richmond Dispatch, 1st.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 28.—The committee finished the legislative appropriation bill to-night, and the Senate will have an animated discussion over the supervisors' amendment. All the Democrats will advocate it, and the vote will be a party one. Its defeat may be regarded as certain. Your correspondent cannot see how the Democrats of the House, even after a conference report, can yield in their determination to vote for it. On the other hand, many persons here of experience and judgment, say they will back down in order to prevent an extra session. A few days will decide it.

STATE DEBT TROUBLE.

Some of our friends are good deal disturbed about the State debt. Some among them are shocked at the idea of offering to pay fifteen cents for each dollar that they think the State honestly owes, and know that she does owe it. They don't like repudiation. Others, who think that the debt to the Northern bond-holders is no debt at all, dislike the notion of acknowledging the debt, not paying it, and thereby becoming liable to the charge of repudiation. Others, again, look only to the practical results in the shape of taxation. These fears are all probably needless. The debt will be paid to the Northern bondholders; there will be neither repudiation nor taxation. We do not mean that the Legislature will adopt the plan of the Senator from Iredell, for it has rejected it. There is another plan.

Some time since a distinguished citizen of Charlotte was in New York, and in conversation with a rather pompous bondholding banker he was asked by the latter if North Carolina would pay her debt.

"Yes," was the reply; "she is able to pay it, and she is going to do it."

"What! will she pay the whole debt, old and new at par?"

"Yes," replied the Carolinian.

"How!" inquired the bondholder.

"She will pay it," was the reply, "in negroes, valued at \$1,000 each."

"Oh! but we have freed your negroes," was the response of the banker.

"But," retorted the North Carolinian, "we have got your money for our bonds."

Not a few think this is about the only way in which there will be a settlement. We are very heavy losers by it, but would be willing to call it square.—*Railroad Observer.*

JEFF DAVIS TO BE PENSIONED.

Special to the Richmond Dispatch, 1st.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 28.—To-night, on motion of General Shields, the Senate amended the House arrearage pension bill so as to give any one who served in the Mexican war a pension from date, thus placing on an equality the Mexican war soldiers with the soldiers of the wars of 1812 and 1861. The bill then passed—ayes, 33; noes, 20—and leading members of the house say it will also pass that body. While it was a surprise to many Senators, I know, twenty States had instructed in favor of doing justice to the gallant men who served in Mexico. The first declaration of the Republicans was, "Why it will give Jefferson Davis and leading Confederate Generals pensions." Burnside voted for it, and Morrill declared it would increase the pension appropriation twenty millions and what of that, when nearly a hundred millions have recently been voted northern soldiers? Some Senators who voted for the amendment did not think it would pass. Senator Windom gave notice that he will move to reconsider the vote by which the arrearages pension bill passed a little while ago. This means that an effort is to be made to defeat the pensions to the Mexican veterans, but they are stronger than the extreme Radicals imagine the bill had been considered and passed upon.

The Report then recites how all the persons connected with the business have been appointed to office, and the suspicious circumstances connected with the appointment of some particularly, pointing out that Kellogg and Clark, his private secretary, were privy to the forgeries, and that the latter is now clerk in the Treasury.

The Report winds up with a reference to the danger of Returning Boards, and yet greater danger of controlling elections, and protecting Canvassing Boards by Federal troops; and, above all, to the danger with which the country is threatened by reason of the enormous patronage centred in the Presidency, which makes the Presidential office prize so great that, in order to control it, the grossest violations of law and frauds may be expected on the part of those who desire to profit by that patronage.

It concludes with the statement that the full effect was not given to the electoral votes of Florida and Louisiana; that Noyes, Sherman and others encouraged this result; that the second certificate from Louisiana was forged as to two of its names; Kellogg and Clark being privy to it; that Tilden and Hendricks received a true majority of the electoral vote, and were the real choice of the People of the United States at the last Presidential election.

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TOBACCO PROSPECTS AT WASHINGTON.

Special to the Richmond Dispatch, 1st.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 28.—This morning the committee on agriculture and commerce, which had been in session all night, adjourned to consider the bill to regulate the tobacco districts, called on Mr. Hayes and showed him how important it is to the interests of the country that the bill reducing the tobacco tax should become a law. In a proper spirit they used the arguments calculated to place the subject before him in its true light; and while he said nothing to indicate what he will do it was evident that the delegation made a

EIGHTY YEARS HISTORICAL VIEW.

Fashionable people, as well as statesmen, like the excitement of politics. In our own country a simple President is a sad damper on shoddy visitors and speculative residents. President Jefferson, more than 80 years ago, grossly outraged polite society by refusing to continue or countenance weekly receptions; and everybody remembers how he offended the ladies, when Washington had not a decent hotel within its ten miles square, by walking into the Presidential Mansion in muddy boots after they had called to see him. Madison followed him with his jolly Dolly, who established a sort of dangerous sentiment in her receptions. The next President, Monroe, was as cold as an iceberg. John Quincy Adams was the embodiment of unresponsive New England hatred. "Old Hickory" came in 1828-29, and although by no means a ladies' man, wrecked his first cabinet on account of Mrs. Timberlake. Mr. Van Buren succeeded him, and made a Knickerbocker society in the White House; but he was so genial that even his naughty son John could not extemporize a scandal for him. Then we had General Harrison, who died before his regime was a month old, giving way to John Tyler, with his airy son, Robert, and they went on in a row with the Whigs, so neglected because they had no party of their own, that nobody seemed to care if they were bad or good. James K. Polk and Mrs. Polk came in 1845. At last we had a real lady in the White House—stately, sensible and safe; nothing could be more attractive. All their four years' reign was socially blameless and respectable. They were followed by General Taylor; his household, Colonel Bliss and his handsome wife. But as old Zach died at the end of his first year, that dream was soon over, leaving Mr. Fillmore to eke out the term; cold, conservative and selfish. Along came dashing Frank Pierce, but his wife was an invalid, and his only son was killed in a railroad accident a month before his father was installed; that administration, like nearly all the rest, was conducted almost without a woman. When Frank Pierce left, James Buchanan came in with his niece, Miss Harriet Lane, as mistress of the White House. Nothing could have been more cheering; her reign was one of roses, and she was immensely esteemed. She lives to-day, much loved as the handsome wife of a Baltimore banker. Mr. Lincoln succeeded, but the rebellion turned the White House into a semi-military barrack, and his administration closed with his assassination, leaving Mrs. Lincoln, his widow, living ruined.

The accident that rose on his grave made no social mark, though nothing could have been more reputable than the ladies of A. Johnson's family. General Grant, of all his predecessors, seems to have been most fortunate in his wife and children. He had eight years of civil and domestic comfort. His successor, Mr. Hayes, is having an equally pleasant experience.

Such is the brief domestic record of the Presidency since the door of the nineteenth century was opened. The first and second chief magistrates, Washington and John Adams, had no special domestic happiness to exempt them from the rule. The retrospect is curious and interesting. During these 80 years the Old World has been drenched in blood to maintain its several governments. England alone has held her sway without alteration. France, Germany, Italy, Austria, Belgium, and Holland have all been the alternate prey of revolution and anarchy. All have been swept by war or subjected to change. The social element has suffered conspicuously. Queens have been deposed with their kings. Courts have fled for refuge to foreign lands. Assassinations have preceded and accompanied great wars. Fashions have passed away with dynasties. But through all there is one profound truth, that mankind is happier in the mass in the sunset of the century than it was in the dawn. Certainly, the most stable government is the Anglo Saxon. Where the English language is spoken, and English laws administered, there has been a great aggregate of human happiness. Such is the retrospect of 80 years, or rather since the election of George Washington in 1789. The aggregate is before the world, and there is no place where it can be more profitably studied than in the city of Washington, and no page of it is more interesting than that which records the inner life of over sixteen Presidents.

J. F. G. MITTAG.

Josh Billings on the Weather.

When roosters are observed before daylight in the mornin, soaring amon the clouds, and uttering lamentations, then look out for some sudden weather.

When you see 13 geese, walking injun file, and toeing in you can deliberately bet your last surviving dollar on a hard winter, and a great fluctuation during the next season in the price of cowhide boots.

When spiders are seen climbing up the wall backwards, and frogs cough as the they had the hiccups, look out for rain; this is also a sure sign that children will have the measles light.

If bees hang around their hives, and mules are seen in a brown study, a storm of sum kind is coming, and you will notice the market for herring is very shifty.

Jis before a heavy snow storm, ov 3 three foot deep, chimbly swallows are uncommon skarse, and in the moral world there is great laziness in the agitashun ov the tempeance question.

Wilmington Star: The father and grandfather of Secretary McCrary, of the War Department, were born in Iredell county, the Secretary is quite proud of his North Carolina blood.

Soapsuds water is an excellent liquid manure for some garden crops,

especially for celery, and if applied every other day during its growing season, the stocks will be crisp and of a mammoth size.

A Lady's Wonderful Virtue.

Mrs. Isadore Middleton, a very beautiful woman, and one of the acknowledged leaders of fashion in Mobile, can certainly boast of the possession of as much nerve and true moral courage as are often vouchsafed to any of her sex.

One evening she was in her boudoir putting away some articles of jewelry when she noticed that the peculiar position of a library lamp that was burning upon a chair in the back part of the room had thrown upon the floor, almost directly at her feet, the shadow of a man who was crouching under a broad topped table in the centre of the room.

She also remarked that the open hand of the shadow had but two fingers, and remembered that several desperate burglaries had recently been committed in the neighborhood, suppositiously by a negro desperado, who was notorious as having lost two fingers of his right hand.

Mr. Middleton was absent from the city, and besides herself in the house, there was but a single maid-servant. Instead of fainting with fear, or shrieking for help, the brave lady seated herself at a very table underneath which the miscreant was concealed and rang for the servant.

"Hand me the writing materials, Bridget," said she, with perfect calmness, "I want you to take a note this instant to Mr. Forsfair, the jeweler, and have him send you back with my diamond necklace and ear-drops which I left there for repairs several days ago. Bring them with you, no matter if fully repaired or not. They are by twenty-fold the most valuable articles of jewelry that I possess, and I do not wish to pass another night without having them in a bureau drawer."

The note was at once written and dispatched, but instead of being in the tenor that she had signified (on purpose for the concealed robber to overhear, for she had no jewelry under repair,) it was a hasty note to the jeweler, an intimate friend, in which she succinctly stated her terrible position, and urged him to hasten to her relief, with the requisite police assistance, immediately on receipt of the missive.

The agonies which that refined and delicate woman underwent when left alone in the house with the consciousness of the presence of that desperate robber, perhaps assassin as well, crouched under the very table upon which she leaned, and perhaps touched by her skirts, can only be left to the reader's imagination; but her iron nerve sustained her through the ordeal. She yawned, hummed an operatic air, turned over the leaves of a novel, and in other ways lulled the lurker into a sense of perfect security and expectancy, and waited, waited with a wildly beating heart, and her eyes fastened upon the hand of her little ornate clock with a greedy, feverish gaze.

At last, however, came the prayed for relief. There was a ring at the door bell, and she strolled carelessly into the hall and down stairs to open it. The rust had been a success. She not only admitted Bridget, but also Mr. Forsfair and three stalwart policemen. The latter passed stealthily up stairs on the boudoir, where they suddenly pounced upon the concealed burglar so unexpectedly as to secure him with hardly a struggle.

The prisoner proved to be a negro criminal named Chapman, but mostly known as 'Two Fingered Jeff,' who was in great request about that time for several robberies committed in the neighborhood a short time before, and he is now serving a twenty years' sentence in the Alabama State prison.