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PLEDGING CANDIDATES.

Many of the best weekly papers are taking strong positions against the evil and dangerous attempt to exact pledges of the candidates for the Legislature relative to the Senatorial election.

"That's proper and sensible advice, and we endorse it heartily. If the one man idea is to be pursued and forced upon the Democrats of the different counties of this State under the influence of particular strikers and communication-writers, there will be 'independent' candidates for the Legislature, and some of the Independents will be Democrats whose principles cannot be truthfully assailed.

The Goldsboro Messenger, another sound Democratic paper, has spoken. It joins the Rocky Mount Mail in its condemnation of this somewhat new movement in our State politics.

The Lumberton Robesonian, still another unfaltering upholder of Democratic principles, has some timely words on the same subject. It wisely says:

"There is another matter which if not stopped is going to be very prolific of mischief in this campaign. There is a disposition among some of our State papers to have the members of the next Legislature chosen with a view to their preference for Senator. This, in our judgment, is entirely wrong."

Other papers have spoken out but we failed to preserve the numbers. We do not see what possible good can come of such a practice or precedent, and we can see a vast deal of injury that may accrue if it is generally adopted.

According to the genius of our government—according to the Constitution—in the Senate of the United States each sovereign State or Commonwealth is represented in its political capacity upon a footing of absolute equality, like a Congress of sovereigns or ambassadors.

"Elect good, true, capable men to the Legislature upon their merits and principles, and then let them elect the best men to the U. S. Senate."

THE FLORIDA CRIME.

The confessions of Judge McLin, one of the members of the Returning Board of Florida, and of Senator Dennis, giving the details of the Alabama county frauds, are very naturally exciting much talk in Washington, and indeed, throughout the country.

These declarations confirm all that the Democrats insisted upon from the first. There never was any good reason for any one to believe that Florida and Louisiana ever voted for Hayes.

But we do not believe the rascalities which marked the acts of Radical leaders in 1876-7 will ever be repeated again successfully.

Excluding the return from Baker county, which was counted, and which I have since learned from the parties who made it was a falsely manufactured return, the true return, which was duly responded with the precinct returns of that county, would certainly have given the State to Mr. Tilden.

Senator Dennis, for eight years a member of the Florida Legislature, was also Chairman of the Republican committee of Alachua county and President of the Board of Commissioners.

"I don't mind saying that I am certain the State of Florida went for Tilden on the face of the returns, and that he should have had it. I will go further, and say there has not been a man in the past three months when, if I had been convinced that the crushing proof of the fact that Tilden carried the State would turn Hayes out and give Tilden his rights, I would not have gladly furnished such proof."

GERRYMANDERING.

Since the plan was first adopted by the politicians of laying off the Congressional Districts in a State so as to give the dominant party in the Legislature the lion's share of the representation, it has been popular and has been often resorted to by all parties.

The present Speaker of the House, Mr. Samuel J. Randall, of Philadelphia, has the credit of being both astute and able.

The Washington Post of the 26th enters into some figures to show how much necessity and fairness there is in the suggestion.

"Owing to the infamous iniquity of the Radical gerrymander, the 330,000 Republican votes returned fourteen Republican members of Congress, while the 338,183 Democratic votes returned only six Democratic members."

But the inequality and unfairness are even greater in Indiana. Blue-Jeans Williams was elected Governor, and later in the year 1876, Tilden and Hendricks carried the State by many thousands.

Under the deficiency bill for the construction and repair of postoffices, custom-houses, &c., the North gets \$581,000, and the South and West receive \$156,000.

THE DRUMMERS' TAX.

The Star has taken no part in the discussion in regard to levying a tax upon all drummers, or commercial travellers, as they prefer to be called, we believe, after the manner of the English.

We ask, in all seriousness, why a man from Boston or Cincinnati should come to Wilmington, and, by paying a tax of six or nine dollars, as the case may be, according to the number of days he is operating here, should be allowed to take orders amounting to one thousand dollars or more, and, hising him away, have the goods manufactured and delivered, without contributing any farther to the public or city treasury?

At Snead's Ferry, Onslow county, on Saturday last, a constable attempted to arrest a stranger for some violation of the State laws, when, a ter discharging his pistol at the officer, without effect, he escaped, leaving behind him a mule, sulky, a trunk and sixty pounds of unstamped smoking tobacco.

We believe that a tax of at least \$500 should be levied upon drummers of all kinds (including all book and map agents) who have something to sell.

The law should break up the present system it would act beneficially for nineteen-twentieths of those concerned—would confer the greatest benefit on the greatest number.

The township committees, of that staunch Democratic county, Wilson, recently met at the county-seat, and after "a full, free and harmonious interchange of opinions," adopted a series of resolutions for the regulating of the next election.

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The Baltimore Gazette, in a complimentary notice to Mrs. Harris's magazine, calls it the South-Atlantic Review.

There were seventy-nine failures at Pittsburg, Pennsylvania, last week, aggregating \$2,186,000 liabilities.

A Close Contest.

The contest between Col. Waddell and Major Stedman for the vote of New Hanover county in the Democratic convention has been a very close one.

Fish Propagation.

Congress has just made an appropriation of \$20,000, to be immediately available, for continuing, under the direction of the United States Commissioner of Fish, the propagation and introduction of useful food-fishes into the waters of the United States.

A Fish Story.

A very fishy story comes from San Francisco, to the effect that blank Russian letters of marque for American vessels are there awaiting a declaration of war, and that one of these privateers will be commanded by Capt. Waddell, formerly of the Confederate privateer "Shenadoah."

MONROE'S SEIZURE.

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ALLEGED INSANITY.

A white man, by the name of Patrick Jordan, said to be insane, was brought here from Columbus county, yesterday morning, and lodged in jail for safe keeping.

CLIMATIC INFLUENCES.

We were informed a day or two since, by a gentleman conversant with the facts whereof he speaks, that there are more than a dozen white persons within the scope of his acquaintance in the little county of Brunswick, who average between 80 and 90 years of age.

U. S. DISTRICT COURT.

The following cases were disposed of yesterday: Benj. Clark, charged with dealing in un-stamped tobacco. Nolle pro. entered.

THE BAPTIST REVIVAL IN MASONBORO.

There was a very interesting meeting at the Baptist Church in Masonboro Township, on Sunday, which was attended by a large audience, including about twenty-five or thirty persons from this city.

RAILROAD MEETING AND FESTIVAL AT BURGAW.

Extensive preparations are being made for the big railroad meeting and festival at Burgaw, on Wednesday next, May 1st.

FATAL ACCIDENT.

A correspondent at Shoe Heel, Robeson county, writing under date of Saturday, the 27th inst., says: "William McKay, a young man about twenty-two years of age, a resident of this place and clerk for Mr. T. Henderson, was accidentally shot about three-quarters of a mile from here last night, and died from the injuries sustained therefrom just before 12 o'clock M. to-day."

ROBBERY OF MONEY.

Mr. D. W. J. King, of Grist's station, Columbus county, who was recently robbed of \$300 while asleep on the cars at Columbia, S. C., writes to us under the impression that some one has been arrested here who had that amount of money on his person.

LONGFELLOW'S REBEL SYMPATHIES.

Senator Gordon spent a portion of the afternoon with Mr. Longfellow at his home in Cambridge. His, Gordon's, speech at the banquet, last night, was the event of the evening, and created much enthusiasm.

FROM WASHINGTON.

SEIZURE OF A LOUISIANA RETURNING BOARD MAN.

WASHINGTON, April 29. The President, some time ago received a letter from a discharged custom house employe in New Orleans, in which the statement was made, on the alleged authority of an eye-witness, that one of the members of the Returning Board had received \$10,000 before signing the returns.

The matter was immediately brought to the attention of each member of the Returning Board, each and all of whom denied it with great emphasis. Friends of the Returning Board now charge that Senator Kellogg was at the bottom of this charge, and that he has made similar statements in the presence of Senators.

THE RUSSIAN PRIVATEERS.

The San Francisco telegrams announcing that the Russian government have issued letters of marque to parties there, were the subject of much conversation to-day among shipping people at the Exchange.

Like the recent meetings at Moscow to raise a privateering fund, the story is believed to have been set afloat simply to scare John Bull, and to make his government a little more yielding in his demands upon Russia.

The Federal Court, Judge Dick, has been in session here the past and present week, the business will be finished up by Friday.

CHILD MURDER IN MADISON.

From Spring Creek, in Madison county, we have the sickening details of a most horrible and bloody child murder.

A terrible storm passed over a section of Orange, near Flat River, on the 24th. The Torrential rains: About midnight, on the night of the 24th, Josiah Turner, Jr., came in great haste to Dr. D. Booth, who repaired immediately to the disastrous scene.

WASHINGTON NEWS AND GOSSIP.

The Supreme Court of the United States yesterday decided that failure to pay premiums on life insurance policies, when there is no local agent to receive them, does not invalidate the policy.

THE FLORIDA CONFESIONS.

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REIDVILLE TIMES.

What has become of Noel Hope? He who used to recite poetry and give readings at the Yarrow House in Raleigh? Hope once bought a dinner for a poor dog, and paid for it with a dime; the dinner was eaten, even had eggs boiled—and then at a week's time when a Blackland dunned Hope for his own board, he told him with tears in his eyes he had cent his last cent on that poor dog; could not help to save his life; the dog looked so pitiful in his eyes, and seemed to say to him, "Mr. Hope, you are my friend."

Spirits Turpentine

During the summer Prof. Redd, of the University, will go to Germany for a year to prosecute his studies in experimental stations and in applied science generally.

Newbern Nat. Shell: John R. Good, who was stricken down on one of the streets of this city on Wednesday, with the poppley, as was mentioned in our issue of the next day, died at his residence last night, about half past 7 o'clock.

Concord Sun: Concord Presbytery closed its labors at Bethpage Church, last Saturday, after a well attended and harmonious meeting. About forty ministers were in attendance and a very large number of people attended each day.

Rev. Jacob Doll preached on Wednesday. He was unwell on Thursday, attended Presbytery on Friday and made a short speech before he departed for a day or two of rest.

Monroe Express: A very respectable citizen of Anson county, who lives near Long Pine postoffice, a few Sundays ago went into his field and did a good day's plowing before he discovered his mistake.

Hillsboro Recorder: Judge McKoy, of this circuit, has liberally availed himself of the power conferred by the law of 1874-75, amendatory of the act of chapter 89 of the Revised Statutes, in regard to hiring out persons convicted of criminal offenses by any of the Courts of the State.

On April 26th, in the Tyrrell county, J. W. Rhoades killed instantly James E. Graves. A telegram to the New York Herald says: "It seems that the two parties found a small boat adrift, with no owner, and Rhoades refused to give Graves an interest in it, whereupon they commenced a dispute. Word for word followed, until at last Rhoades struck Graves on the head with a club that he had with him driving down net stakes, which instantly caused death. Rhoades was arrested and lodged in jail to await trial."

Statesville American: The Federal Court, Judge Dick, has been in session here the past and present week, the business will be finished up by Friday.

A correspondent of the Raleigh Observer, writing from Wadesboro about Anson county, says: "I have a criminal docket there is a case somewhat novel in its character, and almost without a parallel in America. Thomas H. Womble, of Anson county, was indicted by the grand jury at the last term of the court as an 'accessory before the fact' of suicide; or, in other words, it appears that he bought or procured strychnine for one Elizabeth Rusingg, who took it and died from the effects of the dose. There is no case of the kind in our records in North Carolina, and only two cases strongly analogous that are mentioned in the books."

Charlotte Observer: It has been estimated that not less than \$5,000 is "up" on the mayor's election.

Asheville Citizen: Mr. L. Chapman, of this place, one of the honorary commissioners from North Carolina to the Paris Exposition, left here on Tuesday for the purpose of attending the grand affair.

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