

The Wilson Advance

WOODARD & CONNOR
Publishers and Proprietors.



JOHN E. WOODARD, Editor.
J. W. LANCASTER.

FRIDAY, APRIL 9, 1880

The Supreme Court of Illinois has recently decided that the Bible shall be read every morning in all the public schools of the State, and that the scholars shall refrain from other studies during its reading.

Bishop Bedell is of opinion that if ministers would only speak the truth in funeral sermons, the demand for such discourses would be rapidly diminished. It was a Heathen writer who said "de mortuis nil nisi bonum."

The Jesuits in France have fallen under the condemnation of the Government—their associations ordered to be dissolved and the establishments occupied by them closed and vacated within three months. The fate which befel these establishments under the reign of Henry the Eighth in England seems impending over them in France.

Mr. Parnell, member of Parliament from Ireland, who recently visited this country, and created no little excitement among the Irish population of our Northern cities, by denunciations of the English Government and his vivid pictures of the wrongs of Ireland, was the other day assailed with yells and groans and rotten eggs at home, by his Irish fellow-citizens.

We have seen the name of Capt. R. A. Shotwell, the talented editor of the *Furmer and Mechanic*, mentioned several times for the position of Auditor on the next State ticket. If there is any man in the State whose merit and whose unwavering fealty to democracy demands recognition at the hands of the party, that man is Randolph A. Shotwell, and we believe we speak advisedly when we say that his nomination by the State Convention for that position would give universal satisfaction throughout the eastern part of the State.

We publish in another column a communication proposing the name of Capt. John Dugger for Superintendent of Public Instruction. Our intelligent correspondent is well acquainted with our system of public schools and is prepared to express an opinion as to the qualifications to be required of the person who should be chosen to fill this important office which is entitled to considerable weight. Capt. Dugger is a thorough teacher and a good practical man and is in every way capable of filling this position with credit to himself, and with justice to the orphan children of the State.

We publish in another column a letter from our Representative, Dr. J. M. Taylor which purports to give the "other side" of the rail road question. If the Dr. had read the *ADVANCE* as carefully as he believes his constituents have, he would hardly have intimated that the *ADVANCE* had been unfair in its presentation of the question, for we published Mr. Dortch's speech, and the reasons given by Governor Jarvis for convening the extra session of the General Assembly, in the same issue, and that too several days after the country had been flooded with documents sent out from the State department, giving the "other (or the Doctor's) side" of the question. We did not intend to treat the Dr. unfairly, and can not now believe that we have done him any injustice before his constituents, for this is the first time we have seen anything from him on the railroad question, and although his views differ from ours, we cheerfully yield space for them, even though he strikes a lick at the *ADVANCE* for the course which it has pursued. As to the Dr.'s argument, we have only to say that our views, as already expressed, remain unchanged, and now that the road is sold, we can not see how the interest of the party is to be promoted by a further discussion of the question; we would refer our readers however to the very clear and forcible argument of Senator King, a synopsis of which was published in the *ADVANCE* last week, and also to the admirable speech of Senator Dortch, published in this issue, which we think furnish a complete answer to the Doctor's views.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

The late scene in the House of Representatives, of the Congress of the United States, was disgraceful, even to that unruly and disorderly body. It must have presented a humiliating spectacle, to persons unaccustomed to such fierce wrangling and free interchange of coarse and abusive epithets. Such exhibitions as the one alluded to and as are not unfrequently witnessed of late in that branch of Congress composed of the people's representatives, would bring discredit upon the "pit" of the lowest theater. The common decencies of social life, one would think, would be recognized and observed, by persons who were so fortunate as to occupy the honorable position of members of Congress. They should be, in fact, as well as in theory, the representative men of the country—not only of its material interests, but of its intellectual and moral culture as well. But it would no doubt, be doing great injustice to the constituents of Messrs. Townsend, Reed and Garfield, the actors in the late Congressional scene, to be judged by the conduct of their representatives. There may be "a divinity which begets in a king," but it would seem that the time is rapidly approaching, when it will cease to be an honor to be a member of Congress.

GRANT ELECTED.

Not President of the United States for a third term, but Duke of America, by the New Orleans Carnival Court. On which occasion he was duly decorated with the Order of St. Rex by the Lord High Chamberlain. As usual His Grace made a little speech, with which unlike his political speeches, we have no fault to find. In acknowledging the honor conferred, he is reported to have said:

Ladies and gentlemen: I thank you very much for the kind reception and for the compliment which the Rex Association has just paid me. For as pronounced a republican as I am, it would hardly be proper for me to accept the distinction, which you have just conferred upon me, especially as I have been frequently charged with an attempt to seize upon a higher title. But as I said before, under such circumstances and appreciating the objects of your worthy organization I accept the title of Duke of America and thank you again for the compliment paid me and the kind reception extended to me.

We have only to say farther, in reference to this very neat and appropriate little speech, that in our judgement His Grace, omitted an excellent opportunity, of disclaiming the intention of "attempting to seize a higher title," which which, he had been frequently charged. Omissions are sometimes significant.

TILDEN'S PROSPECTS.

Whatever may have been thought of Gov. Tilden's prospects, for the Presidential nomination, a few weeks ago, it must be conceded that recent events, indicate a decided improvement in his chances, for the coveted honor. The two States, which have lately elected delegates to the National Democratic Convention, will be represented by Tilden men; and in the great State of New York and Pennsylvania, in which delegates will be elected during the present month, his chances are believed to be by no means discouraging.

Of all our public men, whose names have been prominently mentioned, in connection with the presidential nomination, his strength seems to be the most difficult to estimate. In addition to being the most, and least known, of all the Presidential aspirants, he possesses elements of strength and elements of weakness, which attach to none of his competitors. And whether available or unavailable, he is, and must continue to be, until after the Cincinnati Convention, one of the central figures in the Presidential panorama. Many considerations conspire to produce this result, not the least of which is the general and almost universal conviction that he was unquestionably elected president in 1876, and a great wrong has been perpetrated against him, in withholding the office from him. That the judgment of the Electoral Commission, setting aside the verdict of the American people, ought itself to be reversed in the only manner practicable, by re-electing him in 1880 by such an overwhelming majority, that "fraud and force," will forever hereafter cease to be regarded as reliable agents in elections. This feeling no doubt is widely disseminated, and to it is attributable the otherwise unaccountable popularity, which so surprises the friends of other prominent Candidates. If the great States of New York and Pennsylvania should fall in line with Nebraska and Rhode Island, Tilden's prospects of receiving the nomination are by no means as gloomy as have been represented.

The Other Side Given by Dr. Taylor.

EDITOR *ADVANCE*:—Since my return home, I find many readers of the *ADVANCE* who have read only one side of the Western N. C. R. R. question, and who think the sale of the road bad policy. Now I beg leave to state briefly the other side of the question.

This Road was chartered by an act of the General Assembly of 1854-55. Both the State and private individuals, have sunk millions upon this Road without receiving any profit from it. It became so hopelessly insolvent that it was sold under a mortgage of foreclosure, and the State by an act of the Legislature in 1874-75 to save some of its expenditures, bought it for \$850,000, organized a new company and mortgaged the Road for the payment of the principal, pledging the faith and credit of the State to pay the interest. Since 1875 the State has paid the interest together with money, labor, and materials amounting in all to \$555,000 and still the Road is seven miles short of Asheville, with an additional floating debt of \$30,000. The liabilities under its new organization amount to \$1,435,000. To complete the Road to Paint Rock, equip and furnish it with rolling stock, and relay the old Road from Salisbury to old Fort, which must be done before the Road can transport its large prospective freights, will cost another million and a half which would in the aggregate amount to about three millions—the price set upon it by the opponents of the sale.

Where then do the profits come in? and where is the money to come from to complete it? Under the laws existing before the passage of this act, it would have taken, with the present price of iron, ten years to complete the Paint Rock branch and twenty years to complete it to Ducktown.

In the first ten years the State would have paid out in interest on the \$850,000 compounded annually \$820,000 beside \$70,000 per annum for iron and \$500 convicts and still the Road finished only to Paint Rock. Who wishes to see the work prosecuted on such terms as these when much better in my judgment are offered? How many of us would like to see it completed to Ducktown with such help? What is to be done under such circumstances? What can be done?—Must we kill the Elephant to stop having him to feed or must we sell him upon such terms as we can? The country answers through its representatives "SELL."

I will now state the terms of the sale as concisely as I can. The State conveys to W. J. Best and associates, all her right title and interest in the Western N. C. R. R. for which they are to pay \$59,500 interest per annum on the \$850,000 mortgage bonds, \$62,500 per annum for the use of 500 convicts \$30,000 floating debt of the Road and secure the State by a lien on the road for \$520,000, and give to private stock holders \$212,000 in stock and complete the Road to Paint Rock, and to Pigeon River on the Ducktown line, by July 1881, and to Murphy near Ducktown by January 1885.

But the opponents of the sale say "he has cheated the State out of the Paint Rock road, that we have given it to him, and that he will never build the Ducktown branch &c., &c."

Now let us see what he is compelled to do before he acquires a right to either branch of the road. The commissioners on the part of the State are to execute a deed to Best and associates conveying to them all the State's interest in the road. But instead of delivering them the deed it is to be delivered to the United States Trust Company of New York as an escrow to be delivered to them when they complete the Road both to Paint Rock and Ducktown and, if they fail to complete the contract, the N. Y. Trust company are to return the deed to the State while Best & Co., have no title to a foot of Rail Road in the State, though they may have spent millions on it before their failure. The only claim they have upon the State in case of failure is bare pay for expenditures on the Paint Rock road not to exceed \$850,000. Their expenditures on the Ducktown line alone will be about \$400,000 by the time they finish the Paint Rock branch in July 1881. They cannot afford to fail, except they fail to begin the work. Their expenses for the first year to July 1881 will be: Hire of convicts \$78,126, interest on mortgage bonds \$74,375 floating debt \$30,000. Completing Road to Paint Rock (President Wilson's estimate) \$650,000, to Pigeon River \$400,000 making a total expenditure of \$1,262,000. Who would spend \$1,200,000 to try to cheat the State out of \$850,000. Depend upon it, if Best & Co. fail it will have cost them much more than it will the State. My fears are much stronger that they will never undertake the job on such conditions, or will fail for want of ability to perform the contract than that the State will lose by the trans-

action. Men may say the State has no guarantee and is liable to loss by the terms, but it seems plain to me that the possibilities of loss in case of failure are mainly on the other side.

The completion of this road to tap the great railroads of the West and South-west has become a commercial necessity. Asheville will become the great gateway and the shortest route from a large portion of the Mississippi Valley to North and South Carolina and to the Atlantic ports from Charleston to Norfolk. The whole State will be benefited by the reduction in freights and an era of prosperity is likely to ensue never equaled in the State before. Now if we can accomplish all this without draining the resources of the State—as this sale proposes to do, it will be the greatest feat of legislation ever performed by the State. We have no other proposition worth the name to complete the road to Ducktown. What then are we to do? Must we wait from ten to thirty years, at a cost to the taxpayers of \$182,000 a year, at an annual tax of 12 cents on every hundred dollars worth of real property in the State. Must Wilson county pay upwards of \$3,000 every year for the next ten to thirty years to accomplish this great work? Must all this delay and this taxation continue because forsooth Best & Co., may possibly fail to fulfil their contract? Away with such doubts and cavilings. They may fail, but the project is richly worth the trial.

But say the opponents of the sale "we had better sell the whole of the State's roads from Beaufort to Tennessee; they will sell for six millions and raise money enough to pay off the whole State debt." Let us see how these road sales would "pan out." There is a mortgage on the Atlantic road for \$195,000, a judgment for \$37,450. On the N. C. road a lease which has yet 21 years to run, a first mortgage for \$2,795,000, interest \$500,000, second mortgage \$1,000,000, interest \$720. Western N. C. R. R. Mortgage \$850,000 making a grand total of \$6,097,450 besides other outstanding claims, which would have to be paid before the State could realize one cent from the sales.

The State owns about \$1,300,000 and private parties \$600,000 stock in the Atlantic Road. This stock I understand can be bought for \$2 or \$3 in the \$100.

In conclusion, I desire to state that I have no doubt of the patriotism integrity and honesty of the few opponents of the sale, but by what process of reasoning or financiering they can oppose the sale, is beyond my comprehension.

I have not elaborated the above in full, for fear of occupying too much space, but they are all deducible from the public documents and papers of the day. With kind feelings to all I have endeavored "nothing to extenuate or set down aught in malice." Respectfully,
April 5 '80
J. M. TAYLOR.

For Superintendent of Public Instruction.

ED. *ADVANCE*:—In choosing the first names to be submitted to the people in the coming election do not let North Carolinians forget or neglect the Superintendent of Public Instruction. There are many good men who would add strength to the ticket and reflect credit on North Carolina. In the Northern and Western States, where education and the Public School system are considered of some importance, the aspirant for this office is the equal of any other man on the ticket. Can we not have a first class man and pay him a first class salary? Suppose we try the experiment. We have some distinguished examples who have tried the same experiment with wonderful success.

Capt. Jno. Dugger is one of the ablest teachers in the State, he is a fine scholar, and a man of great energy and activity. He is an enthusiast on the school question. I beg leave to present his name to your readers.
ARGYLE.

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NOTICE.

At a meeting of the board of Commissioners of the town of Wilson, held April 1st, 1880, A. J. Brown was appointed Registrar of voters for the election to be held on the first Monday in May next, to elect the Mayor and officers for the ensuing year.
S. M. WARREN, Sec. and Treas.
Per S. B. W

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MISCELLANEOUS.

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Holmes' Speller and Readers,
Maury's Geographies,
Holmes' Grammars and Histories.

The County Board of Education for Wilson county passed the following resolution April 5th, 1880:

"RESOLVED, That the Board of Education for the county of Wilson recommend to the teachers of Public Schools in said county, that they adopt and use in their schools the books recommended by the State Board of Education for Public Schools in the State of North Carolina."

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