The Chatham Record

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Thanksgiving Day.

Today is our annual Thanksgiving Day—set apart by the highest civil authorities and sanctioned by long custom—when the people of the United States are called upon to render their grateful thanks for the blessings vouchsafed to them. In the language of the President's proclamation, the people of the United States are today requested to come together in their several places of worship for a season of prayer and thanks to Almighty God for all the blessings of the year. And yet how few will do this. How few will "come together in their several places of worship." The most persons the day will be employed as a holiday in pleasure and amusements, without thought or words of prayer and thanks to Almighty God for all the blessings of the year. If all the people of this great country could be, what a sight it would be, what an example in the eye of the heathen world. What a grand and inspiring sight it would be to see a million people like one, all at their several places of worship at the same time and all with one voice giving thanks and praise for the manifold blessings received by them!

And if ever any people had special cause for praise and thanks to Almighty God it is the people of the United States particularly at this time. The war with Spain was quickly and ended with a success unprecedented and unexpected. While we deplore the deaths of our brave soldiers and sailors, yet it might have been much worse, and their deaths have drawn more closely together the people of the different sections of our great country, softening the asperities of the past and brightening our hopes for the future.

And the people of North Carolina have peculiar cause to give thanks today. Their State has not only been redeemed from the control of bad men, but the great danger—the black cloud of negro rule and domination has been forever removed, and henceforth will the black be ruled and govern the white people of any section of our State. This is best for both blacks and whites, and for both races should give thanks.

And in giving thanks let us not forget the poor and afflicted. Let us express our grateful appreciation of the blessings vouchsafed to us, by contributing to the comfort and happiness of those who have not been so much blessed. Our own enjoyment can always be best increased by adding to the enjoyment of others.

The official count shows that our next Legislature will be composed of 131 Democrats and 39 Fusionists. In the Senate are 40 Democrats and 10 Fusionists, and in the House there are 91 Democrats and 29 Fusionists. These are the exact figures published by the Record the day after the election. This gives the Democrats a larger majority than any one predicted or expected, and is a wonderful change from the last Legislature in which the Democrats had only 7 senators and 27 representatives.

This large majority carries with it a grave responsibility, and it is fortunate for the Democratic party as well as for the State that in this Legislature will be so many able and conservative members. We hope and believe that they will legislate so wisely and prudently that all men—even those who voted against them—will approve and applaud their acts. If they do not, there may be another great change in the Legislature to be elected in 1900. We would remind them of the fact that the Democrats had just as large a majority in the Legislature of 1885, and yet lost control of the House in the next Legislature. Let not history repeat itself in this respect!

ALREADY the office-holders' organs in this State are beginning to suspend publication and to pass out of existence, just as the RECORD predicted. The first to lead this funeral procession was a virulent sheet, published at Raleigh and called the "Home Rule." And one by one others will follow, just as fast as their editors lose their positions.

IN last week's Concord Senator Butler favors the calling of a convention by the next Legislature for the purpose of amending the State constitution. Extraordinary as this has at last come in South Carolina when it means nothing but what it means—what further it means time will show. [illegible] has been a long, even with [illegible] trying to win [illegible] deals with him.

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