

THE REPORTER

J. PEPPER, Sr., Editor. F. DABINGTON, Associate Editor.

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"TRIED IN THE FIRE."

Although we endeavored to give immediate publicity to the facts of the unfortunate burning of THE REPORTER office on the 31st of March, yet, from numerous letters of inquiry received by us from a distance relative to the non-appearance of our paper, we are sure that many of our patrons are uninformed of the cause of our suspension. At this time, however, we will only state that we have been "tried by fire," and that in future we hope never to be "found wanting." We have purchased another outfit, and now present a paper which we hope, without being boastful or unduly pretentious, will be acceptable to the readers of our section.

That a newspaper is positively essential to the interests of a county, is a fact too well known by every man of intelligence to admit of argument. It is to a section what nutritious food is to a convalescent; it helps to build it up and develop all that is good in it. Now, is there a man in Stokes who is not convinced that our greatest need is development? Our mountains are pregnant with mineral wealth, at present unnoticed and almost unknown. Our water-power has been utilized, but tolls in sluggish inactivity towards the sea. Our methods of travel and conveyance are the same to-day as they were a hundred years ago—slow, tortuous and expensive. Where, even in the wilds of the great West, can a place be found where development is more needed, or would prove more profitable? We have in abundance the raw material to supply both foundries and manufactories unlimited in character and in number; we have sufficient water-power to propel a thousand wheels of industry; and the fruits of their labor would be sufficient to insure not only the construction of a railroad through our section, but also the utilization of the Dan. All these improvements and developments are in reserve for our section; and it is, to a certain extent, for our people to decide whether they will enjoy the benefits to be derived therefrom, or leave them entirely in the care of a future generation blessed with more energy and superior wisdom.

We are in favor of these developments at the earliest practicable moment; and, to that end, desire to acquaint the world with the inducements offered by the county of Stokes to men of capital and enterprise. This can be done only through the medium of a local newspaper—not in a single week, but by constant advertisement. And this is a matter in which every citizen should be interested; and their interest should be manifested not only in a generous support of our efforts, but by their aid in presenting in a truthful light every important feature connected with our section.

It may not be out of place to refer to the fact that it is not known, only within a very limited scope of country, that our section is capable of producing the very best qualities of tobacco in abundance, together with fruits, grain and the various grasses. By the unimproved public Stokes county is regarded as being a very poor and sterile region, its commodities principally being "limber-rocks" and dried blackberries! It is to our interest to disabuse the public mind of this opinion. Will the citizens aid us in this work?

We are regarded as a people in "blissful ignorance" of enlightened civilization, and as being perfectly contented in our ignorance. While we admit that educational advantages are not as general as they should be, yet we claim that there is as much native intelligence in our county as any other rural county can boast of. There is a general craving for increased educational facilities, and this sentiment is spreading among all classes of our people. We hope the day is not far distant when well attended school houses will be the pride of every neighborhood, and when intelligence and virtue will be the boast of our whole section. To this end THE REPORTER will lend its influence.

We claim that in all cases the public press has been the pioneer of development as well as civilization. The history of the far West, and other sections less remote, will prove the correctness of the assertion. An opinion of the character and condition of the inhabitants of a country is formed from the tone of its newspapers; they are regarded as the maps of society, and are expected to furnish an index of the country—its wealth, its social status, its undeveloped resources and its general improvements.

To these sources of information capitalists, immigrants and people at a distance invariably refer, and their opinions are influenced and fixed thereby. The county that is without a newspaper is like a waste plain without elevation, from which a person desiring to examine the surroundings can make no observation. Therefore we ask the people of Stokes to help us to correctly and fully represent our county, its resources and its necessities.

COUNTY CONVENTION.

In another column will be found the proceedings of a meeting of the citizens of Stokes county, on the 30th ultimo, for the purpose of appointing delegates to the Congressional District Convention, which meets at Greensboro on the 12th instant, and also to the State Convention, which will convene in Raleigh on the 14th instant. The delegates appointed to represent the county at the Greensboro Convention were also authorized to attend the Convention in Raleigh.

A resolution was adopted to the effect that a county convention, for the purpose of nominating candidates for the General Assembly and county offices, shall be held in Danbury on the 7th day of August next, at 12 o'clock, M. This date was fixed upon because it was thought that at that time the farmers of the county would be comparatively at leisure, and that it would also afford ample time for deliberation and organization. It is to be hoped that the Conservative party of Stokes county, and of North Carolina, will go into the approaching campaign thoroughly organized and under efficient leadership. The interests of the party and the country should be allowed to outweigh personal preference and individual prejudice. Unanimity of sentiment and concert of action will alone insure successful results. Heretofore the rock upon which Conservatism has so often stranded has proved to be the want of organization. It was this alone which handed counties and even whole States over to the Radical party. Will we not profit by the lessons of a costly experience?

We return our thanks to our numerous exchanges for the consideration shown us by a continuance of their regular visits to our sanctum during our recent suspension.

We have received a three-column circular from Wm. H. Howerton, Secretary of State, in refutation of certain charges of official dishonesty, with a request that we publish it. Our columns are open to Mr. Howerton, or any one else, as advertisers; but in all such cases, especially when there are any doubts about the responsibility of the party, the cash must accompany the advertisement. Mr. Howerton neglected to enclose the greenbacks. Official corruption has become so common under Republican administration that the charges against the Secretary never occurred to us as an unusual occurrence, and hence we never referred to them and feel under no obligations to refute them now, unless convinced of the innocence of the accused. If Mr. Howerton is honest, he ought to keep better company; if he is as guilty as charged, his political friends will think upon the loss of him.

The New War Secretary.

The appointment of Don Cameron, son of Senator Simon Cameron, of Pennsylvania, removes any lingering doubt that may have existed as to President Grant's purpose to secure the Cincinnati nomination for Senator Conkling of New York. In other words the new appointment is looked upon as the price paid for the Camston influence in manipulating the Pennsylvania delegation to the Republican National Convention in favor of Conkling.

The delegates from that State are instructed to vote for Governor Hartranft, but that, it is well understood, is to be a mere complimentary vote. After that is done the delegation will be free to vote as it pleases, that is to say as free as the representatives of any party that owns Simon Cameron for a master, can be free. The status of the Pennsylvania delegation to Cincinnati may now be considered as fixed. Simon Cameron has made good his boast that he would live to see his son occupying a seat in the Federal Cabinet.

The new Secretary is said to be a man of fine business capacity, and as he has money enough to be under no temptation to steal, it is more than probable he will be an improvement on Hartranft.

But what a commentary it is upon the corruption of radical officeholders, that men are not expected to steal when they go into office, only when they already have as much money as they can spend!—Wil. Journal.

PHILADELPHIA LETTER.

[From Our Own Correspondent.] PHILADELPHIA, PA., June 1st, 1876.

The number of visitors is steadily increasing and the interest in the exhibition daily grows stronger. This has been the case with all previous exhibitions of this kind, particularly that at Vienna, where the number of attendants steadily increased as soon as the exorbitant prices, unadjusted by the Viennese, were reduced to reasonable figures. The same causes produce like results here and in Vienna. The Philadelphians thought that patriotism and a desire to see the wonders of art and nature collected would induce every one to visit the Centennial Exposition, regardless of cost, and they came near killing the goose that was expected to lay the golden eggs. Every thing that a stranger was bound to have, that is food, lodging, and transportation, was at once advanced in price. Those who came first were unmercifully fleeced and their denunciation of the overcharges kept others from coming, until the people have seen the mistake they had made and reduced prices to a reasonable figure. If the railroads will now follow suit the result will be that some millions of people will come here who will not at the present rates. Decoration day released so many persons from work that the attendance was nearly as great as on the opening day, and this holiday shows partly what the Sunday attendance would be. Not more than half, I think, not more than one quarter, of the people of the city observed the 30th as a holiday and yet the number of visitors to the grounds was more than double that of any day since the opening. This proves that on Sunday more than one hundred thousand would enter the gates. Any religious or moral man who will go on Sunday and spend the day in passing round the grounds will at once say "open them." A hundred thousand people collected. The beer saloons and whisky dens crowded. Drunken men staggering home in the evening some of them accompanied by their wives and children. Young girls dating their ruin from a Sunday outside these walls from which I write, are the strongest arguments that can be made in favor of opening on Sunday. None but Paritans who have no conception, or at least a very narrow one of the good and beautiful, object, and their prejudices should not be permitted to rule in this matter. I hope every paper in the country will at once make a vigorous demand for Sunday opening.

A splendid display of the antiquities of the mound builders of Ohio is now opened, and attracts much attention. Too little attention has been given to these relics of an extinct race and the display made here will probably excite the interest of some wealthy persons or societies to have a more extended search made into the history of these former inhabitants of our country. The writer of this has visited some extensive fortifications and large mounds in the valley of the Mississippi, which if examined might lead to discoveries that would determine the origin and many other interesting questions in regard to this extinct race of men.

The Australian exhibits were many of them damaged and some irretrievably ruined by a leak in the ship which brought them over. This is a source of great regret as much interest was felt in the articles to be shown from this southern country which so much resembles our own, and is the younger sister of the great States which sprang from Anglo-Saxon colonists, soon too, to take its place, as did these colonies, among the foremost nations of the earth.

The Art Hall is already crowded and yet more pictures are being unpacked. Where they can be put is a question not yet answered. There is no question that the display of art productions is the finest ever made and when properly catalogued and arranged will alone be worth a week's study.

Some correspondent from here is anxious to get a view of "Mack's" features because of some things he said in relation to the management of affairs here, he can be gratified by visiting the photographic gallery where it is to be found among others. He has only to select the handsomest picture of a man he finds and call on the original and he will see your correspondent.

Ten days from now you can come on with the certainty that nearly all the exhibits will be in order and that the grounds will be at their best.

MACK.

A man in Indianapolis has invented a new kind of fine-tooth comb, and the citizens say such a thing never entered their heads before.

Don't Fail to Read This.

Let everybody read carefully the following letter, written from Jones county in this State, to the Goldsboro Messenger. Verily, it is time to change the Constitution that permits such gross outrages. Because white people are poor it is no reason why they should be put under negro masters:

"This county has had for the past five or six years three negro commissioners and but two white, all Republicans, as it seems no others can be elected in this county, having never had since 1863-9 but one Democratic county officer, (register of deeds) elected by the people, and he held office for only a brief period of two years. It has been the custom in this county under Radical rule ever since the adoption of the Constitution of 1863-9, to hire or let out the paupers of the county to the lowest bidder, and at public auction, but not until within a few years past, indeed not till the 'civil rights bill' was agitated in Congress and throughout the country, have the negroes had the impudence to bid unbeked on white paupers. They now assert, or some of them do, that they have the same right to bid for white paupers, as the whites have to bid for negro paupers, claiming the same rights and equality before the law the whites enjoy.

"It has become so common in this county for negroes to bid at auction for white paupers, of both sexes and without regard to age, that it has almost ceased to excite surprise and but little indignation, and competition in bidding at such auctions is as spirited and brisk with our negroes as it would be at the sale of any personal property. The aged, lame, blind and infirm of both sexes are alike subject to this indignity. The blind man alluded to in your report has a wife and several children, he only of the family being a pauper, and he generally supported himself by a little allowance made him by the county. He has on several occasions been bid off by negroes. Another aged white man who has a family and himself afflicted with cancer, has on one or two occasions been bid off by negroes. But a year or two ago an aged blind lady, a pauper, but respectable, was put up at auction to the lowest bidder, and she was bid off by a negro. When told who had bid her off she burst into tears and with uplifted hands groping her way through the crowd, begged her friends 'For God's sake, spare me! save me!' All who witnessed this pitiful scene stood appalled.

"None of the white paupers bid off by negroes will live or go with them, as they would likely prefer death by starvation sooner than yield to be made slaves to negro masters. Their friends and acquaintances generally intercede and provide homes for them.

"A stranger from the Western part of this State, who was present at the last letting, and witnessed the scene in disgust, remarked: 'If this is the condition of the whites in the negro counties of Eastern Carolina, may the good Lord deliver us in the West.'

"If any evidence is wanted to sustain these charges, you can inspect our county records or call upon the auctioneer, who has acted for several years in that capacity, and is himself a Republican, and fully cognizant of the facts. Several instances are known of negroes threatening to whip white men, cursing and abusing them, and pulling off coats for a fight. Such are the insults and indignities we have to suffer and bear at the hands of negro radicals, the white radicals, officers and others, being afraid to offend a friend and brother, as he has a vote to give them, and if charged with belonging to the negro party, they will pretend to get insulted. Such is radicalism in Jones county."

Sensible Advice.

The following words of wisdom addressed to the Democratic party by the Baltimore Gazette ought to commend themselves to the careful consideration of all thinking men in our ranks. It says:

"Let the campaign be an aggressive one. Let there be no retrenching. Let there be no defensive attitude. Let the words retrenchment and reform be party shibboleth, and let retrenchment and reform be understood to be thorough and all reaching in their action.—The field is open for an onward march to triumph for the Democracy, if they are led by wise and courageous generals. But we repeat, let the war against the central despotism at Washington be sharp, fearless and aggressive, yet, at the same time, conciliatory to those still lingering on the outskirts who are ready to join the ranks of the Democracy if the rapo is not always to the swift, nor the battle to the strong. Whether the Democracy win or lose in the approaching contest rests solely with themselves.—They can make or mar their own fortune. This is a fearful responsibility, but the leaders might just as well look the fact squarely in the face and act accordingly.

Resolutions of the State Committee.

In the late meeting at Raleigh of the State Executive Committee of the Conservative party, the following resolutions were unanimously adopted:

Resolved, That this Committee in issuing the call for the State Convention cordially invite the hearty co-operation of all, without regard to former distinction or personal estrangement, who are opposed to the reckless extravagance, glaring corruption and dangerous usurpation of the Radical party.

Resolved, That the chairman of the different county organizations be requested to put themselves at once in correspondence with the Central Executive Committee, and where there are no county organizations, prominent members of the party will notify the committee of the fact, and recommend suitable persons to constitute such committee.

Resolved, That the basis of representation in the State Convention, subject to its ratification, shall be the Merrimon and Caldwell vote, and that one delegate be allowed for each 100 Democratic votes and an additional one for each fraction over 50 votes.

Resolved, That the nomination for offices should be made at a regular convention, called for that purpose, to meet at some central point, of which due and timely notice shall be given.

Resolved, That the accusation against W. R. Cox, chairman of this committee, of conspiring to deprive R. M. Norment, of Robeson county, of his rights as a citizen at the election for delegates to the constitutional convention, is, in our opinion, utterly groundless, and that the institution of proceedings for his arrest so long after the alleged offense, and on the eve of the meeting of this committee, is a wretched attempt at intimidation, and but an illustration of the vile prostitution of law and legal process to the purpose of manufacturing political capital, so generally practiced throughout the South by the Republican party.

Resolved, That we doubt not that all good people of whatever party affiliation, will see the base purpose of this unfounded prosecution, and that its investigators, whoever they may prove to be, will receive their reward of condemnation and contempt.

Resolved, That the good of the State and interests of the party, which are identical, demands that the personal warfare between the Sentinel and Daily News of this city shall cease and their efforts be united for the overthrow of Radicalism in this State; and that copies of the resolution be transmitted by the Secretary to the editors of those papers.

A Lively Candidate for the Presidency.

The kind of a man Governor Hayes is the Dayton (Ohio) Journal tells thus: "Some of the unprinted papers have an idea that Governor Hayes is a feeble man physically. Well, he weighs between 180 and 190 pounds; can jump any ordinary fence in the State upon which he can place his hands; is an ugly customer with the gloves in a sparring match; is a good shot with a rifle or shot-gun; is a pretty good nuffer at base-ball; can ride any horse in or out of Kentucky; can cut a good swath with a scythe in anybody's meadow; wouldn't make a bad hand with a cradle in a wheat field; can plough as straight a furrow through ground as the best Granger in his county; can throw Halstead 'back of side holts,' five times out of six; and can tie his right hand behind him and fling 'Deacon' Smith over 'Monkey John's' county. There is plenty H—ayseed in him."

Combustion of a Drunkard.

An inhabitant of Postensy-sous-Bois, one of the most charming little suburbs of Paris, has recently departed this life under circumstances which merit the attention of everybody, but more particularly of the scientific and medical world. The man in question had long been a confirmed drunkard, and imbibed, on an average, a quart and a half of brandy per diem. Conscious of the degradation of his boozing vice, he kept aloof from his family, and at times shut himself up in his room for days together, in order to pursue his devotion to Bacchus unmolested by the approach or remembrance of the infidel. He had frequently been forced to abandon the brandy bottle by the approach of delirium tremens, but he was no sooner cured by the doctors than he returned to his favorite love. At length he was seized with an irresistible desire to destroy himself, which the medical sages call the "nostalgia" of alcohol. On Easter Sunday he shut himself up again; but remaining secluded longer than usual, the neighbors broke open his door. An overpowering smell of spirits struck them on entering the room, where the remains of a charcoal fire were found, and on looking on the bed, there lay the body of the man reduced to cinders! The doctors say that spontaneous combustion must have taken place shortly after the drunkard lay down to die.

The man who "fall into raptures" with a pretty girl, was got out with considerable difficulty.

A Dog Law.

As the time is coming for candidates for the Legislature to be gyrating around, one of the good farmers of Baucombe insists that the Citizens shall "come square out" on the dog law.—And we are squarely in favor of a stringent dog-persuading law.

The late Mr. Woodin was always a strong advocate of a dog law, and upon every occasion, in season and out of season, would utter his philippic against the Legislature for not passing it. He finally became a constitutional opponent of a dog law, on the ground that this being a democratic government—the majority to rule—and the dogs being in the majority, he insisted that the sheep ought all be killed and the dogs protected.

Our farmers are properly exercised about this matter. The number of worthless curs now in the country is a disgrace to the age, while the small number of sheep, made so largely by these dogs, ought to make every man, specially members of the State government, blush for shame.

Our sister State of Tennessee has a law upon the question which is proving a perfect rod-and-ster to her people and interests. The first year the tax collected amounted to largely over one hundred thousand dollars, all of which goes to the common school fund. The law is called "An act to increase the revenue of the State and to encourage wool growing." It reads:

"Hereafter the keeping of dogs shall be a privilege, which shall be taxed as follows: Every owner or harbinger of a dog or dogs shall pay \$1 on each dog; for the privilege of keeping a bitch the owner or harbinger of the same shall pay a tax of \$5 for each bitch so kept, except spayed bitches, which shall be taxed as other dogs, to be collected and paid into the treasury as other moneys by the revenue collectors.

It shall be the duty of the tax assessor to enumerate and assess, as hereinbefore provided, every dog and bitch within his district, at the time he assesses other property, and the revenue collector shall collect the same. The assessor shall cause each person assessed to state on oath, the number and kind of dogs owned by him.

It shall be a misdemeanor in any person knowingly to keep a sheep-killing dog, or one that has been known by the owner to wound or chase a sheep, and upon conviction, upon presentment or indictment, the guilty person shall pay a fine of \$25, to be paid into the treasury on each dog.

If any person should keep a dog or bitch that has been assessed for taxes under this act, and shall have failed to pay the same for ten days after demand of payment is made by the tax collector or his authorized deputy, he or she shall be guilty of a misdemeanor, and upon conviction shall be fined not less than five dollars and costs for each dog or bitch so kept and not paid for; provided that the owner or person against whom this tax is assessed, may upon demand of payment of said tax, be relieved from payment of the same, if he or she will then and there immediately kill any dog or bitch upon which he or she fails to pay this tax.

After five years of absence from the State, which he left between two days, ex-Governor Bullock, Georgia, has been returned to the scene of his carpet-bag exploits, in charge of officers of the law. Of all the thieves who plundered the South in the years immediately succeeding the war, few were as bad and none worse than Bullock. The Atlanta ring organized by Bullock and Foster Bledgett—the wicked Bledgett—perpetrated the most high-handed outrages, until it was finally demoralized by the flight of the principals. Bledgett took refuge under the protection of the notorious Moses, then Governor of South Carolina, while Bullock made his way north, and for a time hid away in the interior of New York. We may expect that Littlefield will put in an enforced appearance here when we get a Democratic Governor.—Ral. Sentinel.

The Great Powers are sending powerful fleets to the Mediterranean in anticipation of serious complications growing out of the trouble in Turkey. England will be represented by a large squadron, and the Duke of Edinburgh has just sailed from Spithead for Greek waters in command of one of the finest iron-clads of Her Majesty's Navy. Germany has four ships of war en voyage for the East, and France is already represented in the "tides of Algiers" by a considerable naval force. Notwithstanding the assurances that are daily exchanged by European diplomats regarding a peaceful settlement of the Turkish difficulty, the assemblage of fleets and the quiet mobilization of armies lead us to think that "villainous intrigues" will have to be called into requisition after all, and that gun instead of goosequills will solve the problem.

Chicago with her reorganized fire department, may be able to prevent the demoralizing effects of oil ignited by the kick of Mrs. O'Leary's cow, but she unfortunately has no defense against a "black funnel-shaped cloud" which, poising an instant above her, suddenly plunges violently down and makes kindling-wood of houses and churches.—Bomb-proof tenements will now be in order there.