

MR. WHITAKER AND THE NEWS.

In the last issue of the ROANOKE NEWS, there was letter upon the conduct and usefulness of the Inferior Court of this county which we published with the following comment:

The letter of our correspondent "X" equals anything that has appeared since the days of Junius, and while full of solid sense will be found rather amusing to read.

This paragraph, and the letter to which it referred seem, to have stirred up in an unusual degree the bile of Spier Whittaker Esq., the solicitor of the Inferior Court. In publishing the comment and the letter we did not suppose it would cut so close under the skin of the Solicitor. We had been taught to regard public officers as public property and their official acts as subject for legitimate criticism, and Mr. Whittaker, himself, in his speech, admitted the truth of every charge made by "X" except the one alleging that the court was formed for the purpose of convicting the commissioners, and we did not suppose this charge was intended as serious. But it seems that in opening our columns for public discussion of public officers we have invoked on our innocent heads the anathemas of Mr. Whittaker, and we believe if he could command enough followers in Halifax county, or elsewhere, that the liberties of the press would be numbered among the things that were.

He denounces this paper as imbecile, corrupt and unworthy of the confidence of the people, because it will not join him in a crusade against defendants, that as yet he has failed to convict on five bills of indictment as he himself admits. We have been taught by our bill of rights that every citizen was entitled to a fair trial, at the hands of a jury without prejudice and unbiased. And what could have justified us in denouncing these men, on four of the bills of indictment when a jury of their country and Mr. Whittaker himself has said that they were not guilty. If Mr. Whittaker's theory of running a newspaper be the correct one, then the press of the country instead of being a sentinel on the watch-tower of Liberty becomes a snare to the feet of the weak and the innocent, and its boasted privileges have degenerated into license. The proper place for discussing the guilt or innocence of a man under indictment for crime is in the Court House after a jury has been empanelled, where they may make their defence and not in a newspaper's columns, where the evidence must be one-sided and not under oath. That is the form designated by the Constitution and laws of our land. To secure this privilege, millions of English speaking people have died. With that decision we are content and so far as we are concerned there it shall remain. Mr. Whittaker further charges that the commissioners are the darling pets of the ROANOKE NEWS, he forgets that when this paper was denouncing James M. O'Hara, as a negro carpet-bagger, he, Mr. Whittaker and the said O'Hara were hobnobbing together cheek-by-jowl, giving patriotic advice to the people of this county under the social and affectionate appellations of "Jim" and "Spier."

Another charge made by Mr. Whittaker against the ROANOKE NEWS is that so soon as he indicted the Commissioners the NEWS attacked him. This charge is simply false and when Mr. Whittaker made it, he simply lied. So much for the attack upon the NEWS. Let us see now how Mr. Whittaker stands.

At the meeting of the magistrates of this county held on Monday last, the occasion was sought by Mr. Whittaker to convince them that the Solicitor was their special pet. This appeal was suggestive to us of the following beautiful lines:

"As a young bird when left by its mother
To seek its pinions to fly
Found the nest will still linger overhead
Ere its trembling wings can fly.
Ling and anxiously did the friends of Mr. Whittaker strive to procure the adoption of the resolutions of approval. When it was announced that a failure to pass the resolutions would be followed by the instant resignation of the court and the Solicitor, the resolutions were reluctantly passed, the Secretary of the board of magistrates says with only two dissenting voices. Our opinion on this subject differs from that of the Secretary, and we are unable to see how he obtained the numbers so accurately when there was no division had, and no roll called. We do know, that a motion was made to lay the resolutions on the table, on which motion a division was had and it only failed by two votes, and we do know that the maker of the motion to table stated, that he withdrew his opposition to the resolutions on account of the threatened resignation of the court and Solicitor.

It seems to us that the letter of "X" could have been answered without abuse

of this paper, and we regard it as unfortunate for the honor and dignity of the court and Solicitor that those charges were not specifically met.

When Mr. Whittaker asked Mr. Batchelor, of this paper, for the author of the "X" letter, and when Mr. Batchelor refused to give it, then he made himself personally responsible. Mr. Whittaker is a man of sufficient intelligence to know this, and to know that Mr. Batchelor is still responsible. Mr. Whittaker has a substance to fight, why does he waste time on shadows.

THE BOARD OF MAGISTRATES. We publish to-day, on our local page, a full report of the proceedings of the Magistrates of Halifax county had at their meeting last Monday.

The most important part of the work done by the Magistrates was the election of a new Board of County Commissioners. How well this work was done the names of the gentlemen elected shows sufficiently. They are all men who have formerly been honored by the people of Halifax county; at least three of them are distinguished for business capacity of the very highest order, all of them are greatly interested in agricultural enterprises and as such are well fitted to look after and guard over the interests of an agricultural community. The honor and interests of the people of Halifax are safe in the hands of such men.

We might close our article right here, but we would fail to represent the sense of this community, did we not mention with praise and thanks the gallant manner in which Messrs. J. B. Neal and J. P. Lamb came to the defence of Weldon township. The speeches made by these gentlemen on this subject were graceful in thought and eloquent in utterance, they did justice to our town, and in behalf of the people of Weldon we thank the gentlemen.

We devote a good deal of our space to-day to a letter from Col. J. B. Zollcoffer. Of this letter it is sufficient to say that it is worthy of the gentleman by whom it is written, and does equal justice to his head and to his heart.

THE ELECTION. Our late political triumph, especially in this part of our State, has a high significance in our estimation. Think of it in just two counties, Northampton with her late solid Radical majority of 1000 in round numbers, returns to the lower House of the Legislature by a Democratic majority of 153, one of her truest, most intelligent and public-spirited sons, in the person of James W. Grant and gives to that brilliant lawyer and high-souled patriot F. H. Bisbee a majority of 23 over Collins the Radical candidate. Halifax, when year after year her little band of patriot, have marched against an immovable phalanx that outnumbered them by more than 2000, under her most skillful leaders only to suffer defeat, if a fair count can now be had has returned to the Senate that veteran of the Old Guard, whose name is coupled with praise by all who ever mention him, J. B. Zollcoffer.

What a glorious triumph! What a glorious victory! How came it about? What does it import? Never was contest so fairly waged, never was there so little of political intrigue or art or trickery or demagoguery. There were no appeals to inflame the baser passions—no money to corrupt the weak—no promises of future reward to entice those of easy public virtue. In the county of Northampton, there was really no canvass from the hustings but men met each other by the wayside, in the fields and work-shops, and talked the matter over free from all political excitement, and the result was a change of one thousand votes and more in that county. That staid and sturdy set, the Quakers, who make up a community of several hundred in our midst, who have heretofore conscientiously and almost solely voted the Radical ticket, came in quiet procession to the polls, and changed every man, his vote to the aid of the cause, whose truth had been slowly demonstrating itself to their consciousness. Colored men, who had heretofore come to the precincts on the day of election with the wild frenzy of a French mob were seen to reason together, in groups, with quiet faces, and then with firm and steady hand to cast in their Democratic ballots. And so the noiseless battle of reason against error, of patriotism against power went on, until the great victory was won—a victory that is not a mere decision in its political than grand in its moral aspects, because it demonstrates clearly to our minds that the iron age of fierce party and color hatred is giving place to the golden era of a better feeling between all parties and races of our people, and that here, at least in this our section, we the white and the colored people may live in peace and harmony and build up a happy and prosperous community, preserving for ourselves and transmitting to our posterity, our free institutions.

TO THE PEOPLE OF HALIFAX COUNTY.

FELLOW-CITIZENS:—In view of the enthusiastic reception and support met at your hands in my late short, but brilliant canvass, for a seat in the Senate of the next Legislature, I cannot withhold from giving you through the public press, an expression of my most sincere thanks for this additional evidence of your confidence and esteem.

Entering the contest as I did, without perhaps, due consideration and the necessary preparation, to combat the many difficulties, it was reasonable to suppose I should have to encounter, with a disorganized party behind me, whose confidence from constant defeat, had nearly been destroyed, and having to contend against one of the most powerful and thoroughly disciplined organizations to be found in any country led and directed by a staff of able, active, energetic, and determined leaders, made confident from constant success, it was not to be supposed that my brief campaign of a little over five days could result in anything short of disaster, its termination, defeat has been such as was under the circumstances to have been anticipated.

I have fallen Fellow-citizens, the ponderous wheels of the moving Juggernaut have rolled over me, but I have fallen, sword in hand, proud and confident even in defeat. I have in my humble way single-handed and alone, made a gallant struggle, a splendid campaign. I have led a forlorn hope, against tremendous odds, I may say overwhelming difficulties. I have made a breach in the solid ranks of the opposition and have fallen at its entrance, and although my political sun has gone down perhaps forever, its declining rays have lighted up the pathway to almost certain success, for the democratic party not far off in the future.

In making this campaign, I have borne up, and carried forward the Democratic standard, with a proud determination, to increase if possible its brilliancy, and in no way to tarnish its lustre; I have had to lower it, Fellow-citizens, but I have been compelled to do so for want of the necessary support in the face of a powerful and victorious enemy, but no shade of dishonor appears on its surface or clings to its borders even in defeat.

I have gone forth amongst the people not as it were, with "banner, brand, and bow," exciting and engendering dissension, hatred and animosity, by passionate reference to the past or gloomy forebodings for the future, but on the contrary have everywhere endeavored to hold out the olive branch of peace, reconciliation and harmony, and have in every way tried, earnestly tried, to soothe and quiet the storm of political discord, that has raged so disastrously to our interest since the war. I believe I have succeeded, it may be only partially. I am well satisfied however, from observation that my course has met the hearty approval of the mass of the people, and that I have in no way, thus compromised the dignity, the honor nor the principles of the democratic party, nor have I in any way, given reasonable cause of offence, to either the leaders or followers of the opposition from whom I am proud to say I have drawn a liberal share of my support.

I have no where set myself up as the chosen, or even the favorite leader of the democratic party, but have in my humble way earnestly advocated and sustained the justice of its claims and the purity of its principles. I have at no time identified myself with any private political rings, combinations or cliques, if any such there be in existence. I have made the canvass as an independent candidate, and my defeat can in no way damage or reflect upon the party with whom I am associated. The time has arrived, Fellow-citizens, when there must be reconciliation, political reconciliation amongst the people of this county, or we are ruined, irretrievably ruined; we must abandon, and bury political hatred and prejudice, and come together, not as partisans, anxious to promote our individual interest, but the interest of our whole country. We are as it were, a stranded, dismantled ship, rolling upon the bosom of a stormy ocean, with no welcome coast, nor cheering light, on a friendly headland in the distance. We cannot afford to allow ourselves to be divided or distracted by doubts or dissensions, but we must come together, we must pull together, or we shall never reach a secure anchorage in a port of safety. And if we will do this it will be long before a brighter day will dawn upon us.

The people are everywhere beginning to think for themselves; the pernicious influence of party leaders which has heretofore been so ruinous to our interest, like dark clouds are passing away; and although the humble flag of J. B. Zollcoffer in this contest has been made to trail lowly in the dust, I hear the thunders of the tempest, faintly dying away, and I see the white plume of peace and prosperity towering far up in the future.

And now Fellow-citizens, in conclusion, allow me to tender to you, and each of you, regardless of color, regardless of party, or party affiliations my most sincere, heartfelt thanks for the flattering support received at your hands. The sympathy of the people has been with me, and the principles of harmony I advocated every where. The democratic party, has done all for me under the circumstances that could have been expected, and I am grateful, more than grateful for their co-operation; but I beg in all kindness, in passing, to be allowed to say to them, don't for Heaven's sake don't, longer permit the foundation of your strength to be sapped by indifference, personal jealousy or political envy. You are strong and powerful, when united, firmly united, but weak even to feebleness and utter prostration when torn asunder by dissension.

I have received from the Republican party firm and active opposition, but I am proud to say nothing but the most respectful courtesy, and I believe in many instances, sincere sympathy. And I here take occasion to publicly acknowledge their kindness, especially that of the leaders, through whose instrumental-

ty alone I was enabled at many places to address the people. I am under lasting obligations to the colored people of this county as well as my white friends for the promptness and zeal with which they have rallied to my support. I know the sneers, ridicule, and perhaps insult to which you have been compelled to submit, because of your friendship for me on this election as well as on many other occasions. I thank you yes I do, thank you. Let me assure you that you have no cause to blush or be made ashamed. You have only asserted your independence and maintained your rights as freemen, and no one has a right to abuse or make you afraid. And although I may never appear before you again in a public capacity, I shall ever carry with me a grateful remembrance of the readiness and firmness with which many of you stood by me in this campaign.

To those who voted against me, and those who calmly stood by and allowed the engine of destruction to pass over and crush me, without extending a helping hand, I entertain neither prejudice nor resentment, nor have I a single word of reproach. I am crushed and broken Fellow-citizens, but in the language of the great Webster, "I yet live," and am buoyant with hope, and cheerful in confidence of a brighter and better political future, and in this spirit, I extend to one and all my very best wishes for your present welfare and your permanent prosperity, individually and collectively.

I have fallen in a gallant fight
My star of hope has paled its light,
The ragal's past the conflict o'er
The clash of arms is heard no more,
My flag trails lowly in the dust,
My sword is covered o'er with rust,
My sun of hope for ever set
I quit the field without regret,
Very respectfully,
J. B. ZOLLCOFFER.

ADVERTISEMENTS. WARRENTON MALE ACADEMY, FALL SESSION opens Monday, July 29th, 1878. And continues Twenty weeks, Total Expenses, \$75 to \$85. Terms—Half the above required in advance, the balance November 1st, 1878. No extra charges. Pupils charged from date of entry to close of session. Address, JOHN GRAHAM, Principal; or Dr. Sol. G. Ward, Chairman of Board of Trustees.

BURNHAM'S WATERWHEEL. WARRANTED BEST & CHEAPEST. Also, MILLING MACHINERY. PRICES REDUCED APR. 20, '78. Pamphlets free. Utica, York, Pa. June 8 Gm.

PURCELL HOUSE. NORFOLK, VA. J. R. DAVIS. PROPRIETOR. RATES. \$3.00, \$2.50, and \$2.00 per Day, According to Location. July 4th.

THE BINGHAM SCHOOL, Mechanicville, N. C. surpasses all other similar Schools in the South. Let in spec. 24, in the character of its buildings, 34, in numbers 4th, in area of patronage; 5th, in ability to provide profitable employment for its prodigious pupils; and 6th, while other expenses are rather below the average, this North Carolina School commands somewhat higher tuition fees, than any other institution of learning of any grade, for males, in the Southern States. These facts make other testimonials unnecessary. June 29 11 a.

A CAREFUL MAN. ALWAYS CARRIES A Yearly Policy Of Insurance AGAINST ACCIDENTS YOU CAN SECURE ONE IN THE MOBILE LIFE INSURANCE CO. OF MOBILE, ALA. TWENTY-FIVE CENTS Will Insure You Against Accidents for One Day in the sum of THREE THOUSAND DOLLARS in the event of Death. Or \$15 PER WEEK INDEMNITY for Disabling Injuries. RATES—One Day - 25 Cents Two Days - 50 Cents Five Days - \$1.25 Ten Days - 2.50 Thirty Days - 5.00.

\$5.00 WILL INSURE YOU AGAINST ACCIDENTS, FOR THE TERM OF 1 YEAR IN THE \$1,000 R. F. BUTLER, Agent, Weldon, N. C. May 11th.

D. E. L. HUNTER, SURGEON DENTIST. Can be found at his office in Enfield. Pure Nitrous Oxide Gas for the Painless Extracting of Teeth always on hand. June 22 11.

\$66 a week in your own town. \$5 Outfit free. No risk. Reader, if you want a business at which persons of either sex can make great pay all the time they work, write for particulars to H. HALETT & Co., Portland, Maine. June 11 y.

GREENSBORO FEMALE COLLEGE. Terms Reduced to Suit the Times. The 45th session will begin on Wednesday 28th of August. Charges Per Session of 30 Weeks. Board, (exclusive of washing and lights,) \$50.00. Tuition in full, (including course,) \$25.00. Extra Studies moderate. For particulars apply for catalogue to T. M. JONES, President. July 6 9m.

ADVERTISEMENTS.

WARM SPINGS. Western North Carolina. Is now open for the reception of pleasure seekers and invalids. This lovely place is situated in the beautiful valley of the French Broad within eight miles of railroad. We have a fine band of music, attentive servants, and all other accommodations to be found in any other watering place. For particulars apply for descriptive pamphlet. W. H. HOWERTON, Proprietor. May 18th.

NEW SPRING GOODS AT L. A. FARINHOLT'S. JUST ARRIVED AND FOR SALE AT EXTREMELY LOW PRICES. Beautiful Styles of Spring Dress Goods from 10c to 50c per yd. Brown Linen Suitings 4 1/2 wide, Piques from 12 1/2 to 25c per yd. Bishop Lawns, Figured Lawns, Swiss Muslins. Black Alpacaes splendid quality and very cheap. 50 pieces Spring Calicoes 6 1/2 per yd. 4 1/2 Bleaching at 8c.

NOTIONS. Ladies Collars and Cuffs, Silk Handkerchiefs, Ladies Silk and Lace Scarfs, Tuck Combs, Ladies and Gents Lisle thread Gloves, Seamless Hose and Half Hose white and striped. 2 Button Kid Gloves 7 1/2 pr. Hamburg Edgings and insertings, White Gloves, White Ties, Silk and Leather Belts, Linen Bosom Shirts, Percale Shirts, &c.

SHOES. Ladies Serge Gaiters and Slippers, Gents English Ties and Gaiters, Ladies Patent Leather and Morocco Slippers, Misses and Children Shoes, Fine Calfskin Boots. CLOTHING. Just to hand a nice assortment of the newest styles spring pants, Blue Flannel Suits, Linen Suits, White Vests, Black & light Coats, Light Cassimere Spring Suits.

HATS. Straw Hats all sizes and prices, wide brim wool and felt Hats. GROCERIES. This department is kept up to its usual standard. Sugar, Coffee, Bacon, Lard, Flour, &c., as low as they can be bought south of Baltimore. I keep on hand all kinds of Furniture. Prices are reduced to conform to the scarcity of money and the hard times. Call before purchasing elsewhere and save money. oct 17 y.

BEST business you can engage in, is to buy goods of either sex, right in their own localities. Particulars and samples worth \$5 fee. Improve your spare time at this business. Address STINSON & Co., Portland, Maine. June 11 y.

CHEAPER THAN EVER. I am now receiving Spring Goods almost daily and it is really astonishing to see how cheap goods are. Articles and prices are too numerous to mention. However I will name a few. Best Prints from 5 to 6 1/2. Best Black Cottons from 6 1/2 to 12 1/2. Wamsutta Bleachings 12 1/2. Dress Goods New Styles from 15 to 25. Pique Beauties from 10 to 25 cts. Coats and Clark's Spool Cotton Gels or 65c per dozen. SHOES, HATS, AND CLOTHING VERY LOW. GROCERIES VERY LOW. Syrups from 35 to 60. Old Fashion New Orleans Molasses 75. Best Rio Coffee from 18 to 20. Nice White Sugars 10-18. Side Meat 7c. Shoulder Meat 6c. Liverpool Salt Factory 4 1/4 Bushels 1.65. I have thrown on my counters about One Thousand yards best prints, dark colors 5c per yard. R. P. SPIERS, Weldon, N. C. April 13th.

BAKER & CONFECTIONER. Manufactures all kinds of plain and fancy conaries. Keeps always on hand the fullest stock of Candies, Fruits, Nuts, &c., to be found in Eastern North Carolina, which he sells by wholesale or retail. Orders for wedding parties, and balls prepared on short notice and at most reasonable prices. Oct 20 11.

TOTAL ABSTINENCE SAVING WINE TILL IT RIPS. There is a curious story about some native wines which are extensively advertised now-a-days, and have only recently been put upon the market. Dr. Underhill, the well-known grape-grower of Croton, died in 1871. Some of his heirs entertained temperance views of such extreme kind, that they were unwilling to allow the stock of wines then on hand to be sold or any more to be made. The grapes have sometimes been sent to market, and sometimes left to decay upon the vines. It is only now that the other heirs have succeeded in arranging for a settlement of the estate and the sale of the wines on hand. Among these is a wine of the vintage of 1864, described as a "Sweet Union Port," but suggesting the Imperial Tokay more than any other European wine, and being wholly unlike any other wine of America's growth. Its purity, age and mellowness are remarkable, and both physicians and wine-fanciers have a special interest in it as the client of a wine now accessible in any considerable quantity. The whole stock is in the hands of the well-known wholesale grocery house of the Thurlers.—N. Y. Tribune, Nov. 19, 1877.

The above speaks for itself, but we would add that this is the pure juice of the grape, neither diluted, sugar, nor watered; that it has been ripened and mellowed by age, and for medicinal or sacramental purposes it is unsurpassed. It can be obtained from most of the leading Druggists throughout the United States, and at wholesale from the undersigned, who will forward descriptive pamphlet, free of charge, on application. Respectfully, etc., H. K. & F. B. THURBER & CO. West Broadway, near and Hudson Street New-York. June 26 Gm.

ADVERTISEMENTS.

J. T. GOOCH, GROCER & COMMISSION MERCHANT. SOLICITS CONSIGNMENTS. —OF— COUNTRY PRODUCE, COTTON, CORN, &C.

KEEPS ON HAND A FULL STOCK OF GROCERIES, PROVISIONS, MOLASSES, NAILS, &C.

Which will be sold low for CASH. J. T. GOOCH, WELDON, N. C.

TELEPHONE. NORTH STAR. CENTENNIAL. PAPA CIGARS AND CLUB HOUSE. Are the best 5 cent Cigars. They are Havana fillers.

LA VALENTINE, EMANCIPATION, MARGARETTA, & GRAND DUCHESS. Are clear Havanas. These Cigars are sold by all first-class dealers. Manufactured by MANTOUX & CO., Proprietors Charleston Branch of the Havana Cigar Factory.

WHITE, STAINBACK & GOOCH. WELDON, N. C. [SUCCESSORS TO J. T. GOOCH.] J. T. GOOCH'S OLD STAND. Have just opened their Fall Stock of Goods, which they offer to the trade at the LOWEST CASH PRICES. The stock comprises a full line of READY MADE CLOTHING, DRY GOODS, LADIES DRESS GOODS, BOOTS, SHOES, HATS, CAPS, NOTIONS, SUGARS, COFFEES, TEAS, SOAPS, &C. to be found in Eastern North Carolina. They call attention to their stock of the famous MILES PHILADELPHIA, HAND MADE BOOTS AND SHOES For Both LADIES and GENTLEMEN, Oct 17 1 y.

T. N. WHITE, A. L. STAINBACK, J. H. GOOCH, JR. WELDON, N. C. I have just returned from the North with the Largest Stock of DRY GOODS, AND NOTIONS; READY MADE CLOTHING, BOOTS, AND SHOES, HATS, GROCERIES, CAPS, RIDLES, AND COLLARS, never offered in this market, which they are selling at LOW FOR CASH. They call especial attention to their Stock of DRESS GOODS, and TRIMMING. They will duplicate any bill of goods that can be purchased South of New York. We intend to please. Call and see us. Oct 17-1 y.

A. L. ELLETT & CO. RICHMOND VA. has returned to Weldon where he can be found over W. H. BROWN'S STORE, prepared to do all kinds of work in his line. Repairing neatly and promptly done. May 25 11

J. J. LOUGHLIN THE FASHIONABLE SHOE MAKER. 10, 12 and 14 TWELFTH STREET