

A CONVICT MURDERED.

For some days past we have been hearing rumors that a convict had been whipped to death, but we declined publishing any of these rumors unless they could be verified, lest a great wrong might be done innocent parties, but now that the matter has been judicially investigated and a coroner's jury have rendered a verdict, we will speak of it in such terms as we think our duty as a public Journalist demands. It appears from the evidence that a negro named Andrew Friel was sent to the Penitentiary from Forsyth county about the middle of last February, and was at once transferred to the University Railroad, which is being built by convict labor, where he was soon afterwards severely whipped with a leather strap from 2 1/2 to 3 inches wide and from 12 to 13 inches long. He was sent back to the Penitentiary on the 26th of February, and died on the 27th of March. In consequence of the rumors as to the cause of his death Gov. Jarvis at once ordered an inquest to be held by the Coroner of Wake county. The inquest was held last week, occupying two or three days, and after much evidence was heard, the jury returned the following verdict:

"That Andrew Friel, late a convict in the State Penitentiary from the county of Forsyth, came to his death from gangrene, brought about by a combination of circumstances, among them frost bitten whilst in jail prior to his conviction to the State prison, his unsound physical condition when received at that institution and that the said death was hastened by reason of being compelled to work or do any service after his assignment to the authorities of the University Railroad and that it was further hastened by castigation and had treatment at the hands of a party or parties among whom were Charles H. Motey and John A. Holt, whilst attempting to make the said Friel perform service upon said road. But from the evidence we are unable to place the direct responsibility of his death upon either of the parties named."

We think this verdict shows very clearly:

1st, That the authorities of Forsyth county were guilty of great inhumanity in allowing a prisoner in their jail to become frost bitten, and as the jury found this to be one cause of his death, his blood must be on their hands. Our Legislature last year very humanely passed a law making it an indictable offense if the jails were not comfortably heated, and this treatment of Friel shows the need of such a law.

2d, That in an "unsound physical condition" he was received at the Penitentiary, and yet was immediately put to work on a railroad! The authorities of that institution were certainly guilty of gross carelessness or criminal negligence in sending a man in his condition to work on a railroad.

3d, That such cruel treatment of so unsound a man by the railroad authorities was inhuman in the extreme, and deserves the denunciation of all civilized persons, for the jury explicitly say that the poor convict's death "was hastened by castigation and had treatment."

And yet the jury do not "place the direct responsibility of his death upon" anybody! Are we from this to infer that they place the indirect responsibility of his death upon (1) the authorities of Forsyth county, (2) upon the Penitentiary authorities, and (3) upon the railroad men? A careful reading of their verdict would certainly warrant such an inference. Will all or any of those persons be punished? We doubt it exceedingly, for too powerful an influence will be exerted to protect them, and, after all, many will ask, who cares if a convict is murdered?

We do not pretend to know anything about this unfortunate occurrence, except from the finding of the Coroner's inquest; but that very plainly shows that a prisoner, while undergoing his sentence, has been murdered by those to whose charge the law had committed him. We think it cannot be too severely denounced, and we unhesitatingly characterize it as disgraceful to our humanity, and in the name of a hu-

mane public, we demand the punishment of the guilty parties. And, by-the-way, where do the Penitentiary officials get their authority to whip convicts? The Constitution of North Carolina expressly forbids it. Because a man is imprisoned in the Penitentiary, will the law for that reason refuse him protection in life and limb? Will the law allow a prisoner to be more severely punished for violating some rule of prison discipline than for the crime for which he is imprisoned? If a prisoner cannot be whipped for stealing, how can he be whipped for disobeying the order of his keeper? We believe in punishing criminals and suppressing crime, but we also believe in extending the protection of the law to the vilest of them, and treating them as human beings. We have no sentimental sympathy for criminals, but common humanity demands that they should not be treated with cruelty, and our feelings as a citizen and our duty as a public Journalist prompt us to thus denounce the treatment of the convict Friel.

THE SCHOOL BILL.

The presiding officers of our Legislature have received much censure for their failure to sign the "school bill" last year, and indeed some persons, and, we regret to add, some papers, have even gone so far as to charge them with corruptly and intentionally failing to sign it. The private character of these officers was too pure to allow such a suspicion to be excited among those who knew them, nor do we believe that they who made such an accusation really thought them guilty. At the recent extra session of the Legislature a joint committee of the Senate and House was appointed to investigate the cause of the failure to sign the bill. The chairman of the committee was the leading Republican in the Senate, Everett of Forsyth, so that their report might not be a "white-washing" report to shield two corrupt Democratic officers. The committee fully investigated the matter, and completely vindicated the accused officers, making a unanimous report, as follows:

"The special joint committee appointed under Senate resolution to investigate the cause or causes of the failure of ratification of the school bill, would respectfully report that they have considered the same and submit the following report: That they are unable to place the blame upon any particular person or persons, and are of the opinion that no officer of this General Assembly of this State is implicated in the cause of said failure, and are also of the opinion that the Speakers and enrolling clerks performed their duties in a creditable manner upon the last day of the session, upon which day and the only day the school bill could be signed. We attribute the failure of the ratification of the school bill to the confusion and haste of the legislation on the last day of the session."

TREASURER WORTH.

In a recent letter from Charlotte to the Raleigh News allusion is made to the "Worth Boom," and the name of Dr. Worth mentioned in connection with the gubernatorial nomination. We are authorized by him to state that, while he duly appreciates the compliment implied, yet he will not consent to allow his name to be so brought before the State Convention, and we are pleased to be able to make this statement, because Dr. Worth is so eminently qualified and peculiarly adapted to discharge the duties of his present office that we wish him to remain there, and we have no doubt that he will be unanimously re-nominated. His management of our finances is a just source of pride to his friends and to the State.

THE ENGLISH ELECTIONS.

The English people have recently held a most exciting election, and quite a political revolution, or as we term it a "tidal wave," has swept over that country. The Tories or conservatives have been the ruling party in England for several years past, with the Earl of Beaconsfield, their leader, as Prime Minister, but at the elections held last week they were defeated by their opponents, called the liberals, of whom the chief is Gladstone, whom we regard as the greatest Englishman of his age. The elections were for members of the House of Commons, a body like our House of Representatives in Congress.

Shot Over Ten Cents.

At a festival last Saturday night, Newnan, Ga., two negroes quarreled about 10 cents, and one shot the other through the heart.

Preparing for the Canvass.

In our last issue we endeavored to show the necessity of perfecting the organization of the Democratic party if we desired to make a successful campaign and carry the elections. Our opponents are busily at work, and are thoroughly organizing their ranks, and of course will succeed unless we do the same. To show how the Republicans are trying to arouse and organize the "old war feeling," we publish below a circular sent to a Postmaster in this county, who is a staunch Democrat, and will pay little heed to the request contained in it.

The chairman of the organization is General Grant, and its object is to forward his aspirations for the Presidency. The circular reads as follows:

THE UNION VETERANS' UNION, (Boys in Blue.) HEADQUARTERS UNION VETERANS' NATIONAL COMMITTEE, (1876-1880), No. 115 Broadway, P. O. Box 306, New York.

Comrade:—The events connected with the Presidential election of 1876 and the present attitude of the Democratic party show the necessity of a thorough working organization of the Veterans of the Union, to insure by their influence as well as their votes, in the approaching Presidential campaign, the preservation of what was gained for humanity by their sacrifices in 1861-1865.

This Committee desires that clubs of the "Union Veterans' Union" shall be formed in every village, town and ward in the United States in which its clubs or kindred organizations are not already in active existence, even in localities where there are only sufficient veteran soldiers or sailors to officer the clubs. Where clubs of the same nature, but under different names, exist, they are invited to cooperate with the Union.

The Committee wishes that action should be so taken immediately in order that the clubs should be in good discipline and working order, and prepared for the coming struggle, and also that the distribution of important documents and the dissemination of political knowledge may be through them, at once commenced and continued during the months prior to the time at which the Republican National, State and County Committees are prepared for active work.

With this view the Committee calls upon you, comrade, to re-enlist in the Army of the Boys in Blue, and take an active part in the coming campaign, which is certain to end in a glorious victory—a victory which will finally convince the enemy that what armed treason and copperheadism failed to do in the war, a "solid South," with the cooperation of their allies in the North, cannot accomplish with that ballot, which Republican magnanimity gave to those who attempted to destroy the Union and perpetrate human oppression.

The Committee asks you, on receipt of this, to call together a few of the most active and influential Republicans in your town, district or ward, who served in the army or navy, and organize a club in general harmony with the by-laws which are herein enclosed. These by-laws have been prepared for your convenience (a copy to be pasted in front of record book), and can be altered or amended in such manner as your club may deem proper. It is desirable that all the clubs throughout the country should adopt, as nearly as possible, the same rules, to avoid confusion and increase effective force of the combined organization. Any changes should be reported to Central Headquarters for the information and guidance of the National Committee.

You will also find herewith a form of roll of members for your club record. You will also find herewith a copy of the letter of acceptance of the Commander-in-Chief of the Boys in Blue for file in the records of your club.

It is, perhaps, proper to inform you that no member or officer of this Committee has any fees or compensation, direct or indirect, and it is hoped that, duly considering the expenditure of time, labor and money gratuitously made at National Headquarters in covering and watching the interests of the party and the organization throughout the forty odd States and Territories of the Union, you will give to the work in your immediate locality an equally earnest attention.

The campaign of 1876 was won by the introduction in the canvass of the old patriotic war spirit, and the only question at issue before the people in the contest of 1880 is, shall the control of this Government pass into the hands of the men who attempted to destroy it, and who are to-day as determined as in 1858-'60 to enforce their doctrine of State rights and dictation to labor, and to capture the Government; or whether the nation shall be still guided by the men who fought to preserve it, and those who with voice and pen and purse sustained the men at the front? You are earnestly urged to take immediate action in this matter and to promptly reply to this appeal.

By order, &c.  
DRAKE DEKAY,  
Secretary Union Veterans' National Committee.

A Good Law.  
FRANKFORT, Ky., March 30.—The lower house of the General Assembly yesterday passed a bill making the seduction of any unmarried female of good repute, under twenty-one years of age, and under promise of marriage, a felony. It fixes the penalty at one to five years in the penitentiary.

CORRESPONDENCE.

BUNKER'S HILL, N. C., April 1, '80.  
MR. EDITOR:—Sir: If you will be so kind as to give space, perhaps a few words about Easter may be interesting to at least some of your many readers.

On Monday, the 29th of March, (Easter-Monday,) at about 9 o'clock, a goodly number of ladies and gentlemen assembled at Rock Rest School-house (as pre-arranged) to witness the discussion of the query, "Is intemperance in ardent spirits a greater evil in our land than the love of money?"

The President of the Society, Mr. Willis Dark, called the house to order at about 10 o'clock, and the speakers for the occasion proceeded to elect four judges to sit with the President. The speakers were the following: Mr. Mason Gean, chief disputant on the side of intemperance, supported by Messrs. Rufus Mann, John Chapin, J. F. West, and Mr. Whitaker. Mr. Vance Cheek (not Gov. Vance,) chief on the side of money, was supported by Messrs. Manly Durham, J. A. Hornaday and E. D. Patterson.

The contention was begun, and waxed hot. At 1:30 o'clock we had spoken one round. We then took a recess of three-quarters of an hour, during which time about a dozen of us went fishing—not to the river, but to Mr. Durham's basket, where we caught all we knew what to do with. Don't misunderstand us; there was dinner on the grounds for all, but we speak especially of the party of which we made one.

After dinner was served, and we all had taken a march, we filed into the school room and began the battle again with renewed vigor, which continued until about 4 o'clock, at which hour all declared themselves ready for the decision, whereupon the President and judges retired for private consultation. In about 15 minutes they returned with no decision, it being a tie.

Now this was bad. All expected it, and none got it; but all seemed to be satisfied. How could they be otherwise with such men as the above named for judges?

But listen here: if we failed to carry off the decision in our favor, the writer carried off two out of four beautiful bouquets, presented by two of Chatham's fairest daughters. Much is due the ladies for the success of the occasion. Truly, it was a pleasant day, and will linger long in our memory.  
A SPEAKER.

Beholding a Prisoner.

A man was recently executed in Washington City, and instead of being hanged was beheld, the rope literally pulling his head from the body. The Washington Post thus describes the horrible scene:

"At a signal, imperceptible to all else, from Gen. Crocker, given the very moment the last touch was given to the neckgear, the cord was pulled and without a murmur from himself, the doomed man shot downward into eternity. A suppressed exclamation broke from the spectators and several turned their heads away. Instead of the dangling and possible convulsed form of the dying man being as expected, all were horrified at seeing the body standing for a moment headless on the ground, the blood spurting in thin jets from the neck. Before anyone had time to realize what had occurred the decapitated trunk fell back prone. The head had shot backwards also and bounded against the frame of the scaffold, falling about four or five feet from the body, the bleeding base being uppermost. The physicians were alone immediately allowed to approach the remains, Dr. McWilliams being the first to feel for pulsation in the corpse, while Dr. Crook disengaged the head from its black envelope. The heart was found to beat for some five minutes and the lips moved slightly, barring the teeth, after being picked up. It was found that a remarkably clean cut, just below the chin and passing close under the ears, had severed the head just under the "atlas" or last vertebra, at the joint. An iron cut was procured and the body placed on it, while Drs. Carroll, Morgan and Crook, under the direction of Dr. McWilliams, sewed the head on. In the course of this operation it was perceived that the skin was peculiarly thin and tender, being no more difficult to pierce with the needle than that of an infant. Immediately under the skin there was a layer of fat or adipose tissue, about an inch in thickness, while the spine was remarkably slender. The bleeding was singularly slight, for with the exception of the thin streams which spurted from the trunk and bespattered the scaffold frame in all directions, not more than a quart was shed."

Negro Lynched.

A special from Winchester, Ky., says that Ben Johnson, a young negro, was arrested on Wednesday for an attempt to outrage a respectable young lady. He had an examining trial yesterday and was held to answer to the Circuit Court and sent to jail. He had caught the bridle of the young lady's horse at a lonely place along the road, and made desperate efforts to get her off her horse, but she struck him with her whip and escaped. It was with difficulty that the negro was taken to jail. About 1 o'clock in the night a crowd of thirty armed men overpowered the guard at the jail and took Johnson, and after trying in vain to get a confession from him, hung him to a tree in the jail yard, where his body was found.

Ashes for Guano.

Henry Gray, of Jericho, about 5 miles from Kingston, in applying a ton of guano last week, found one bag filled with ashes instead of guano. The ashes had been raked up where some building was burnt—a number of rusty burnt nails was also found in it. The bag of ashes was brought back to Kingston and another bag of guano taken in exchange; though perhaps he has made a bad bargain in the exchange, for ashes make a capital fertilizer, and no one knows how the guano will turn out.—Kingston Journal.

Pay of Congressmen.

A late dispatch to the Baltimore Sun from Washington City says a bill was introduced by Mr. Dibble in the House yesterday which is entirely right and proper, but which, it is quite safe to say, will never pass. It provides in effect that no Senator or Representative shall receive pay for any time that he may be absent from the sessions of Congress, unless he certifies that such absence was caused by sickness of himself or family. As probably one-half of the members of the two Houses are in the habit of leaving their public duties to attend to private business or pleasure, for longer or shorter periods, just as it may suit, the proposed reduction would reduce quite seriously the aggregate of their compensation. It would perhaps not be considered a popular thing to oppose a measure so unjust in itself, but there need be no doubt that the bill will be effectually smothered in some way.

A Leap for Liberty.

On Friday night last Sheriff Padison, of Pender county, was bringing a prisoner, J. M. Wentworth, a colored man, from Raleigh, when just this side of South Washington the prisoner asked permission to go to the cooler and get a drink of water. This request was of course granted, and he went to the forward end of the car and secured his drink, after which, instead of returning to his seat, he made a break for the door and jumped the train. He was handcuffed at the time, and the train was going at full speed. The train was stopped as quickly as possible and run back to the place where Wentworth jumped off, but he had disappeared. Sheriff Padison sent a couple of men who went to Leesburg and met the prisoner, with the handcuffs still on him, a short distance this side of Leesburg, and brought him to South Washington and delivered him to the Sheriff, who now has him safely in custody at Burgaw.—Wilmington Review.

Example for Boys.

Soon after the war, a boy with a pack on his back, hungry and tired, stopped one evening at the door of a man by the name of Remines, in Washington county, Tennessee, and asked for work. He said his name was Nicks, that he was from Yadkin county, N. C., where he was bound to a man by the name of Daniel Louz, but, wanting to see some of the world, had run off. Mr. Remines took the wail in, and he proved to be a faithful and industrious boy, who soon developed a great thirst for study, and every spare minute was devoted to reading. The first money he got hold of he subscribed for a newspaper. By dint of his own exertions, and the free schools in winter, he soon became a fair scholar. He worked with an aim as well as with a will, and borrowed legal text-books, and all the leisure time had from his farm work he devoted to the study of the law. In due course of time, without any instructor but his books, he applied for and received his license to practice law, and moved to Missouri, and now has a fine practice and a bright future before him.  
—Winston Sentinel.

Arkansas Orator.

Quite an amusing scene recently occurred in Congress when the House took up the contested election case of Bradley vs. Slemmons, from Arkansas. Bradley is a Greenback man, and claims that Slemmons, the regular Democratic candidate, was elected through fraud and conspiracy. The Committee on Elections reported that Mr. Slemmons was entitled to retain the seat. Mr. Weaver, the Iowa Greenback member, dissented, however, from the report, and recommended that the seat be declared vacant. The feature of to-day's proceedings was the appearance on the floor of the contestant, Mr. Bradley, who, according to custom, was allowed to make the opening speech in his own behalf. He is over six feet tall, heavily built, and looks very much like the typical Arkansas traveler. He was at home on the floor, and, utterly ignoring the conventionality that requires members to address the Chair, insisted upon saying at the beginning of almost every other sentence: "Now, gentlemen, I want you to listen to this point."

After he had spoken about half an hour he grew quite hoarse, and frequently sipped a glass of water. An orange was brought to him and placed on a desk on one side, and afterwards a glass of whiskey was placed on the desk on the other side, so that as he spoke he alternated between the orange and the whiskey. Altogether he made up a very interesting character and amused the House considerably, especially when, in one of his wild gestures, he let fly his left hand and struck his champion, Mr. Weaver, who sat behind him, squarely in the face. Mr. Wait, of Connecticut, who was also near the Arkansas orator, had to dodge every few minutes to avoid a blow from one of these gestures. Mr. Slemmons' reply was brief and well-tempered. Without disposing of the matter the House adjourned.

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