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THE MEETING OF CONGRESS.

To-day at 12 o'clock the gavels will come down at each end of the Capitol and the law-making power of the Republic will once more be assembled. The Senate will not be in session, the terms of which will expire on the 4th day of March. Finding that only the elected House completely expires, and that a good part of the Senate, including a new Congress after the 4th of March.

Accordingly the two bodies have convened under the authority of the Constitution and the Report of the Secretary of the Treasury until the third day of the coming month the House of Representatives will be composed of the present members, with the exception of those who have been defeated for re-election, and the Senate will be composed of the present members, with the exception of those whose terms of service have expired by limitation, and those who have been elected to fill vacancies occurring during the recess of the Legislatures by which they were chosen.

Much will be said before we will again sit at home our readers, and we embrace the opportunity to say that while we are anxious to be not behind the times in anything like giving a detailed statement of affairs at the Capitol, we will try to give an intelligible digest, which may convey some idea of the momentous events which are in progress in behalf of the great government which, at the same time shields and governs us.

THE STATE ELECTION.

The 2nd of State Canvassers met on Tuesday, but on account of its being a holiday adjourned until Friday, when it again met in the House of Commons. The following composed the Board, were present: His Excellency Gov. Jarvis, Secretary of State W. L. Saunders, Attorney-General Thos. S. Kenan, and Senators elect Jno. E. Brown, of Anson, and Wm. Cicero Troy, of Craven. The following were the secretaries, John Spencer, H. [illegible] W. Lombeth.

The vote for Judge Merrimon seems to be a tie between Clark and Gilmore, Gilmore pulled up behind, and both were elected.

At the close of the canvass, all the Democratic members of Congress were elected except one, in the second district where Orlando Hubbs received 2,000. Five elected Latham in the third district by a handsome majority, Shackelford in the fourth district over Carraway, Republican, by 1,000 majority, Shackelford and Latham will find themselves the only Democrats in the delegation.

R. B. Vance, Democrat, in the 8th district, got 7,305 votes, leading all.

The following paper was handed to the Board by Col. A. W. Shaffer and was read: Col. Shaffer desires that the matter be not acted upon by the Board at present because of the paper, as he is not as instructed:

To the Honorable Board of County Canvassers for Wilkes County:

William H. Canaday, of New Hanover county, State of North Carolina, respectfully represents to the Board that many of the judges of the election for Congress in the third district do not return the actual votes cast or tendered at said election for members of Congress on the second day of November, A. D. one thousand eight hundred and eighty, but, on the contrary, as your petitioner is informed and believes, and upon such information and belief charges, the said judges have made false returns of the votes cast at said election, and have returned to your petitioner a less number of votes than were actually cast for him, and have returned to the Board a greater number of votes than were actually cast for the person returned as elected; that by reason of such false returns your petitioner was not declared elected, and the person returned as elected was declared elected instead of your petitioner, and your petitioner was thereby deprived of the certificate of election to which he was entitled; that your petitioner is informed and believes that he received a majority of the votes cast at said election, and that he is entitled to the certificate of election.

Your petitioner therefore prays that the Board will investigate the matter, and will cause to be brought before it all the persons and papers necessary to a full and fair investigation of the matter, and that your petitioner may be declared elected, and that the certificate of election may be issued to him.

And your petitioner will ever pray, &c.

(Signed) WILLIAM H. CANADAY.

A paper writing, similar in form was also handed in by Col. Shaffer as attorney for Cyrus W. Grandy, in regard to the election in the first district, whereof Mr. Louis C. Latham is returned as elected. This paper was filed with the other, Col. Shaffer making the same statement as in the other case.

They climbed in Jarvis by 6,207, and Ruffin by 7,317. They assigned to Buxton Hayden votes and Gen. Dortch 17,018. Buxton ran the highest on the Republican ticket, according to Jarvis' and company's figures. Dr. Joh W. Worth, the Treasurer, ran the highest of anybody on either ticket, and that only by ten votes. Robinson led Jarvis only 10 votes.

THE GREAT AMERICAN SWEEP.

We have heard of the "Great American Walker," the "Great American Senator," the "Great American Hero," the "Great American Circus," the "Great American Rope Dancer," and we don't care, caring the "Great American Thief," Lieut. Gov. Rollins, but we have here in our city, the "Great American Sweeper," in the shape of one P. H. Moore, the Solicitor of the Criminal Court of our city. If we were called upon to furnish a man for the position of the world in thieving art order, we know we could fill the bill.

TO THE REPUBLICANS OF THE FIFTH DISTRICT.

The Republicans of the Third Congressional District, will please write me, at Wilmington, N. C., and give an account of all frauds committed by the Democrats during the last election, giving names of county, precincts, and of poll holders, also names of persons prevented from voting and the reasons for it, whether or not the registrars were at their post of duty before the election; in fact I want a full history of all frauds or irregularities of every description, that took place during the election Tuesday the 2d of November 1880.

O. H. PRESTON,
Chairman District Republican Committee, at Wilmington N. C.

THOS. MILLER.

On the day of election Thos. Miller was the canvasser of the Fifth Ward, and worked very hard for the Republican ticket, and the Democrats were very indignant from the fact that Miller could not be bulldozed. And during the present term of the Criminal Court Mr. Solicitor Moore and other Democrats have been trying to have Miller indicted! Now, we say go it, and let us see, Mr. Solicitor, who can have the most of indictment. If you are trying to use the Criminal Court as a political machine (which you cannot do as long as Judge Seay is presiding officer) then we will see if there is not a place where Republicans can be heard.

We understand that Mr. Solicitor Moore intends to pass a resolution in the Grand Jury room of the Criminal Court to-day requiring affidavits of fraud. We will publish the names of all of the leading Democrats and the city who did the same thing, if Mr. Moore does call.

For the Post

PUBLIC INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS of Pine Log Lodge, No. 152, Grand United Order Odd Fellows. The members will assemble at their Lodge Room, corner of South Water and Princess Streets, at 7 o'clock on Monday evening, Dec. 13th, where the procession will form and march thence, headed by the Cornucopia Cornet Band, to St. Mark's Hall, corner of 5th and Dock street. There the following officers will be publicly installed for the ensuing quarter:

James Bateman—N. S.
Robert H. Richards—V. G.
Nathaniel Simmons—N. G.
Joseph T. Walker—P. N. G.
James H. Johnson—N. F.
Robert F. White—R. S. to N. G.
Marshal Hill—L. S. to N. G.
Benjamin Holland—R. S. to V. G.
Charles Neal—L. S. to V. G.
Noah Harris—I. G.
Rufus J. Lofton—Warden.

After the installation ceremonies are concluded, a grand ball and supper will take place. The public are invited. No pains will be spared to make the entertainment pleasant and enjoyable.

By the Committee.

You can eat an early breakfast in New York city and a late supper in Wilmington on the same day. This is owing to the new Eastern time. It requires only 17 hours run to make the trip between New York and Wilmington. What would our Great-Grand-Fathers have said if they had been told that the trip could be made in 17 hours.

"Elsbury Nuts" are quoted in New York at $1.50 per bushel. They are what we know as "shellbarks," and are not our native hickory nuts. Persons who have gathered and shipped hickory nuts north have sustained losses.

HARBOR DEFENCE.

THE REQUIREMENTS OF A GOOD HARBOR DEFENCE.

The Requirements of Adequate Protection—Captain Ericsson's New Weapon and its Limitations—Permanent Forts supplemented by Channel Torpedoes the only Perfect Safeguards.

To the Editor of The Tribune:

SIR: Some newspaper criticism has been called forth upon the method of harbor defence advocated by the Chief of Engineers of the Army have recently appeared which are deemed to be so essentially illogical as to demand notice. It is asserted: (1) That some authorities would place their whole dependence upon lines of channel torpedoes; (2) that others would rest to nothing but hastily constructed earth works to meet an expected naval attack, and that our late war settled the fact that such works are better than combinations of iron and stone; and (3) that others regard an iron clad navy as the only sure and safe defence. These several points will be briefly discussed in the order named.

First—The idea that an "iron-clad navy" alone will furnish a sure defence is both attractive and popular, but it is one which finds no practical existence even among naval powers. As much as a theory is freely admitted, because a harbor fleet, if as powerful as the enemy's, would be expected to make, and no doubt would make, a good defence. But, at the very best, in that case the chances of victory for us would be only equal—a thing to be shunned, while the risks, loss and the consequences to cause to us in failure would be greatly unequal; for while the enemy could lose nothing but his fleet, we could lose not only our fleet, but also much more valuable possessions which the fleet would be expected to protect. Where interests of great importance are at stake, ordinary prudence suggests that as little as possible should be left to the caprices of chance. A well and perfect defence of such interests should be more than equal to the enemy. It implies, also, a force sufficient to overcome any force that can be brought against it, and to do this with certainty and promptness. Otherwise the enemy would be encouraged to make the attempt, and the result would be disastrous. Besides, such a force would be necessary to protect the fleet while repairing damages, and to prevent the enemy from repairing his own. Even in case of success, the fleet would be crippled for a time, and would be powerless during that period, against another fleet, or against the shore batteries of the enemy. Again, the fleet would be exposed to the fire of land batteries, which, from their position, could be made very heavy, and to obstructions, which, from the nature of the harbor, could be placed in such a way as to render the passage of the fleet difficult, if not impossible, without entailing material injury. If there be added to the enemy's land batteries, torpedoes, and obstructions, the fact that the enemy's fleet, although inferior, is not necessarily destroyed, and that it can withdraw from the conflict at any moment, and thus avoid the chances of defeat