

CHARLOTTE MESSENGER.

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COUNTY POLITICS.

The eventful year '88 is upon us, and politicians, from the ward heeler to the great managing bosses, are turning their attention to the great interests of the people. They cannot bear the idea of people being misled, misinformed, or wanting for anything that a politician can do for them. The politicians of Mecklenburg county are not a whit wanting in magnanimity. Every one feels himself the people's preserver, and eagerly seeks the honor of serving his country.

The Republican county executive committee has met and ordered a county convention to select delegates to the State and District conventions. If we can only protect ourselves against one evil now in the start, we may hope to succeed in the election next November. Let us guard against dissension in our own ranks. If we do this one thing we may count the battle half won in the start. Let every man consider himself a servant and follower, and not a boss and leader. We must have different ideas on many questions, and let us discuss our differences like men, respecting when the facts or strength are against us. We will have many candidates for honors. Some want to go to the State convention, some to the District convention, and some to the National convention. Let us divide honors, if necessary. Our county can honor twenty-four men, by electing six delegates and six alternates to the State, and six delegates and six alternates to the District convention. We think that would be a good thing to do. The MESSENGER will be found to be solid Republican as it has always been. It will be for peace and harmony in the party and will make any proper and necessary concession to have harmony.

Mecklenburg county properly managed this year will go republican even though the post-offices and revenuers are on the other side. Give us honest, discrete and active managers with a straight Republican ticket and we will elect it.

Let us not begin to fight each other, but save all our powder to turn against the enemy. The people are tired of this miserable county government, disgusted with robbing court house rings, heavy taxes and the like. They are convinced that Democrats cannot run this government successfully. Let Republicans go in the field united, stand so and they will come out victorious.

PURIFY THE PULPIT.

We are not disposed to personate in writing, but the necessity for a pure ministry is admitted by all. The article in this paper last week by Elder Rives was well written. We agree with him that people should not talk without grounds for what they say, and when they have reasons to believe a minister is not doing his duty they should inform against him in the proper way to the proper authority.

It has been said that we have too many preachers. If we have not too many there is too little care in the licensing of men to preach. A man whose moral character is suspicioned, should not be allowed to preach the gospel. A preacher should live above suspicion and evil speaking of, and if he can't live above it, he should take off the robe and apply his talent to some other calling.

The pulpit must be purified or the preaching of the gospel cannot have the desired effect. We have known preachers called to trial for offenses and because of technicalities, evidence against them was not sustained and like others they were given the benefit of all doubts and exonerated. It is

true, charges are sometimes preferred against the innocent.

But is the pulpit guarded with that care and sacredness that it should have? Do not the church and the Bishop sometimes wink at wrongs of men because of their talents and learning? Such should never be done. None but good men should carry the gospel to sinners, for when sinners find out that their preacher is an evil doer, they disrespect him, the church and the gospel. A man should reform before beginning to preach the gospel. If he is a bad man here, he is a bad man elsewhere. "Let your light so shine before men that they may see your good works," &c. This applies specially to the leaders. If their lights do not shine and their works are not good, how can the Father be glorified?

The world expects from the church a pure gospel and a clean ministry. If we have not faith in God's angels, the objects of the preaching cannot be accomplished. Yea, the life of a minister is more effectual than his words from the pulpit. We believe that religion without morals is a curse to man and an abomination in the sight of God. An immoral preacher is the worst hypocrite on the face of the earth, and every man that knowingly aids in keeping such men in the pulpit, to that extent lends their aid to the help of the cause of satan.

Let us have a pure ministry: and then, and not until then, may we expect to have a pure church. "Like priest like people." The ministry should demand a purity of its own members for self protection, and the church and the people should insist on a perfect man in every instance, to stand between them and God. "Ye are the salt of the earth."

NEW ENGLAND LETTER.

Colored Newspapers Should be Patronized.

There are a great number of our people who underrate the value of a newspaper. Many who consider it a matter of minor importance whether they subscribe for them or not, and yet those very people will put themselves to much trouble occasionally to find out about a certain article that occurred in the paper. The value of a newspaper journal is not easily estimated. Only those can appreciate its intrinsic worth who subscribe and read its contents from time to time, who, through its columns keep posted on the events and momentous questions of the day. Find a community where the newspapers are not read and you will find a people behind the age in most every respect. This is well illustrated in a single instance. The writer, about three weeks after the sainted Henry Ward Beecher died, was only about six miles from a certain town holding a quarterly meeting, and in the course of his remarks to a certain member of the church said, (supposing that there was no one within six miles of a progressive town in North Carolina but what had heard of Beecher) "the great preacher, Henry Ward Beecher, is dead." The lady answered, "Say he is?" "He is certainly," said the writer. The lady says, "I never heard of him before." Well, how are we to know? How can we keep up with the times? We must patronize the newspapers. What is one dollar, or two dollars, to give for a teacher to instruct you for twelve months? The editor in his sanctum studies to benefit thousands. A sentence or proposition from his pen may be the means of leading communities out of serious difficulties. Churches, societies, and firms find themselves at times involved into difficulties, apparently unmanageable, and having a shrewd and skillful editor he may suggest some plan whereby the trouble may be swept away as chaff before the wind.

Then, it is through the press we can better defend our manhood. The sentiment that is formed and crystallized through the agency of the press is perhaps more potent than that emanating from any other source. If the colored man would exhibit to the world what he is, his power to do, and the extent of his mind to conceive and contrive for his own good, and for the benefit of the world at large, he must do it through the press. But those newspapers must live, and it depends greatly upon the support we give them what their character will be.

If you want a first-class journal, one that will keep you posted, then pay up your subscriptions, and ask others to take the paper. Many persons murmur when their paper is stopped, and say hard things about the editor because he does not continue it, when they owe a whole year's subscription, and there are hundreds of such delinquents on his books. You would not like to work for a man twelve months without pay, and without his showing you any disposition to pay. Well, there is your editor, who has sent you a paper once every week for twelve months, and you haven't paid him a dime! And now "cuss 'm" because you say he is dunning you for what you honestly owe him. Besides sending you his paper he has chronicled the death of your friends, spoken of the marriages, denounced the vices and maintained the virtues of the people; given you the political current, all the Church news, and occasionally given you a puff; helped you in your business, and still you will not settle up with him, and let him give you a respectable, readable paper. Now, reader, you say we are throwing broad hints at somebody. Yes, we are, and they are meant for you. You are the very one we meant to hit. Go home immediately, get \$1.50 for the editor of this paper, and send it to him. G. L. B.

THE FAYETTEVILLE DISTRICT.

CONTINUED.

Mr. Editor—Allow me to state the following:

On the 21st and 22d I visited Rev. J. H. Love at Haywood. I am pleased to say that he is doing well. We had a full turnout, though the weather was very disagreeable. Bro. Love is teaching the public school there.

My next conference was at Glover's Grove, Elder S. W. Jackson in charge. We had a fine time in conference. Bro. Jackson is well beloved by his congregations, and he is doing well.

February 4th, I visited Rev. J. D. McKoy, at Gee's Grove. A part of the officers were not satisfied with the nomination of the trustees. I showed them that the law was, the members elected themselves and not the conference. I believe Bro. McKoy will do great good on this circuit.

February 11th, I came to Egypt, on Rev. E. B. Bennett's circuit. He is doing a good work, and they seem to be well pleased with him. He raised every dollar of my money, and I raised about ten dollars for him, though we had a rough day.

February 18th, I held conference at Carthage. Rev. E. W. Dix, the hero. He had everything in order. His circuit was well represented. They seem to love him much, as a new minister on the work. We had a large congregation out. I believe Bishop J. W. Hood, D.D., has sent the right man there to fill Elder D. A. McKoy's place, which he filled four years with much dignity. We certainly had a nice time. A few wanted to take the CHARLOTTE MESSENGER, and I hope they will. We raised \$48.84 during our conference. This is well for Carthage. Elder Dix is teaching school at Cameron.

February 24th, I arrived on Rev. E. M. B. Williams' circuit—New Zion. Bro. Williams is doing well. We had a nice time. He is moving nicely. Some improvements on his circuit.

Yours for Christ, A. M. BARRETT. Raleigh, Feb. 26. From Elder Rives Again.

Mr. Editor—An old saying has it: "An open confession is good for the soul." From recent developments it may be good for the body, too, in special cases. A very good (?) brother the other day openly confessed his certain knowledge, (but declared he had nothing to do with it) of a fraud perpetrated on the ministry. So he thought it best to excuse himself, and therefore divulged his knowledge and part of the slander? He begs, for the Lord's sake, leave him out if there is to be any hereafter. He confesses his knowledge of the men that was sent out to formulate the lie, (and names the party) but most humbly asked that he be left out the bill. He says there was no harm meant, that they only wanted to prevent one of the ministers from getting charge of the church. This good official endeavors to make good his escape by turning

States evidence against others. Well, I don't know but what the hereafter will be here yet. We may take the position of an Irishman, who for a long time had been at variance with one of his fellows, while was very ill was induced to make up with his adversary. So after peace had been made, and Pat was taking his leave, the sick man cried out, "Hold on Pat! Now if I die this difference is made up, but if I live it remains the same" (unadjusted). Our professed disciples of Christ may not allow us to fully endorse the Irishman's course.

However, we may fully and fittingly rely on the words of the Lord: "It is impossible but that offenses will come; but woe unto him through whom they come." The Savior especially warns against partaking of other men's sins. All who share in these blood-thirsty assaults on Christian character, will also share the fate of those "through whom offenses cometh." This man says "it was only because we did not care to hold our meeting at the time set apart for it, and the brethren thought to go out and start a little news, to be used as a pretext "for closing the door." He says it was made much worse after it left them. This reminds us of a piece of poetry we saw once, which went as follows:

Said Gossip One to Gossip Two, While shopping in the town, One Mrs. Pry to me remarked, Smith bought his goods from Brown.

Said Gossip Two to Gossip Three, Who cast her eyelids down, I've heard to-day, my friend, Smith got his goods from Brown.

Says Gossip Three to Gossip Four, With something of a frown, I've strange news, what do you think? Smith took his goods from Brown.

Says Gossip Four to Gossip Five, Who blazed it round the town, I've heard to-day such shocking news: Smith STOLE his goods from Brown.

Well, we are thankful for a protecting Providence. God has made a way of escape for those in peril who put their trust in Him. (Though sometimes to Heaven.)

John Knox, the Scotch Reformer, had many enemies who sought to compass his destruction. He was in the habit of sitting with his back to a window; so on a certain day he did not sit there, nor allow any of his family to occupy that place; that very evening a bullet was sent and struck that chair through the window. The intention was to kill him.

We feel that those who would for no other excuse than has been assigned for circulating the fraud above referred to would kill their victim if they were permitted.

The Bible saying, "They who would live Godly in Christ Jesus must suffer persecution," has been verified within our own experience. Abraham Lincoln felt it his duty to preserve this Nation, and for attempting to do his duty he died. James A. Garfield thought it his duty to defend his party, and because he attempted to do his duty he had to die. Therefore, a conscientious adherence to known duty seems to be a perilous position to take nowadays.

We shall hold on our way, God being our helper. R. S. RIVES. Charlotte, N. C., Feb. 23d, '88.

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W. C. SMITH, Editor and Proprietor, Charlotte, N. C.

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