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THE PROSPECTS.

The papers have been speculating again as to the Democratic prospects in the next campaign in the Union.

When the present Congress first met it had thirteen majority. When we consider the gerrymandering of Ohio, and the changes that have since taken place...

Under all the circumstances the Democrats will have trouble to hold their representation in New England...

It appears clearly that many millions of dollars were wasted, whilst ships and material strangely disappeared. It appears also that contracts amounting to over twenty million dollars were made in direct violation of the law.

The present session will close with a Democratic majority of fifteen. A full House contains 293 members.

We are indebted to Messrs. Currier & Ives, 115 Nassau street, New York, for another package of pictures...

THE "RECOR" ROBBERY.

It would not be probably an exaggeration to say that during Grant's eight years of office there was more unadulterated rascality practiced and a greater amount of stealing carried on by his chosen officials than during the entire previous history of the Government.

The House Committee on Naval Affairs have finished their investigation of the administration of Grant. That the late Secretary Robeson is a corrupt scoundrel no one has doubted for a long time who had any knowledge of his official conduct.

"Resolved, That the acts and conduct of the late Secretary of the Navy, George M. Robeson, of the late chiefs of the bureau of steam engineering, construction and repair, and provisions and clothing, in the sale and disposition of public property...

They also pass a resolution calling on Congress and the Attorney General that the guilty parties be tried and punished as prescribed by law.

The evidence is full and overwhelmingly convincing, and for the most part is taken from official reports and records of the Navy Department.

"First, The Committee find that since the close of the war of the rebellion over \$40,000,000 in money have been expended for and on account of the naval services. They find that of this sum fully \$182,000,000 have been expended during the administration of Secretary Robeson.

"Second, The committee find that every protective and prohibitive enactment of law made for the security of public money and public property has been disregarded and violated. They find that, as a result of these violations, the public property has been expended during the administration of Secretary Robeson.

"This does not include an equal or larger amount of purchases made under what is known as the open purchase system. It appears that the result of these practices was that the government has uniformly paid higher rates for supplies than other buyers, that these prices have often been enormously excessive, and that while there has been a great reduction in the prices of materials during the past few years...

"Vessels that cost thirteen million dollars were sold for two million five hundred thousand. We quote from the report:

"They also find that vessels that cost the government in aggregate over \$13,000,000, were run up and sold as old material, the proceeds of which amounted, after paying the cost of destruction, to \$4,000,000. From this it appears that property that cost the government \$20,000,000 was sold for less than one million, when the government, under an honest administration, might have realized several millions therefrom."

the same sort yet behind. Surely, something will be done to bring the thieves to trial. If such crimes against the country are to be allowed to go unpunished, what will the world think—that will honest Americans think?

The report is made by Democrats alone, as the Republican members of the committee took no hand in its preparation. We trust that the law will be fully vindicated.

This is but a sample of Grant's rotten and utterly corrupt Administration. Elect him again, and what a grand carnival the rogues and bummers will have for another four years.

The Richmond Whig has the same opinion of the session of Congress that probably ended Thursday morning that the STAR has. It accomplished much less than was needed and than it ought to have accomplished. It failed in some of the most important legislation that was absolutely demanded by the necessities of the country, but it did some good, for which we should at least be thankful. The Whig says:

"The session of the past Congress is more remarkable for the things not done than for the things done. With one branch Republican by a small majority, and the other Democratic by a small majority, with the party virus still in vigor, any unity of action was out of the question. The one party was always on the watch of the other, and each eager that the other should gain no advantage of it. Only on the silver question was there a general disbandment of party."

The efficiency of a Democratic House was paralyzed by discord on this vital question (the repeal of the resumption act), and it was further impaired by bad organization. The want of tact as well as statesmanship was exhibited at every stage of its proceedings. And yet it has done some things that merit high commendation, and, by failing to do others, not permitting them to be done, rendered signal good. It set its face absolutely against fraud, and has not, we believe, permitted a job to be enacted into a law. No subsidy has passed. Its efforts at reform and retrenchment have been, in a great degree, thwarted by the Republican Senate."

We may mention that but little harm was done, if the amount of good accomplished was not as great as was expected. It sat for over seven months, and of the four thousand bills introduced but few have become laws. After all, it may be better for the country that so little was done.

The Richmond (Va.) State is especially severe on General Robert B. Vance, because it says his silly amendments killed the tobacco bill. It thinks he acted from improper motives, and says:

"His conduct, whether foolish or knavish, is equally indefensible, and the people of Virginia should not soon forget this unneighborly stab at their best interests merely for a little cheap moonshine popularity in his own district."

As North Carolina has some forty counties engaged in tobacco growing, and as General Vance's part of the State is more or less interested in the same staple, we are unwilling to believe he is either "a fool or a knave" in regard "to the best interests" of his own State or Virginia. He may have erred, but no one familiar with his record or character will credit him with resorting to "silly amendments" to make "cheap moonshine" popularity in his own district."

Gen. Vance has made a useful, faithful representative. He is a devout member of the Methodist Church, and is as popular in his district as his brother "Zebe" is in any part of North Carolina. We do not believe he killed the bill designed with what the State calls his "tom fool amendments."

A DISTINGUISHED AND VALUED PUBLIC SERVANT.

We believe it to be true that North Carolina was never better represented in the United States Senate than now. Her two Senators have been very faithful in the discharge of their important duties. Judge Merriam has secured a reputation among his brother Senators that any man might envy. He is justly regarded as one of the best legal minds in the body, and his speeches have been distinguished for argument, force, elevation of tone, and thoroughness. His moral character is of the highest.

General Ransom has the happy fortune of not only being one of the most eloquent and magnetic speakers in the Senate, but of being probably the most popular and influential member of that august body. He has been able to carry measures by the weight of his personal popularity among men of both parties and from all sections of our country. This is

not an idle statement. We could easily fortify it by an appeal to well known facts.

A very recent occurrence shows his popularity and influence. It appears certain that he was mainly instrumental in obtaining large and important appropriations for North and South Carolina. We copied yesterday what the Raleigh Observer said about his important services in the matter of the North Carolina appropriations—that he had "more than doubled the amount appropriated for North Carolina," and that "every portion of the State had been favored" through his exertions.

The last Charleston News and Courier refers in most complimentary and merited terms to Gen. Ransom as "South Carolina's friend." It says the "public are largely indebted to Senator Ransom, of North Carolina," for the success of the effort to obtain "the appropriation of two hundred thousand dollars for the improvement of Charleston harbor," and for "an appropriation of twenty thousand dollars for the erection of a lighthouse on Paris Island, &c." It then employs the following just, grateful and appropriate language in eulogy of our admirable Senator:

"As a member of the Senate Committee on Commerce, he had large opportunities which he used with admirable effect. His labors, too, the more important, in our behalf, inasmuch as he is, beyond question, one of the most influential members of the Senate. "Gen. Ransom, although a fine speaker and a dialectician, wielding with equal power the rapier of satire and the hammer of hard fact, seldom cares to be heard on the floor of the Senate, save when questions of national concern and topics of interest to the South, are under consideration. How brilliant he can be, when the exigency arises, was exhibited in his scathing reply to the calumnies of Senator Hoar. Senator Ransom prefers working to talking, and this quality, together with his purity of character and kindly disposition of manner, cause him to grow steadily in weight with his colleagues. "It is proper that South Carolina should know how much she owes to Senator Ransom, for no State has had a more capable and consistent friend, in all things and at all times, in Washington."

GEN. VANCE'S PROVISIO.

Whilst it may be true that there has been a good deal of exaggeration in the reports concerning revenue outrages, it is quite apparent that there are only too good grounds for some of the most serious charges. It was because of these crimes that Gen. Robert B. Vance attempted to get a proviso inserted in the Revenue bill preventing the removal of criminal cases against revenue officers from the State to the Federal Courts. Unfortunately the House struck out the proviso, and would not even give Gen. Vance an opportunity of explaining the nature and necessity of the proviso.

This was done, however, not because the Democrats were opposed to such a proviso, but because they feared that its adoption would kill the tobacco bill to which it was tacked. There may have been individual Democrats who were opposed to the proviso of Gen. Vance, but they were probably but few. Gen. Vance is much censured because of his course. He lives in a section where the outrages by revenue officials have been often felt, and he was, therefore, deeply anxious to have a law passed forbidding the removal of trials of revenue officers from the State to the Federal courts, knowing that it was almost a farce to try one of the "red-legged grasshoppers" before a Federal Judge.

The passage of the proviso would have been very gratifying to the people in many sections of the South, where they have been sufferers from the official misconduct and often brutality of those sent out to execute Federal duties and laws.

The Democratic House allowed Gen. Vance to publish his statement in the Congressional Record, from which the following is taken:

"Mr. Speaker, for two Congresses I have endeavored to change the statute which authorized the removal of causes from State Federal Courts. As I have before stated to the House, the people have suffered much from this statute. It is clear that there is no authority vested in the Federal Courts to try homicides; hence, such trials are a mockery of justice. The people demand at the hands of Congress a repeal of this unjust and vicious statute. The Internal Revenue bill reported was the proper bill to put an amendment on to repeal said law."

The proviso met with the most decided opposition at the hands of Republicans, as was to have been expected. The Representatives of that party appear to be averse to all honorable investigations, and also appear to be willing to shelter and condone crimes. Not only this, but they seem to be determined to hold on to all the extra-constitutional power they had seized in the days when Kadicallism

was rampant, and when the Constitution of the United States was a dead letter.

THE BUREAU.

Paris En Route for the "Field of Honor"—They Are Arrested and Round Over to Keep the Peace.

This community was peacefully agitated yesterday morning by the intelligence, which gained very general circulation throughout the city, as such reports will, that a duel was about to be fought by two gentlemen from the up country, who had passed through here en route to Fair Bluff, on the W. C. & A. Railroad, about six or seven miles from this city, and on the dividing line between North and South Carolina. It appears that Mayor Fihblate, of this city, received a telegram from the Mayor of Henderson, in Granville county, yesterday morning, as follows:

To the Mayor of Wilmington: Arrest Harry Burwell and Willie Manson and their second, who go to fight a duel. They will be on the train to-day, A. W. (Signed) H. HARRIS, Mayor of Henderson.

Immediately upon the receipt of this telegram Mayor Fihblate instructed Chief of Police Brock to take two or three officers with him and go to the Weldon train and intercept the parties they attempt to pass through. The Chief of Police had no description of the proposed duellists or their friends, but was informed by the Conductor that there were no such persons as Burwell and Manson on the train. He thereupon reported his non-success to the Mayor.

Subsequently it transpired that the Burwell party had previously arrived at the C. C. Railway and registered at the Parcell House for breakfast, and that they, with the Manson party, who came on the W. & W. train at 10:05 A. M., had taken passage on the W. C. & A. R. R. train which left Wilmington at 10:25 A. M.

As soon as these facts became known to Mayor Fihblate, he immediately telegraphed to Magistrate H. B. Short, at Flemington, Columbus county, about thirty-five miles from the city, on the W. C. & A. R. R., requesting him to intercept the parties if they had not already passed that place, and also sent a telegram to the officials at Fair Bluff to the same purpose.

Between 12 and 1 o'clock Mayor Fihblate received a telegram from Magistrate Short, stating that he had arrested the parties, and requesting an answer. The Mayor then telegraphed the result to Mayor Harris, of Henderson, and later in the afternoon another telegram was received by Mayor Fihblate from Magistrate Short, to the effect that the parties had given bond and were released, and that they would return home late night.

Mr. H. H. Burwell, Jr., one of the parties to the proposed encounter, is a son of Mr. H. H. Burwell, of Granville, represented to be one of the wealthiest men in that county.

Mr. W. F. Manson is a son of the well known Dr. Otis F. Manson, Professor in the Medical College at Richmond, Va. Messrs. Burwell and Manson are said to be first cousins.

We learn that no challenge actually passed between the parties, but it was understood that this part of the programme, as well as other necessary preliminaries, would be arranged after their arrival at the place of meeting.

The two parties arrived here last night, and registered at the Parcell House. Both erowds kept their rooms closely last evening, and it was impossible to ascertain what their future movements would be. Mr. Manson is well known here, having frequently visited Wilmington as a traveling salesman. In conversation last evening he stated that his party would leave for Richmond by the Northern train this morning, but was silent as to their movements or intentions thereafter. This statement was verified by the fact that the party were put on the "call list" by the clerk, last night, by the forest direction.

Both sides seem thoroughly in earnest, and it is feared that the end is not yet, though it is impossible to definitely find out either party's intention.

The origin of the difficulty is said to have been the result of a misunderstanding concerning a business transaction, in which Burwell charged Manson with having acted in bad faith, which charge was promptly repudiated by him in strong language, for which he was subsequently attacked by Burwell and severely injured. The attempted meeting on yesterday was to have been at his instance, to avenge his injuries, but it was, as above indicated, frustrated by the arrest of the principals and their friends, the entire party being put under bonds to keep the peace for twelve months.

The Burwell party were accompanied by Dr. Geo. G. Thomas, of this city, as surgeon. At a late hour last night they (the Burwell party) were known to be undepared as to when they should take their departure.

For the Star.

18th Senatorial District.—Mr. N. A. Stedman, Jr. The citizens of the 18th Senatorial District, composed of the counties of Bladen and Brunswick, respectfully present the name of Mr. N. A. Stedman, Jr., of Bladen, as their choice for Senator, in the coming August election, and will support him with that zeal which his known abilities as a canvasser and earnest worker, and his fidelity to the Democratic party and its principles merit. We have consulted voters from a number of townships in this (Bladen) county, and are confident that Mr. Stedman is the choice of the majority of the voters in this county, and we are informed of Brunswick. We do not write this in the interest of Mr. Stedman, but in the interest of the Democratic party, which could not desire a more worthy standard bearer. MARY GREENE, dau. H. June, 1878.

Archaeological Discoveries near Wilmington.

The attention of scientists has recently been attracted to the neighborhood of Mr. A. R. Black, formerly Sheriff of this county, upon Middle Sound, some ten miles east of this city, by the discovery there of large quantities of human remains of an unknown race and period, scattered at intervals along the ocean front of this plantation. Yesterday a party of gentlemen, consisting of Rev. Dr. Wilson, Mr. Edward Kilder, and Col. Edward Cantwell, of the Historical Society, attended Mr. Black, at his request, upon the opening of two mounds which he had discovered and which he conjectured contained some memorials of the aboriginal inhabitants. The party first proceeded to examine the remains already described in this paper months ago, and of which two specimens skulls, it will be remembered, were exhibited to the Historical Society, Dr. M. J. DeRosset, late of this city, but now of New York, pronounced them of European origin. These bones appear to have been originally deposited in square pits about twelve feet in diameter, and to consist of fragments, some perfect and some fractured, mingled together confusedly and covered with heaps of oyster and clam shells, apparently deposited there a long time. The plantation has been in the possession of the present owner and the Mour family for more than one hundred years. There is not the slightest record or tradition which explains the presence of these interesting European remains, probably centuries old, in this locality. Proceeding up the creek a little over a mile, Mr. Black carried his visitors to a field near his house, in the corner of which the land rose some twelve or fifteen feet into broken knolls or ridges, covered with a thick forest growth, and consisting of the usual sandy soil, underlain with clay and marl. In the neighborhood there is a large lake, some four or five hundred yards across, covered with water lilies of unusual size. There is also, as is usually the case in the neighborhood of Indian remains, a fine spring of cool, delicious water. The mounds are situated at the terminus of one of the ridges we have described, and elevated some twelve or fifteen feet above the level of the adjoining fields. Following the instructions of the Smithsonian Institute at Washington, for the opening and examination of these mounds, Mr. Black first caused a trench to be dug from the circumference to the centre of the first mound, some twelve or fifteen feet long and about four deep, without result, except in the exhumation of a few fragments of charred bone, which from their great age could not be positively located. The examination of the second resulted in a very interesting discovery. Digging a circular well in the centre of the mound, at a depth of six or seven feet, there was found a circular deposit of charred coals, mingled with fragments of human bones, which had evidently lain there undisturbed for a long period of time, and in their original deposit. The gentlemen employed verified portions belonging to the human cranium, vertebrae, the clavicle, humerus, ulna and phalanges. These fragments were, however, too minute for more particular identification. Among the bones they discovered a black, glittering and unknown substance resembling mica, which they resorted to further examination, and a fine specimen of brown and transparent quartz. The persons to whom these bones belonged were evidently fastened together and burned at this spot, and afterwards covered with soil. Who they were, or what the occasion of their fate, is of course a matter of conjecture. Further explorations may determine their race and nation. We believe these are the only mounds of this character, and the only evidences of a similar sacrifice yet discovered. We hope this article will have the effect of calling the attention of archaeologists to this interesting and unexpected discovery. Possibly we may be on the eve of a solution of the history of the sufferings and the fate of that party of Sir Walter Raleigh's colonists whose only monument has hitherto been the word "Croatan," carried upon one of the trees of the forest of Albarnele, and around whose subsequent fate there is such a glow of romantic and melancholy interest.

The party from Wilmington returned about 7 o'clock in the evening, delighted with their successful exploration, and their hospitable entertainment at Middle Sound.

The steamer Waco, which has been absent at Fayetteville for some weeks past, where she has been undergoing thorough repairs, has put in her appearance again in a new and handsome dress, which is decidedly becoming and sets her off to great advantage. Among her improvements is a handsome lady's cabin, newly carpeted and upholstered, a smoking room, and a general overhauling of the rooms in general, which have been put in fine condition. Her cabins are also to be provided with new and handsome furniture. There are two state rooms, both fixed up in good style, a reading room, a promenade deck for the ladies, and other conveniences, besides which the promenades on either side of the upper deck have been considerably widened. She has been furnished with a splendid new engine, and newly painted throughout, white and yellow being the predominant colors. "Long may she Waco!"

False Arrest and Perjury.

Lewis James, colored, was arraigned before Justice Hall yesterday morning, on the affidavit of Mr. L. V. Smith, charged with false arrest and imprisonment, and also with perjury. The examination resulted in the defendant being ordered to give a justified bond in the sum of \$300, in one case, and in the sum of \$200 in the other, for his appearance at the next term of the Criminal Court. The bonds were subsequently reduced to \$100 in each case, which were furnished and the defendant was released from custody.

Oxford Free Lances.

At the late commencement at Trinity College there were but five students who were awarded first distinction in their respective classes. Three of these had taken honor in the English branches. Their names are as follows: Evans Turner, of Junior, R. T. Crews, Sophomore, and W. T. Lyon, Freshman.

Raleigh Observer: We clip the following notice from the Anglo-American Times: Mr. Dockery, the well-known U. S. Consul at Leeds, was married on the 31st of May, at 10 o'clock, at the British Consulate, by Oswald Crawford, Esq., H. B. M. Consul, and afterwards at the British Chapel, by the Rev. T. B. Polhampton, and in the presence of Henry W. Dixon, U. S. Consul for Lisbon, the bride was Miss Susanna Roope, daughter of Capt. Roope, Esq., of the house of Hunt, Roope, Teague & Co., one of the oldest English houses in Liverpool. Mr. Dockery was Consul in Oporto from 1873 to 1876.

Charlotte Observer: Mr. Daniel Asbury, a gentleman of this community, who has long been known to possess a genius for invention of quite a remarkable character, has just returned from Washington, where he has patented a valuable patent on a process for drying fruit, tobacco, &c., which promises to revolutionize the old methods. The officials of the patent office assured him that his process was not an infringement upon the patent of a certain yet invented, and after further experiment with it himself, Dr. Asbury will take out the patent. On his return, from Washington he stopped over in Richmond and exhibited his model in some of the establishments of tobacco there, and sold four rights without any trouble.

Raleigh News: Capt. Fred A. Olds, the local editor of this paper, was, Thursday morning, married to Mrs. Kate A. Primrose. The ceremony was performed by the Rev. Dr. Atkinson, pastor of the Episcopal Church, at the residence of the bride, on Newbern avenue. Only the relatives and a few select friends were present. Thursday morning, while Mr. J. B. Brown was sitting in a parlor of Mrs. Correll's boarding house, on Wilmington street, some parties who were practicing with a parlor rifle in the yard in the rear of Branson's book store, in firing missed their object, but were successful in hitting Mr. B. on the right shoulder. If the padding of his coat had not been very thick he would have been seriously injured.

Raleigh Observer correspondent gives the following concerning the opening of the University Normal School: The ceremony was opened with a hymn from the Baptist hymnal, beginning with the line, "All hail the powerful name," sung by the congregation led by Mr. Wilson. Then the Rev. Mr. Dickson, of the Baptist Church of this place, offered a prayer. The rostrum was occupied by the following gentlemen: President Battle, Prof. Chas. Phillips, Prof. Ladd, Rev. Mr. Heitman, of the Methodist Church; Prof. Mangum, of the Baptist Church; Mr. Gattis, Prof. Colver, Mr. Dickson, and Mr. Dugger of your city, who was appointed Secretary. Addresses were delivered by President Battle, Prof. Mangum, Prof. Phillips, Prof. Ladd, Mr. Heitman and Mr. Dickson.

Charlotte Democrat: We are profoundly grateful to all our brethren of the press, and to many private citizens, for kind words spoken of us through the papers and by letters recently. We desire no higher or honor in this world than to be commended and complimented by our editorial brethren, for all of whom we entertain no other feeling than that of love and respect. The estimates adopted by the Board of Aldermen, in the expense of the Fire Department of this city will amount to \$1,885 for the ensuing year. That is too much expense for our heavily taxed citizens to pay for fire engines and the few persons who manage them. It would, indeed, be a good work, if the city authorities were to kill all dogs running at large in the streets that have paid no tax, but certain persons and certain dogs seem to have peculiar privileges.

Greensboro Patriot: Last Saturday afternoon a horse attached to a buggy with a man in it got frightened at something and dashed away up South Elm street, the man sitting in the buggy holding on to the reins. He would not get down in the street to stop the horse, but he would not be stopped, whereupon Mr. Bates threw off his coat, started after the horse, overtook him in a race of a hundred yards, caught the horse and brought it to a standstill. We are informed that in some portions of this county the peach crop is a entire failure, having dropped from the trees with the heaviest frost. Many of our farmers have bartered their wheat, and are now busy cutting their oats. The wheat yield is light, but grain good. The first peaches shipped to Richmond this year were sold by S. R. Hockaday for \$2 a bushel.

Wilson Advance: The news was received in town yesterday, that two colored men named William Burnett and Thomas Hooks, and a colored boy named Alfred Hooks, who had gone fishing the night before, had been drowned. Many of our farmers have bartered their wheat, and are now busy cutting their oats. The wheat yield is light, but grain good. The first peaches shipped to Richmond this year were sold by S. R. Hockaday for \$2 a bushel.

Fayetteville Gazette: We regret to learn that Rev. J. C. Huske, while traveling below Wilmington, on the occasion of the death of Mr. W. J. Anderson, was thrown from the carriage, and sustained considerable injury, having been confined to the house on account thereof since his return home. A gentleman writing us from Bladen county, says that on the 10th instant Annie Byne, an aged negro, was found dead under some plum trees near Willis' Creek. The business house of J. D. Williams & Co. is connected with the Express boat line and the Junction by a telephone ordered from New York for the purpose. It proves a very great convenience. We are glad to be enabled to say, then, that an effort is about to be made here to establish a graded school in Fayetteville, to combine all the desirable characteristics of an institution of the sort—cheap tuition, good training and discipline, and thorough graduation in all the English branches.

Last week Superintendent Mills visited Fayetteville with a chapter of his alpha—a very interesting body of intelligent, well-behaved, interesting boys and girls. They gave a performance in the Baptist Church, from which about \$20 was realized, and the next night they entertained the citizens of Beaver Creek village and vicinity. The people of Beaver Creek patronized this noble charity with great and characteristic generosity, subscribing nearly \$50 in aid of it, in cash and in kind, with the amount raised here (including a subscription taken up in town) sent Mr. Mills off with about \$100.