The Chatham Record

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With its last issue the RECORD completed the thirteenth year of its existence, and today enters upon its fourteenth volume. In the life of a man this is a brief period, but in the life of a newspaper (and especially a North Carolina newspaper) it is quite a long time. To illustrate how short lived are the newspapers of this State, we will mention that there are now only three papers in North Carolina edited and published by the same men who were editing and publishing them at the time that the RECORD was established. There were between fifty and sixty editors at the recent annual meeting of the North Carolina Press Association, and yet of that number there were only two who are now publishing the same papers that they were publishing in 1879, when we first attended a press convention. So that, although the RECORD is only in its "teens", yet it is a veteran among newspapers and has been peculiarly fortunate in surviving for so long a time under one and the same management. For this we are deeply grateful to our patrons, who have enabled us to make the RECORD an exceptional success in North Carolina journalism, and we will show our high appreciation of this patronage by continuing in the future, as we have endeavored in the past, to give them their money's worth and to furnish them a paper that will both interest and instruct them.

Of course no man can publish a paper that will please everybody, and the RECORD does not even attempt such an impossibility. Nor does the RECORD expect any of its readers to agree with the opinions of its editor on all subjects. That cannot be, for men cannot think alike on any subject. That which will be approved by one man will be condemned by another, and both be equally intelligent and honest. Therefore it is very childish, if not silly, for a man to stop his paper simply because he happens to differ with the editor on some particular subject. And yet that has frequently happened with the readers of the RECORD. Some subscribers have stopped their subscription because the RECORD denounced lynching, some because it advocated prohibition, some because it favored the stock law in certain places, and others for various other reasons except that the RECORD has continued to be published on the same, and this past year has been the most prosperous since its establishment!

The RECORD does not pretend to be infallible, nor does its editor. It is human to err. But when we do err, it is an error of the head and not of the heart. Our intention and purpose is to promote the prosperity of all our people, and we appeal to all good citizens to encourage the RECORD in its good work. All our efforts are for the good of our country and the welfare of our countrymen, and in accomplishing this the RECORD in the future, as in the past, will not be intimidated by the threats of the powerful or the prejudices of the ignorant.

JERRY SIMPSON came as a missionary all the way from Kansas, last week, in order to enlighten and instruct the farmers of North Carolina. He spoke to large audiences at Charlotte, Greensboro and Durham, and strongly urged the organization of the third party. Indeed that is said to be the object of his visit to our State. A Charlotte he is reported as extending a hearty welcome to the negroes to join the third party, and declaring that "a negro is as good as a white man." No doubt Mr. Simpson may think so, because he has been taught so all his life, and for aught we know a negro may be as good as *he* is, but a missionary holding such opinions cannot expect many converts among intelligent people in the South.

Mr. Simpson in his speeches, severely denounced both of the old parties, declaring that the democratic and republican parties were equally responsible for the present condition of our public affairs. Such a declaration is a striking contrast to the statement by President Elias Carr in his address to the State Alliance, wherein he declared that "our quarrel is not with the *State* government, which has ever been mindful of our necessities, but with the *national* government." As the democratic party alone has had control of our State government, and the republican party alone has had control of the national government for thirty years, Mr. Simpson's statement is *not true*, if President Carr is to be believed. But it is easily understood why Mr. Simpson should so slander the democratic party—he is used to it—having been born and bred a rabid republican. It could hardly be expected of him—an old "dyed-in-the-wool" Kansas republican—to admit now that his old party is alone responsible for the wrongs heaped upon the farmers. And yet it is adding insult to injury for this Kansas republican to come down South and accuse the democratic party of being equally guilty with the republican party of perpetrating the great wrongs that have been heaped upon our people. After Mr. Simpson and his party had done all they could to degrade and humiliate the Southern people after the democratic party has been our political salvation and has saved the South from the vile attempts of Mr. Simpson and his old party to ruin us, it does seem the height of impudence for him, or any other Northern republican, to come here and tell intelligent people that "both old parties are equally responsible".

It is an insult to the intelligence of our people, as well as a base slander upon the democratic party.

While Mr. Simpson may now pretend that he has abandoned his old party, yet he could not now better serve that party than by coming here to North Carolina and trying to break up the democratic party. Of course any attempt in this State to form a third party is an attempt to break up the democratic party, and, if successful, is sure to put the republican party in control of every department of our State government. This is easily demonstrated. At our last gubernatorial election the democratic vote for Governor was 147,925 and the republican vote was 133,475, the democratic majority being 14,450. As the great majority of the republicans in this State are negroes who will stick to their party through "thick and thin", the recruits for the third party must come chiefly from the democratic ranks, and the result will be republican rule in North Carolina, and we all know what that has been. Therefore we repeat that Mr Simpson is doing all he can for his old party when he advocates the organization of the third party in North Carolina. Is he not a wool in sheep's clothing? He is a wonderful Congressman to get away with a year from the public crib, and it may be that his missionary tour is not so unselfish after all. Is he really seeking to help "the down people", to advance the best interests of the farmers? Or is he seeking to promote his own selfish ends and advance his own personal interests?

THE most terrible railroad accident that has ever happened in North Carolina occurred about 8 o'clock on last Thursday morning on the Western North Carolina railroad, about two miles west of Statesville. The western bound passenger train, which left Salisbury about 1 o'clock, while running at a rapid rate on Reeder's bridge suddenly jumped the track and plunged 75 feet through the darkness to death and destruction. Twenty-two persons on board the train were killed outright and all the others more or less injured. Twenty-two dead bodies were taken from the wreck on the first day, and it is thought that two or three more may yet be recovered. A coroner's inquest was held upon the dead bodies, and the cause of the accident as found by the jury is as follows:

"The said wrecking of the train being caused by a loose rail, the bolts and spikes of the same having been taken out by some person or persons unknown to the jury, with tools or implements belonging to said railroad company which said tools or implements were by gross negligence on the part of said railroad company left in an open shed accessible to every passerby. We do also find that several of the crossties at and near the track in the said railroad track, where said rail was displaced were unsound and should have been replaced and that the superstructure on the bridge was in part defective and further that the high rate of speed maintained in running trains over this bridge deserves and has our censure and condemnation of this jury."

Among the passengers was State Auditor Sanderlin, who was painfully but not seriously wounded and who has published in the *Statesville Chronicle* an interesting account of his escape. He was occupying a berth in the sleeping car when the train left Greensboro', and his narrative is as follows:

"I was soon asleep and continued so until I reached the bridge connected with the dreadful disaster. The train due at Statesville at 2 o'clock that night was forty minutes late, it was therefore a quarter of three o'clock when I was awakened by feeling the train make two sudden jumps or jars, and in a moment afterwards I felt myself going down, down, down. I could not tell whither. My heart well nigh stopped beating. In a short while there came an instantaneous stop and crash. Immediately shrieks and cries for help went up from all the cars—from sleeping car to engine. I found myself overwhelmed with a mass of debris or wreckage. My right leg was pinioned by a sharp piece of iron underneath and heavy pieces of wood lying upon it from above. I found myself also lying in the water, but fortunately it reached only to my waist.

I was stunned by the fall and must have remained so for some time. When I recovered I called out for help, and Colonel Cameron, who had for more than an hour been searching for me heard me and came immediately to my help through a window in the upper part of the car. After working away for a long time he succeeded in delivering one piece of timber after another from my leg and foot. Meantime the water was rising higher around me and I should most like have been drowned but for Col. Cameron's timely coming to my relief.

Only a few feet from me Mrs. Poole, of Wilkes—a mother and daughter were lying in the water. The daughter held her mother's head out of the water until she was exhausted, and then letting it go, in a few moments her mother was drowned.

The daughter was barely saved in time to escape drowning. Near me also lay Miss Moore, of Arkansas, with crushed head, and her mother, Mrs. Moore, badly injured. From one end of the sleeper to the other men and women—the larger proportion women—were dead or dying. Only four in this car escaped. I could hear the convulsive shrieks and gasping of the dying in the other cars. A large proportion of those killed died within a few minutes after the cars fell.

We had fallen a distance of nearly one hundred feet. I fell from the rear end and for hours lay there looking at the place from which I had fallen. It was a long time before relief came to us for when the disaster became known the people could have worked more rapidly than the people living in the neighborhood of the wreck, and also the people of Statesville did so. It was the most terrible wreck in all the railroad annals of this State and the horror of it beggars description."

Another passenger was Col. Duncan Cameron, a son of the late Paul C. Cameron, Esq., who escaped with only a few slight bruises, and whose graphic account of the accident we copy from the *Star*:

Just before we got to Greensboro I got into my berth and went to sleep. The next thing I knew the train had left Greensboro and the coach was in a violent motion as it sped on and was off in full force. I was dreaming of a wreck at the time and was thinking of the wreck of the Pullman car on the Atlantic coast line, when I was awakened by a terrific crash. I found myself in darkness and water. I thought I was drowning and I called for help. I commenced to work for myself, although I was pretty much under the water. I found out I had a broken leg and a broken arm, and was submerged in water, with the upper berth on me. I managed to get out from under the upper berth, which was crushing me, and I got out of the window. I found myself in the water, and I thought I was drowning. I got out of the window and got on the outside of the car, and I got on the upper berth and commenced pulling and hauling upon the top of the upper berth and found a lady. I asked her if Dr. Sanderlin was in the car, but he did not answer. So I thought I concluded that he was dead.

Then I heard a lady say, "my child is dead and my sister is dead." So I went to her and got her out of the water. I found it was Miss Moore, of Arkansas. Then I called for Dr. Sanderlin