

# CHARLOTTE MESSENGER.

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By W. C. Smith.

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W. C. SMITH, Charlotte, N. C.

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## WANT TO BE DELEGATES.

There is a very large number of republicans wanting to be elected delegate to the Chicago convention. A good many colored men are asking these honors as well as many white men who have not been heard of since they lost their Federal offices. Men who are not known in their own towns to be republicans are wanting to be elected delegates. Men who have never been known to lose an hour or spend a dollar for the party, are wanting the honors of the party.

When it comes to electing delegates, the services and claims of men should not be forgotten. The men who have given their time and money are the men who should receive the honors of the party. Men who are afraid and ashamed to go among the people and too stingy and mean to help support the party should be allowed to remain at home. The white republicans who do not think colored men entitled to respect and who refuse to support colored enterprises, are not entitled to the support of the party, inasmuch as the party is made up largely of colored voters.

There is also a class of colored men for whom we can say but little. Those colored men who have been honored by our people to places of trust and profit, and yet do not appreciate colored enterprises, are not worthy of the respect or support of the masses.

We have often wondered why it is that certain prominent colored men claim so much for themselves and the race, yet when they want to do something for some man's newspaper or other enterprise they look up some white man who neither wants nor expects their aid. If there is no merit in those colored organs why don't these leading colored men assist in bringing them up to a higher standard. They can write for white men's papers. Then when those colored papers refuse to endorse these men whenever they are "up for something" the papers are considered disloyal to the race or favoring unworthy parties. The men who run colored newspapers are not all fools. They have not failed to notice a number of prominent colored men who take the field to canvass for white republican papers—and especially those republican papers most disrespectful to colored men and their democratic Christian friends.

Colored men can make as much money and do their race and themselves much more good, by canvassing for a colored paper than for a white paper. If the five prominent colored men we have in mind now who are canvassing for a certain white paper were to all do the same for one of our colored organs, that organ would soon be one of the most powerful journals in the country. In this list of men we can count State senators, ex-editors, lawyers, &c. Among them also are aspirants for Chicago and Congressional honors. They have the cheek to call themselves big men, but are actually so small and have so little confidence in themselves that as soon as they want something they go cringing after men who are their inferiors in intellect, morals and in everything that goes to make up a man. In fact, these white men sought after are nothing but what these colored men make them.

We will not personate just now, but believe the time is now when certain leading men should be singled out and shown up and receive the just condemnation they deserve from our people. The democrats of the South are taking up Mr. Blaine's motto: "America for Americans," which we do not understand to mean America should specially oppose other nations, but America should first endeavor to help Americans. In the

same spirit, we say "Negroes for Negroes," especially when white men are so well prepared to take care of themselves. To be plainer, when colored men get in a position to help some one they should help colored men and let white men take care of themselves. A colored man should not expect the support of his people when he is untrue to them.

## MECKLENBURG'S DELEGATION.

The impression is already made in different parts of the State that the colored Republicans of Mecklenburg county have drawn the color line by electing all colored delegates. This is not a just conclusion to come to. The white men of the party cannot be forced into the meetings, and should not be forced on our delegations, though they think we should be forced to support them whenever they are put up to be voted for.

While we do not agree with the policy of our leading men in full, yet we say that we are right. Our condition is the result of factional fights between white men in this county the last six years. Norment led one faction and a large majority of the colored men followed him. Jenkins and Norment have both left the county, which naturally leaves colored leaders for the masses, with prejudice against the minority faction. And while the principles or policy of the minority have been taken up by the majority, but few of the minority have been able to attain anything like leadership with the masses, and the white Republicans seem disposed to hold off. That is about our position.

When the primaries were called white men refused to go in, hence colored men have control of the party management. The colored men should not be blamed for that.

"All's well that ends well."

## A FEMALE SEMINARY.

We do not believe in the co-education of the sexes after they attain a certain age. We therefore, advocate establishing a female seminary for the three Carolina conferences in Zion Methodist church. Monroe, Wadesboro or Fayetteville would be a good and central point for such an institution.

It is necessary to establish such an institution for many reasons. It is better and safer for young men and young women to attend separate schools. It is better for the church because there are so many Methodists who will not send their daughters to mixed schools and the association while in school so often changes and fixes their religious faith for life. An evidence of this may be seen in the fact that a majority of the students of Scotia Seminary at times are Methodist. But they too often become the wives of Presbyterian ministers. Thus the church is sapped of its very life—our best educated women. Our own preachers and other leading men send their daughters and sisters to Scotia and female schools because they believe in separate schools.

It would not only benefit Zion by keeping our girls in our own schools, but other young ladies near the school would attend for convenience and many who are now without a church preference would learn of the workings of our denomination. It would strengthen us also, to divide our school in order that our men may continue their efforts to increase the numbers in school. Now that Livingstone is getting up toward 300, some may think that does credit to this powerful connection, and thus grow careless about encouraging others to enter our school; whence if all the females are taken away from Livingstone and sent to Wadesboro, we will all work to bring Livingstone up to 300 again and also to bring Wadesboro up to 300; hence we will be working for 600 where we now work for 300.

Why see! Biddle and Scotia are one separated institution under one board of directors. They have now enrolled over 400. If it was a mixed school they would not have a larger number than Scotia alone has. Take Shaw University, one of the oldest of our institutions in the State, with a tremendous church at its back to furnish students, one of the richest societies in the country to furnish money—in a central location, the

capital of the State—fine and commodious buildings, and they scarcely run over 300 male and female. Here are the Presbyterians with one of the weakest churches in the State, with over 400.—More than any other church school in the State among our people.

With the North Carolina, the Central North Carolina and the South Carolina conferences united in one school district with headquarters, say at the point named above, we can establish a female seminary that in a few years will rival Scotia and will do more to build up the race and the church than any one thing that can be done by the church in the present General Conference. Is there a member of this sitting Conference who has privately expressed his preference for separate schools, with the moral courage to introduce and stand by a measure looking to the establishing a female seminary.

It will not cripple or injure the work at Salisbury but will strengthen it. And as these three conferences pay about \$8'000 general fund they can easily support such a school; the urgent necessity for which is brought about by the many schools of other churches. We must compete in character and in kind, and we must have a female seminary. The only questions now are: when and where. Who will lead in the matter?

## MORAL IMPROVEMENTS.

The general advancement of a race depends much upon its moral standing. A race will become civilized and christianized as it develops in morality. Allowances and excuses are made for the moral condition of the former slaves in the South. They could not be expected to leap into perfection at one bound, but they are expected to improve and grow as near perfection as any other race of men with similar opportunities. The time is now upon us when a certain class of our people should be expected to be as chaste and refined as any people in this country. Not that they have had equal home training and society influences and proud ancestors to look back to, but because they have learned their duties and how to perform them and have a knowledge of the great responsibilities resting upon them.

A large number of our people have learned these things and every man and every woman is expected to do his and her whole duty. Every man and woman who has had the advantages of school training is responsible to his God and his country and is not only expected to be better men and women, but it is expected that by their influence others may be bettered and thus the good work of civilizing and christianizing will go on through America and into Africa and the uttermost parts of heathenism. But morality must be the foundation stone upon which will rest and depend the future hope of the Negro as of all other races.

We have frequently written upon the responsibilities of our leading men and women, and again we refer to their superior opportunities for doing good and their power for doing evil if they allow their influence to go in that way. We must here refer to the preachers in particular, for they, above all others have a boundless and never ending influence over the people. The evil done by an erring preacher compared with that of an ordinary person, is like the damage in a railroad collision compared with a lame ox running off with a cart.

Every violation of the moral or statute law should be corrected and punished when discovered. Open violations of the law should not be tolerated by the church nor civil authorities. The church that allows its members to have more than one living wife or husband thereby disgraces its name and cripples its usefulness. The State that fails to take cognizance of such things encourages crime, fosters criminals and burdens its good citizens with a useless tax to support orphans and paupers, many of which ought never to have been born in the world. It is earnestly hoped that the church, the State and society will be more jealous of the morals of our people.

The Negro is making great improvement morally, or he could not im-

prove so rapidly otherwise. Yet now and then we hear of some preacher going wrong. This is no more than white preachers do, but we fear the colored churches are not so prompt in punishing our preachers for wrong doing as the whites are. Not long since we published an article headed, "Purify the Pulpit." Since that time we have heard of enough to expel and disgrace nearly a half dozen preachers if we were a judge to sit on their cases. Let us by all means have a pure ministry; civil officers that will enforce the statutes of the State; leaders of society that believe in a high moral standard; and as a race, a State and a church, we are safe. Every individual has a work to do to bring this about and it is hoped ere long, there will be no cause for complaint, but all will rejoice in a high moral standard as well as intellectual and material prosperity.

## OUR COUNTY CONVENTION.

According to previous notice the Republicans of Mecklenburg county met in the Knights of Labor hall last Saturday about 12 o'clock. J. W. Gordon was made permanent chairman and J. W. Brown secretary. A majority of the townships were represented by delegates and Republicans from townships not represented were admitted as delegates.

While the meeting was lively and interesting, it was the most harmonious and orderly ever held in the county. The party seems thoroughly united and in dead earnest to succeed in the coming campaign.

The following persons were elected to represent the county in the State and district conventions: Delegates, J. W. Gordon, W. C. Smith, A. W. Calvin, A. M. Morris, J. G. Sanford, Joseph Strong. Alternates—J. M. Goode, J. W. Brown, R. L. Harris, S. P. Pharr, Z. Corruthers, C. C. Connor.

The following resolutions were unanimously adopted:

WHEREAS, We, Republicans of Mecklenburg county, in convention, feel our duty to give an expression of our views upon the issues of the day in this Presidential year as we understand them.

Resolved, That our faith is made stronger in the Republican party by seeing so much of the hypocrisy and corruption of the Democratic party.

Resolved, That we denounce the Democratic party as the enemy of American industry and antagonistic to the poor mechanics and laborers of this country.

Resolved, That the so-called tariff bill now being advocated by the Democratic party is a humbug, and a delusion and a direct blow to American industry, and is only a corrupt document to catch votes.

Resolved, That we believe in Federal aid to free schools as proposed in the Blair bill.

Resolved, That we see in the Republican party the only friend of the good people in this country, and as such we still pledge our undivided support.

Resolved, That we see in the Hon. John Sherman, of Ohio, the true standard of the Republican party, and as such we endorse him as the Republican nominee for president.

Resolved, That we denounce the present system of county government as unrepresentative, and should be abolished.

Resolved, That we denounce a system by which colored men are excluded from the jury of Mecklenburg county, and that as tax payers they can always be found, but as jurymen are never seen.

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W. C. SMITH,

Editor and Proprietor,

Charlotte, N. C.