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SEVENTEEN HUNDRED AND SEVENTY-SEVEN.

The old year is gone. It brought us many trials and sorrows and fears. It was hailed as the great Centennial year of American Independence. The nations of the earth were invited to join the United States in celebrating its Hundredth Anniversary, and to send to our shores their selectest specimens of art, their contributions of loom and workshop, their teeming products of the fields and mines—all that would fittingly represent their nationality and their progress.

We are not without hope as to the future of our country. We believe there are signs of returning reason. We think the reflecting, business men of the North are beginning to realize the dangers that threaten our civil institutions, and the certainty of financial convulsion and commercial prostration if force and fraud triumph over right and justice.

In this belief, feeling assured that prosperity will return with the vindication of law and right and the assurance of public peace, we wish every reader of the STAR a Happy New Year.

THE INAUGURATION OF GOVERNOR VANCE.

This important event for North Carolina passed off quietly. Owing to the very severe snow storm the ceremonies took place at Tucker Hall. We suppose only a small part of the crowd could be accommodated. At the time we write (11 o'clock a. m., Tuesday), we have but few particulars, but before we go to press to-night we may be able to give a full account of the proceedings, from our own reporter or from the Raleigh papers.

The address was received amid great demonstrations of joy, and "was applauded to the echo," according to a dispatch received. The sentiments expressed by Gov. Vance on national affairs are eminently calm, resolute, patriotic, and full of genuine North Carolina spirit. He thinks the condition of the country extremely critical, and that our only reliance is in the moderation and patriotism of Congress. He says if there should be an attempt made to inaugurate the candidate not fairly elected, that it will devolve upon the Constitutional party in the North to take the needed steps in asserting the right of the majority. He says North Carolina may be confidently relied upon to sustain that portion of the people of the United States which shall convince us that it is struggling for the Constitution, the Law, the Public Justice, which are the life and soul of the American Union.

We believe these sentiments will receive the hearty concurrence of the law-abiding, liberty-loving, conservative, patriotic people of North Carolina. They all as one man desire peace. They abhor violence; they earnestly hope for an amicable and equitable settlement of all difficulties, and they will do all that freemen can to secure it.

cutties, and they will do all that freemen can to secure it. But if violence attempts to overthrow the government, and the men of the North shall rise up in their might to prevent such a terrible, heinous wrong, then the people of North Carolina will be true to their God, to their country, and to themselves.

We have not seen as yet the inaugural address of Gov. Robinson. We, therefore, give the following interesting extract from a New York letter written before the inauguration. It foreshadows the position he will take on the Presidential complications.

Though the Governor elect, Mr. Robinson is known to be a man of very conservative instincts, it is given out by his most intimate personal and political friends that his forthcoming message will take "high ground" on the disputed Presidential vote. By "high ground" it is meant that he will assume that Governor Tilden has been fairly elected, and must therefore be inaugurated on the 4th of March. Large spaces will be devoted to the state of affairs in South Carolina and Louisiana, with a view of enabling the Governor to formally recognize by name, as the real Governors of these States, the two gentlemen whom the Democrats claim to have elected. It is further intimated that this portion of the message has not been written without frequent consultation with Governor Tilden, and that it has received the approval of not a few members of Congress, who expect to use it to strengthen their own position when the time comes for them to act.

It is now currently reported that the administration at Washington has established a censorship over the Washington telegraph office. A dispatch to a Chicago paper is the basis of the charge. We are prepared to believe any thing concerning Grant and the other conspirators. Tyrants and usurpers have always made war upon the liberty of the press. It will be entirely in keeping with their infamous plans to throttle the freedom of press dispatches. But every such effort to force Hayes upon the country will only make the conspirators the more detestable, and arouse the greater both the fears and patriotism of the people. A free press, constitutional liberty and eternal vigilance—these three go together. Let the North put on her strength and declare to the Washington Administration in a voice of thunder, "Civil liberty must and shall be preserved. Down with tyrants, conspirators and usurpers."

It is now known that the frauds in Louisiana have been so unsearched that no fair minded Republican can any longer pretend to sustain the Returning Board in its fiscalities. The Democrats throughout the country have said to the Congressional committee at Columbia, "You have done well; you have got the bottom facts; you have made an honest and fair account, and we are satisfied." We hope the thinking, just men of the North will put their feet upon the attempted frauds of the Louisiana Board. The Savannah News says: "The Congressional committee in Louisiana have conclusively proved that there is absolutely no case for the Republicans as to East Baton Rouge, Webster, Bossier, Tangipahoa, Lafayette and the omitted wards of Orleans. This disposes of very nearly three thousand five hundred of the Returning Board's majority for the Hayes electors."

The National Republican, Grant's Washington organ, probably speaks semi-officially when it declares in its issue of Saturday that if the House disagrees with the Senate in counting the electoral vote and then undertakes to elect Governor Tilden President, that Grant will arrest the members of the House. Such is the dispatch of L. Q. W. to the Richmond Whip, dated Washington, December 30. We predicted a month ago that such would be the line of action on the part of the conspirators. It is rule or ruin with them. The country will wake up when they find their National Representatives prisoners and Grant the jailor.

This is a first rate suggestion of the Richmond (Va.) Enquirer that Congress should appoint a committee to go North and carefully examine into the intimidation practiced in certain manufacturing areas. A letter from Rhode Island to the Enquirer heartily indorses the idea and gives a description of the Radical "bulldozing" practiced in that State. It would be well to pay some attention too to the Government navy yards and shops and see if some "bulldozing" was not resorted to among Government employes.

A negro eloped with and married a white girl in Campbell county, Ky., and officers were sent to arrest him. The negro shot two or three of the officers, tried to shoot his wife's father and brother. That night he was found dead with six bullet wounds in his body.

The interesting individual known as Curtis H. Brogden, at the bidding of the people of North Carolina, has "stepped down and out." He was wandering on the "ragged edges" of political despair when the darkies of the Second District, spicing the sorrows of a poor old man, selected him as their "man and brother" to do their spouting for them in the National Capitol.

We suppose Curtis will take up his abode once more in Wayne county, that was first to recognize his superlative gifts, and the places in Raleigh which have known him will then know him no more forever. "Ye who have tears prepare to shed them now." We fear that when Curtis shall take up his little outcrop-bag and "get up and git" from the "City of Oaks" that there will be dry eyes on that day, except among the disconsolates of the Capitol. A few of the faithful will follow his gubernatorial remains to the depot, and when the mellifluous orator and immense patriot of Wayne departs, there may be heard the lingering echo of a song composed for the occasion by John Neathery, and sung to the tune of "Old Aunt Ann."

"We never had a gay old fell. To feed us long with bread and cheese, But when he came to know us well, He leas't his place, as did Deewee."

The old man Curtis, he went jumping around, a bobbing around, Old man Curtis went bobbing around. A writer in the New North State gives some stanzas from Milton's magnificent "Hymn on the Nativity," and then quotes two stanzas of Mr. Theo. H. Hill's neat and felicitous poem entitled, "The Star Above the Manger." He makes this naive confession: "It is not half so long as Milton's, but somehow I like it better." We shouldn't wonder.

The New Year is here, and it is the very time to subscribe to the DAILY or WEEKLY STAR. Every voter should keep posted, for he is a sovereign.

The Legislature.

Raleigh Observer's Report Condensed. SENATE.

MONDAY, JAN. 1, 1877. The Senate was called to order at 10 o'clock. President Robinson in the chair. There being no quorum present on Saturday, the President ordered the reading of the journal of December 13th as well as the journal of Saturday, both of which were approved.

Mr. Stanford: Bill to regulate the rate of interest and to repeal chapter 84 of the laws of 1874-75. Referred to the committee on Banks and Currency.

Mr. Dortch: Bill to extend the jurisdiction of Justices of the peace. Referred to the committee on the Judiciary.

By the same: Bill to provide for the government of counties. Referred to the committee on County Governments.

Mr. Liles: Resolution, which was adopted unanimously. Resolved, That for his uniform courtesy and kindness, as well as his discriminative and just discharge of his duties as President pro tempore of the Senate, the thanks of the Senate are due, and are hereby tendered to the Hon. Jas. L. Robinson.

On motion of Mr. Cunningham the rules were suspended, and the bill to authorize the town of Milton to subscribe \$10,000 in stock in the Milton & Sutherland Narrow Gauge Railroad was taken up, and passed its third reading.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES. The House met at 10 o'clock, A. M., with Mr. Speaker Price in the chair. The journal of Saturday was read and approved.

By Mr. Vaughan: A bill to make it a misdemeanor to carry concealed weapons. Referred to Judiciary committee.

By Mr. Henderson: A bill to alter the Constitution of North Carolina, changing the time of the commencement of the Governor's term of office, and omitting certain obsolete sections. Referred to Judiciary committee.

The people shall continue to elect, as is now done, biennially, two magistrates in each township. The Legislature shall elect every four years, for the term of four years, two magistrates, for each township, and the

Legislature may, at discretion, elect an additional number for towns and for townships in which towns are situated. The whole number of magistrates, including those elected by the people and those elected by the Legislature, shall elect biennially from their own number five County Commissioners.

CALENDAR. Senate bill to repeal chapter 76, laws of 1870-71, relating to violations occurring in county offices, was taken up, and put upon its second reading, and it passed.

The question recurred upon the passage of the bill on its third reading, and was passed by a vote of 54 yeas, nays 12.

On motion of Mr. Geffroy, the bill for the relief of the Sheriff of Currituck county was taken up, passed its readings, and sent to the Senate without engrossing.

The Clerk read the programme for the inauguration ceremonies as arranged by the Legislative committee, when the House took a recess until 11:45.

At 15 minutes before 12 the House was called to order, and moved in a body to Tucker Hall, to participate in the inauguration of the State officers.

Adjourned till to-morrow at 11 o'clock. COUNTY COMMISSIONERS. Proceedings of the Meeting Last Night.

The Board met last night at 8 o'clock; present, John G. Wagner, Chairman, and Commissioners L. B. Grainger, B. G. Worth, D. Nixon and D. Holmes.

The report of Elijah Hewlett, County Treasurer, for December, 1876, was submitted, and referred to the Auditing committee.

A bill from the Gas Company was referred to the Auditing committee. Application of Mary Davis, for license to retail spirituous liquors, was granted.

S. Van Amringe and D. O. Davis, committee appointed to settle with A. R. Black, late Tax Collector, handed in their report, which was received and ordered spread on the minutes.

Application of Emanuel Thistle, to have charge of the county prisoners, was laid over.

The Chairman appointed the following standing committees: On Auditing—The Chairman, T. B. Grainger and B. G. Worth.

On Finance—The Chairman, B. G. Worth and T. B. Grainger. On Poor House—The Chairman, B. G. Worth and D. Nixon.

On Roads and Bridges—The Chairman, D. Nixon and D. Holmes. On Public Buildings—The Chairman, D. Nixon and D. Holmes.

On Out-Door Poor—The Chairman and T. B. Grainger. It was ordered that the Committee on Poor House and Hospital examine into the contract with H. E. Scott, and report at next meeting whether a more advantageous contract to the county cannot be made and thereby curtail expenses.

It was ordered that the Chairman appoint a committee of two to see what arrangements can be made regarding the prisoners lately confined at the Work House.

The report of John G. Wagner and S. Van Amringe, Committee on Out-Door Poor, was received and ordered on file.

THE INAUGURATION CEREMONIES.

We are indebted to the Raleigh Observer for the following brief account of the inauguration of Gov. Zebulon Baird Vance, and for the highly important and interesting occasion.

The ceremonies, in consequence of a violent snow storm, were changed, and instead of the prearranged programme, were held at Tucker Hall.

At 15 minutes before 12 the Senate and House of Representatives met in their respective halls, and, presided by their presiding officers, moved to Tucker Hall, and occupied seats assigned them there.

At 12:30 p. m. the Governor elect, accompanied by his Excellency Gov. Brogden, the Chief Justice and Associate Justices of the Supreme Court, the outgoing State officers and the officers elect, escorted by the committee on behalf of the Legislature, entered the hall, and occupied seats upon the stage.

The ceremonies were opened with prayer by Rev. Dr. J. Henry Smith, of Greensboro.

The oaths of office were administered by the Hon. Edwin G. Rennie, Associate Justice, to the officers elect in the following order: Superintendent of Public Instruction, Attorney-General, Lieutenant-Governor, Auditor and the Treasurer, being bonded officers, cannot be sworn until Gov. Vance has passed upon their bonds, as required by law.

The oath of office was then administered to Gov. Vance by Chief Justice Pearson.

Upon taking the oath of office Gov. Vance delivered his inaugural address, as follows: LADIES AND FELLOW CITIZENS: There is retribution in history. For all the wrongs and inequalities of individual and national life there is compensation provided, if we do but patiently await its coming.

Twice before this I took the oath of office as Governor of North Carolina; the first time on the 8th of September, 1862, the second time on the 1st day of January, 1864. I was not permitted to serve on my last allotted term. War was then raging in the land, and the star of the Confederacy was already paling towards its final obscurity.

In April, 1865, the second and last remaining great army of the Confederate States surrendered at Greensboro, and the hardy contested struggle of the Southern people was ended. We then found ourselves in a peculiar condition, attributable in a great measure to the complex nature of the Government under which we live.

That struggle was the result of the opinion of the Southern people of their right to withdraw from the Union by State authority; it was inaugurated by circumstances of secession and was maintained by arms. It was throughout an attempt to escape from the American Union as established by the Constitution.

When that escape was prevented by the adverse results of the war we naturally supposed we were still in the Union and subject to the Constitution. True, according to the theory of our adversaries, individuals engaged in the so-called rebellion had incurred the penalties of treason, but it had occurred to no lawyer to suppose that the States composing the Confederacy had forfeited their position as members of the Union, or that they had acquired by defeat the very object they had sought to attain by success.

It was therefore admitted by the undisputed logic of all parties, that the insurgent States were still at the close, at the beginning of the war, in the Union, controlled by the Constitution, bound by all its obligations and entitled to all its protections. In fact we were termed traitors by reason of, and only by reason of, the provisions of that instrument; and but for the fact, that as was said, we owed an obedience to it, which we could in no wise avoid by secession, no one could have had the hardihood to venture on the use of such a term toward us.

But when the war ended successfully for the North, the situation became embarrassing to our adversaries. The Union and the Constitution which had furnished such excellent battle-cries in the day of strife, were now decidedly in the way. The Constitution said, "These States are members of the Union; they did not get out, and indeed could not, whilst my provisions were observed; and being where they always were, they are entitled immediately to reform their own governments and to send Senators and Representatives to the National Congress." But the necessities of the Republican party speak thus: "If these States are treated as being in the Union, and if their Senators and Representatives are admitted into Congress from governments of their own formation, they will add so much strength to the Democratic party that there is danger of their seizing the Government, and ousting us from power." Thus, the organic law of the land and the necessities of a party were at war. Without hesitation party good was preferred, and the Constitution went down. We were treated as outside of the Union. Our State government was overturned; every civil officer from the Chief Magistrate to the humblest conservator of the peace was deposed, and for many months we were absolutely without law—for the absurd term "martial law" means only the will of the commander of troops. Test-oaths defeated our free representation in Congress, and many penalties attached to treason were visited upon us without the forms of a trial and conviction, which, indeed, might have been a hazardous pro-

ceeding, as the Supreme Court was still somewhat sensitive to the legal opinions of the world. In the name of the Union we were thrust out of the Union; in the name of the Constitution we were denied all protection of the Constitution. In this manner we existed until it pleased the President of the United States to restore us to the Union, dedicated of many of our rights, and stripped of much of our legal power. But even this poor contrivance of a poorer statesmanship was not sufficient for our adversaries, inasmuch as it gave us a semblance of constitutional protection and left our State government in the hands of our legal and native born citizens, who at liberty refused to affiliate with the dominant party. After due consideration the Republican party in Congress undertook a second reconstruction on its own terms. Certain amendments to the Constitution, having been first adopted by the aid of the States to be reconstructed, then were enacted the series of "Reconstruction Acts," acknowledged by their advocates to be outside of the Constitution; again was the Union dissolved; a second time we were thrust out; once more we were subjected to the government of the bayonet; new qualifications of suffrage were established, new rules of disfranchisement were imposed, and the extraordinary spectacle was exhibited to the world of a Constitution being foisted upon a free people by the illegal suffrage of some aided by the illegal disfranchisement of others, and all supervised and controlled by the bayonets of strangers. By this burlesque upon law and free government the political character of the Southern States was made to accord, pro force, with that of the dominant party, and holding the check of political disabilities upon the leading men of their opponents in their own hands, they fancied they had secured to themselves a long lease of power. The danger being thus happily averted from the hands of their own creatures, some of whom were even provided with self-perpetuating powers called "Returning Boards," it was thought safe to readmit these States to the American Union on terms of so-called perfect and absolute equality.

All of this we submitted to after unavailing protest, and by all of these things we have solemnly agreed to abide in good faith, for the sake of peace in order that the land may have rest. We were not, too, without a reasonable hope, that having done all which was required of us, and concurred in amending the fundamental law in such a manner as the victors thought necessary to secure all the results of the war, we might have a return to strict and exact constitutional government, and putting behind us—as we certainly were disposed to do—the irregularities and bitter memories of the past, look forward to better times in the future. Bitterly were we deceived in that fond hope. From that day to the present the armed hand of the Federal Government has never ceased to interfere, or threaten to interfere, in the domestic concerns of the Southern States, whenever the supremacy of the Republican party was thought to be in danger. The excuse for this unconstitutional action is the miserable pretence of preserving the public peace.

It is a matter of decision by the Supreme Court that the National Government cannot exercise mere police powers in the States; it is a matter of history that there has been no considerable breach of the peace in any part of the country except in that which was ruled by the execrable creatures who were placed in power there by the aid of the Federal Government; that whenever the reconstructed States have thrown off this alien control there is not the shadow of violence or discord; that the only semblance of pretended discord existing in any of them, on which is founded the President's excuse for the use of soldiers, is in those three States which alone remain governed by reconstruction carpetbaggers, and whose electoral votes happen to be necessary to secure the supremacy of the Republican party once more.

Within the last thirty days, the world has seen with wonder and disgust, the Legislature of a sister State assembled to find its Capitol filled with United States soldiers, and sentinels with fixed bayonets guarding the doors of its halls, whilst a sergeant decided upon the qualifications and election of members, refusing admission to those who were declared duly elected by the supreme judicial tribunal of that State! Nor was this the first time that this great outrage upon liberty and law had been committed. This may be preserving the public peace, but it looks vastly more like a deliberate attempt to goad brave men to desperation in order to shed their blood, as well as to rob them of their liberties. The real disturbers of the peace in South Carolina are the President and his advisers; the real preservers of the peace are the noble and chivalrous Hampton and his long suffering and admiring countrymen.

There is not an honest man in America to-day but believes this. Such are the results which have flowed naturally from predetermined violations of the Constitution, and the unwarranted assumption of power by the military arm. Nor have these been the only, if the worst, fruits of these departures from the legal path. By this unnatural process and schemes of reconstruction North Carolina was placed in the hands of the designing and ignorant of our people, organized and led on by unscrupulous and disreputable adventurers from the slums of Northern cities; a base and cormorant tribe of

reptiles, which seem to spring like fungi from the corruption and corruption of revolutionary times. The story of their short-lived but evil reign, how they hampered the State in character and means, how they overturned our time-honored institutions, persecuted decency, outlawed honor and honesty, and established fraud as a thing to be worshipped in their stead, and how they rioted in the trampling down of the most revered traditions of our people in one too well known to be repeated here. Thank God, it is ended at last! So far as North Carolina is concerned, the rule of corruption and clamamy is numbered with the past. The last and the damnest now in the list of true men which assaulted it, was a small and despised one. Not only were the enemy strongly entrenched behind the Constitution and laws of their own making and interpreting, but the gigantic shadow of Federal power stood between them and the righteous wrath of an oppressed people. By a dishonest use of the sacred name of the American Union, and by skillful appeals to the prejudices excited by war, they secured a large and respectable following of many who were not privy to their wicked designs. Numerous officers were tempted to join their number by the blandishments of office and public money, which was modestly designated "accepting the situation."

But there was a remnant who bowed not the knee to Baal; there were a few names left in Sardis, who did not defile their garments, who did not and courageously they charged upon the enemy. On every assault their number and their spirits increased; one by one corrupt influences fell to the ground; one by one abuses were exposed and remedied; one by one the different branches of the government were torn from the control of the lawless Legislature, and the representation in Congress was a representation of the Judiciary whilst ever and anon a corrupt county government would be seized and overturned. To show how the cause of right and justice grew, in 1868 we could give to our candidate for Governor, Thomas S. Ashe, one of our best and purest men, but 78,594 votes in 1876 we gave Judge Merriam 96,700 votes.

Finally the day of great and decisive battle came. And I confess that the proudest day in the history of my life was the one on which I was almost unanimously chosen to be the leader of the people of my native State in that great fight. A majestic spectacle was presented in the making ready. The mighty host in battle array stretched from where the white waves of the eastern sea beat their everlasting refrain upon the white-sanded shore of Hatteras westward to where the rugged Alleghenies look down into the chambers of the setting sun. Under the pines of the eastern plain, beneath the oaks of the rolling midlands, across the hills of Dan, in Broad and Cape Fear, on the sides and summit of the mountains, and upon all the highland passes, they stood. Like our grandfathers, they the whole people were not to be trifled with—the women and the children, the wives and maidens of them, standing behind our army to drive forward the jagged bayonets of our timid, ready both to strike for our triumph, and to surrender for our despair. In those ranks stood white-haired age, sturdy manhood and lusty youth, the wisest, the bravest out of a million people. How could manhood go backward in such a presence? No campaign, perhaps, in our political annals was fought with such ardent and universal enthusiasm. The zeal of the people was kindled up to a fiery sublimity. The whole was public honest and constitutional liberty. That banner which by your command, my countrymen, inscribed with these sacred emotions, there in front of that host, constituted my noble and gallant colleagues, has been blessed by the most signal victory ever achieved in our State. The average vote for our ticket is about 123,500; so rapidly have the friends of right increased that will not affect to deny that I am personally benefited in an especial manner by the result, to which I may be said to have done for alluding. For nearly three years I was your Governor in the midst of the civil war. In those days, in such times, duty demanded of me to the performance of my duty, and my place was filled by others. Some of them were so noble, so open to hostile criticism, especially when looked at in the light of our recent history. But I was being assailed with extraordinary harshness and injustice for what I did, but bitingly and falsely for what I did not. The prolific sources of malevolence and slander were exhausted in defaming me. In response to the people of the State, whose cause I served and whose honor I upheld, have said by twenty-seven thousand more votes than was ever before that time cast for any man in our political history, not that every thing I did was right, but that in all things I faithfully performed and endeavored to perform the duties which were imposed upon me. I hope my countrymen are satisfied with the verdict. Quite certain it is that I am, for the victory is not only great, but was won by the fairest, best sustained and most peaceful elections ever held in our State or any other State. And now, cheered by this magnificent endorsement, I for the third time enter upon the high duties assigned me by the Constitution and laws of North Carolina.

It is assuming once more the government of our native State, we are reminded that with power there comes responsibility. The deep wounds which the last three years of war and misgovernment have inflicted upon us still gape unhealed. Our public credit has been almost entirely destroyed. Our wealth has been swept away; our particular fund has been lost; patriotic partiality statesmanship has increased and