

## THE REPORTER.

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Editor. Associate Editor.

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### ADVICE UNASKED.

"License or no license" is the principal topic in Stokes county now. From what we can learn, the majority of the citizens of the county are in favor of license, but a majority of the county commissioners are opposed to granting them. No good was ever accomplished by forcing people to be temperate against their will. Such legislation will be sure to re-act in the end.—*Winston Sen incl.*

We deny the slanderous charge made against the people of Stokes in the above paragraph. A majority here are not drunkards, and do not require force to make them "temperate against their will." The morality of our people will compare favorably with that of the citizens of any other section of the State, and when we succeed in destroying the pernicious influences of retail liquor shops, even Forsyth county might learn lessons of virtue from us. The *Sentinel's* imputation is as unjust as it is untrue. A majority of our people are sober and industrious; and notwithstanding the influence of parties directly interested in the traffic, and newspapers whose sympathies may have been enlisted, this majority of sober, patriotic and sensible people intend to use their best efforts to crush the retail system, and relieve all classes of our people from the disgrace and evil entailed by it. We know that it is the great source of crime among us, filling jails, penitentiaries and premature graves with those who have "looked upon the wine when it gave its color in the cup," but, had it not been for licensed temptation, would have been respectable citizens in their sections. We know that it brings poverty, disgrace and ruin to the many, robbing the individual of his manhood, children of their bread, wives of their roofs, society of its vitality; while the devil and the retailers divide the spoils of the traffic between themselves. Is it any wonder that the better classes of people should insist upon the abolition of this evil?

But the *Sentinel* says that a "majority of the citizens of the county are in favor of license, but a majority of the county commissioners are opposed to granting them." If this is true, we congratulate the three Commissioners upon their firmness and intelligence—We like to see men in office who will not sacrifice conscience for personal popularity. We are glad that the Commissioners think more of their county and the true interests of society than they do of the applause of this "intemperate majority" the *Sentinel* refers to. We are glad that the Commissioners have sufficient manhood about them to refuse to pay a tribute to vice by legalizing it, and that they think more of their duty than of their opportunity. Instances of such rare patriotism is refreshing.

But from what source did the *Sentinel* derive its information? If from an interested party, one who imagines that every one ought to think like him and has no right to differ from him, the *Sentinel* should say so. We have no idea that a "majority of the citizens of the county are in favor of license."

We have endeavored to learn the wishes of people in this respect—have conversed with hundreds on the subject, and have found not more than a half-dozen intelligent men, having no interest in the traffic, but what is satisfied that retail license is an evil, inflicting serious injury upon community, and should be abolished. This is certainly the prevalent sentiment among the best men in the county; and we are positive in the assertion that those who own the property and pay the taxes of the county, being therefore most interested in the matter, are in the majority against retail liquor license. There is in this county a population, numbering several hundred voters, who favor the traffic almost solidly. It used to be an unlawful act to sell one of these citizens a drink of liquor; intemperance was hurtful and demoralizing to them then. But within the last twelve years that idea has been exploded, and some people pretend that drunken negroes have an equal right with any other class of citizens to control the prosperity of our county and blight the future prospects of posterity. A negro's freedom was never more transcendently luminous than when he is guzzling liquor at a white man's counter. It is then and there that they feel their dignity as American citizens, and under the inspiration of a free treat they are ready to vote a wholesale license to run gin-mills at every cross-roads in the county, and to demoralize, degrade and pauperize society until it sinks to their own low estimate of a free country. And with their votes only can a majority be found in this county who "are in favor

of license." Whose interest should the Commissioners consult in this matter—that of the tax-payers and business men of the county—the industrious but tax-burden farmers, or that of distillers, retailers, and men with no special interest in their county, backed by the negro population, whose indolence, dissipation and crime costs the public thousands every year? Should Right and Virtue furl their colors and surrender conscience, manhood and country, simply because Vice and Error demands the sacrifice? We are glad that a majority of the Commissioners know how to answer this question, notwithstanding the *Sentinel's* gratuitous interference.

Refusing to grant retail license is not prohibition; it will simply abate the evil by removing temptation from the way of the young and the incautious, and checking the general use of liquor and spasmodic dissipation. The traffic will still continue by the quart and gallon. No man's rights will be abridged, nor will any man be "forced to become temperate against his will." Some men may not find it so easy to beg or sponge their drinks, but every man will have the right to purchase his own supplies. Men who are not as temperate at all times as they should be have expressed themselves as being opposed to license, because they were less subject to a temptation which they could not always resist when liquor is for sale only by the quart. Does the *Sentinel* wish to force temptation upon them?

### OUR BOOK TABLE.

*The American Farmer.*—The June number is at hand, presenting the usual complete and varied index of sensible contents appropriate to the season and to the needs of our farmers, who should not be without the advice and suggestions of this now venerable farm journal. The use, the preparation and the application of fertilizers is always a prominent topic in its pages, as also are the advantages of improved stock, of which there are in this number several engravings. The staple crops, fruit culture and ornamental gardening all find due space, and no country home but should have the monthly visits of the *Farmer*. Published by Sam'l Sands & Son, Baltimore, at \$1 50 a year, or \$1 25 to clubs of five or more.

*Peterson's Magazine* for July is on our table, ahead as usual of all others. The principal steel engraving, "Cherry Ripe," after Meyer Von Bremen, is one of the most beautiful we have ever seen, even in this magazine. Then follows a mammoth colored steel fashion plate, with five figures, a miracle of loveliness. In addition to this, there are some twenty other engravings of fashions. The literary department is complete, and very entertaining. In fact, this magazine is celebrated for its stories. A new volume begins with this number, affording an excellent opportunity to subscribe.—For terms, etc., see advertisement in another column.

### Connecticut's Murderer.

A dispatch from Hartford, dated the 30th ultimo, states that on that morning it was discovered that Mrs. Lydia Sherman, of Derby, the woman who was sentenced for life four and a half years ago for poisoning her husband, had escaped. It seems that the matron of the prison, Mrs. Waterhouse, who has been a long time in the position, was careless enough in locking up the night before to leave the only iron door to the female department unlocked. The buildings are undergoing repairs, and the wily Lydia took advantage of the moment and left the establishment. Officers are scouring the State for her, but up to this writing she is at liberty. The matron has been discharged.

Mrs. Sherman's case will be remembered as one of the most horrible in recent criminal annals. Her victims, according to her confession, made at the time of her conviction, numbered ten, all being killed by poison, because, as she said, "they would be better off in the other world." She poisoned in this manner, in the order named, her first husband, Edward Struck, in New Jersey; Martha Ann, her six year old child; Edward, her son, 4 years old; George Whitfield, another son, 14 years old; Ann Eliza, another child; Lydia, still another child, whose mother the unnatural mother does not admit; Mr. Hurlburt, of Huntington, Conn., her second husband; Franky, the little son of her third husband, Sherman; Ade, Mr. Sherman's daughter; and, lastly, Mr. Sherman himself. For this last crime she was convicted and sentenced.

The victory of Gen. Miles over Sitting Bull at Little Muddy Creek will contribute towards bringing the Indians to terms. He had four killed and ten wounded, whilst the Indian loss must have been considerable, as they left fourteen dead behind, and they, no doubt, as is their custom, carried off all they could. Four hundred and fifty ponies were captured, beside two hundred saddles and much plunder. It was a surprise and stampede. Fifty-four lodges were captured.

## WASHINGTON LETTER.

WASHINGTON, D. C.,

June 7, 1877.

[From Our Own Correspondent.]

The President has just done a sensible thing in appointing a Democrat one of the Commissioners of this District. The people here are to a great extent dependent upon the action of Congress, and it is manifestly desirable that the local offices should be filled with men whose political opinions are in harmony with those of the two Houses. Mr. Bryan, who has received the appointment, was one of the two men suggested by Mr. Corcoran, the largest real estate owner of the District. In a late interview here General Butler was extremely bitter in his comments on the fact that Mr. Corcoran seemed to have the ear of the President in relation to District affairs. But Butler is a partisan, and speaks as a partisan. With a debt of over \$20,000,000 and a real estate valuation of less than \$100,000,000, and particularly without trade or manufactures, the property-holders of the District have something besides politics to think of.

Geo. Butler, by the way, has just written a letter to Wayne McVeigh, one of the President's Louisiana Commissioners. The letter has the vim and point of everything that comes from Butler, and something more than usual of scurrility and petty personal abuse. It is interest only when we remember that McVeigh is not, and that the President is, the person that Butler is driving at. It is well understood that war has commenced against the Administration, and that Butler is doing the preliminary fighting.

The troops heretofore kept in Louisiana have been ordered to the West. This is carrying out the President's well known purpose not to keep soldiers in any place where their presence could be considered as a menace to the people. Those in South Carolina will probably soon follow. The good old Democratic doctrine that the strength and perpetuity of the Union of States depends upon the good will of all its members, rather than upon the exercise of force, has evidently a hold upon the President.

There is much opposition from both parties to the stand taken by the President in regard to Mexico, and it will not be surprising if the order to General Ord to cross the Rio Grande with troops whenever he thinks it necessary, shall be modified.

Secretary Sherman has uniformly expressed an idea that all questions as to losses incident to the war, by citizens of the United States, should be submitted to be passed upon by some Court, Board or Commission specially authorized for the purpose. The talk of Blaine and others during the last campaign about the doubling of the national debt by payment of "Southern Claim" if Tilden was elected was bosh, and was intended only to affect the election then about to take place. But the party of which Mr. Blaine was, up to the 4th of March, a leader, has been paying millions of dollars yearly of the claims of Northern and Southern men who lost property by reason of the war. These payments, so far as they were made by the Treasury, have stopped by the present Secretary. He has an idea, as stated above, that all of them should be referred for examination to some competent authority, having fixed rules by which to decide them.—

There is a clamor of claimants and some of their agents against this, but I believe that the Secretary's plan, if promptly adopted and put into operation, would result in benefit to proper claimants, and in loss only to those who own or control fraudulent or "watered" claims.

Herefore one court has passed upon some of these claims; a commission has passed upon another class; the Treasury upon others classes, &c. Each of these bodies has had its own rules as to evidence, and the most contradictory conclusions were reached. The man who got paid through the court for his cotton was refused by the commission any payment for his mules, and, through the Treasury, got half price for corn and oats. Each body was supreme in its sphere, and the commission and the Treasury arbitrarily decided upon the prices to be paid, as well as upon the facts in the cases. As there are many millions of dollars worth of these claims, presumably just, but which will bear examination, Secretary Sherman's plan seems to be both just to the claimant and necessary for the protection of the Government. In justice to the citizen, and for the honor of the nation, however, if former methods of examination are to be suspended, the new ones should be promptly created.

The victory of Gen. Miles over Sitting Bull at Little Muddy Creek will contribute towards bringing the Indians to terms. He had four killed and ten wounded, whilst the Indian loss must have been considerable, as they left fourteen dead behind, and they, no doubt, as is their custom, carried off all they could. Four hundred and fifty ponies were captured, beside two hundred saddles and much plunder. It was a surprise and stampede. Fifty-four lodges were captured.

Near Shreveport, La., they are raising oats with stalks measuring over five feet and well headed.

## Letter from Reidsville.

REIDSVILLE, N. C., June 1, 1877.

*Editor Danbury Reporter:*

Pursuant to promise, I send you a few lines for your valuable paper. There is not much transpiring in this part of the moral vineyard worth writing about.

The farmers are all just now very busy preparing and planting their land in tobacco. Already, we learn, a very large crop has been planted, and the general testimony is that they are not *ha' done*. And right here, if you please, a word of admonition to the farmers. We know that it has nearly come about that the person who undertakes to give advice to the planter is considered as dabbling in matters which he knows nothing about, and seldom ever meets with anything more than a sneer from the average farmer. But still there would be a great deal more prosperity among the farming classes if they would heed some of the wise admonitions thrown out by the newspapers; and just at this time there are accumulated reasons why the farmers and planters of the South should consider well these admonitions. We do not wish to be a prophet of evil, but it is our candid opinion that the farmer who rashly goes headlong now, giving his whole attention to tobacco, has bankruptcy and ruin staring him in the face at no great distance in the future. With the certainty of war and commotion of a severe nature in Europe, which will, in all probability, continue until after the present year's crop will be marketed, our farmers may expect lower prices for tobacco. It will be ruinous for any man this year to attempt to grow enough tobacco to buy bread and meat. An over-production of tobacco, which hardly brings the money it costs to buy the fertilizers to make it, is what is the matter with the country now, and the cause of our business and financial depression.

Business is very dull here now. Our merchants find very little to do. One man in town is advertising for *toad frogs*—offering one dollar per dozen, and is cultivating a half-acre patch of these animals. He does a *jumping* business, and does not *croak* about the hard times.

And Danbury has a prohibitory liquor law! I am glad to hear it. Sober people have suffered much for want of means through which to defend themselves. It is unjust for the sober portion of the country to be compelled to pay *Judge jury*, *sheriff*, *court*, etc., for executing the law and punishing a crime that would not have been committed but for whisky. No thrust is here made at those who sell whisky. Their business is legalized in form, but never can be in fact. Why? Because it is a principle established by reason, revelation and civil law that no person or persons have a right to authorize a known wrong.—

That drunkenness is wrong, none can deny; and since it is wrong, whatever contributes to its existence is wrong, just in proportion to its contribution. I conclude with this remark—write it down as an axiom: Less whisky—less crime.

JEE WHILKINS.

### Battle to the Ladies.

The following is well worthy of being reproduced. It is the speech of Dossey Battle, of the Tarboro Southerner, at the banquet given to the Press Association in Charlotte last week, in response to the toast, "The Ladies." Read it. Quoth the gentle Battle:

MR. CHAIRMAN:—It seems you haven't treated exactly fair in giving me the biggest subject of all, on such short notice, and I can but give you such *impromptu* reflections as may suggest themselves on the spur of the moment.

The subject is vast and engulging, sly and sought; the rock on which men have split their ships on Cape Horn.

Woman, whether taken in the abstract or concrete, is simply overwhelming—something delightfully destructive, sweetly sad. I do not allude to the type of feminine loveliness represented by Dr. Mary Walker, who had his cheeks slapped in Washington the other day, but to the softer sort, on the velvet of whose seraphic cheek no blow ever falls harder than the adoring pressure of loving lips.

Why, there's a woman in every case! Every old man, young man, and middle-aged man totes one in his heart, if he is worthy to wear pantaloons. I suppose, sir, the reason of my selection for this stupendous subject is because I have shown my appreciation for it by taking a woman for life. How vastly are we indebted to women! Where would have been this feast and champagne guzzling, to night, had it not been for our mothers, who spanked us from the cradle up to such active wickedness and energetic editorial cussedness? Where would we have been to-night? This is not a co-

nundrum. Man is called the monarch, but there are some specialties, (a writer says), in which woman is a pre-eminent, first-class, boundless success.

A wet nurse, for instance.

In this specialty she has few equals and no superiors among men.

There is another line in which she is proficient to a startling degree:

As a kicking machine.

In this respect she far surpasses the limber heels of the most enterprising specimen of the progeny of Balaam's riding horse.

Why, sir, I know a man—a likely fellow—in my county, who has lost \$537,000 since the war from being kicked by rich girls! Now, you may think this like the school boy's composition on *Pins*. "Pins have saved the lives of many women and children." "How?" asked the teacher. "By not swallerin' uv'em," replied the boy.

And yet, sir, the philosophical stoicism, with which my friend (he sometimes wore my boots and shirt collars) sustained his reverses, was admirable to look upon. Still he was not happy.

Sir, there are well authenticated instances wherein the dears have, in the abundant goodness of heart, worn their husband's breeches!

I might go on *ad infinitum* chronicling her excellencies, but I fear I will be poaching on some other speaker's preserves. So I will conclude with an honest sentiment: Woman, whether "bossing" the nursery, a nurse at the sick bed side, a wife at the hearth, or a coquette in the parlor, in the esteem of editors, stands, FIRST, LAST, AND ALL THE TIME.

### Will the Policy of Purchase Succeed?

That the policy of the present Administration is to be the purchase of political support by means of liberal appropriations, we regard so well settled as hardly to require further discussion.—The next question is, Will that policy succeed? Let us consider some of its elements of strength.

In the first place, it is popular now to talk about doing something for the South. There is a prevailing, loose feeling that the South has not had "its share" from the national treasury, and that something ought to be done for our despoiled Southern brethren who had the misfortune to be led into a rebellion against the Government.

Appropriations for the South will be in order. They will be looked upon as peace measures, eminently meritorious on that account—as a kind of atonement which we owe our Southern fellow citizens for our part in the little transaction at Appomattox. Sentiment goes a good way in legislation, and the sentiment that the share of the gray ought to be made up so as to equal the share of the blue is a pretty strong feeling just now.

Hand-in-hand with this feeling, the great pecuniary interest involved will work very powerfully. The great fortunes made out of the Union Pacific and the Credit Mobilier may be reproduced out of a Southern Pacific Railroad—Members of Congress from the Southern States may be expected, as a matter of course, to support the most comprehensive system of internal improvements for their own section of country. Many members from the Middle, Western and Northern States will be likely to give in their adhesion, under the impression that spending large sums in the South will prove an effective measure of reconciliation.

Others, as the past history of Congress teaches us, will be ready to sell their votes for a price; and the promoters of the great schemes can afford to make that price exceedingly liberal and tempting.

Beyond these elements of strength the great power of combination will be employed to carry through the most extravagant appropriations. We look to see the Southern Pacific and Northern Pacific Railroads enter Congress indissolubly united, and both crying, with one voice, like the daughters of the horse leech, "Give, give!"

A little reflection will satisfy any one of the tremendous force with which the Northern Pacific interest can be brought to bear upon the legislation of Congress. The bonds of that company have been scattered everywhere. Scarcely a little village can be found which is wholly destitute of them. Many a farmer was drawn by the offer of high interest to mortgage his homestead to raise money for investment in these illusive securities. Some small towns where they were negotiated through little national banks, furnished customers for them to the amount of seventy-five or one hundred thousand dollars. These bonds are now almost, if not absolutely, worthless, as is the stock in the new North Pacific Company, for which a large portion of the bonds have been exchanged. The less sustained by the holders of both bonds and stock is keenly felt, and the

prospect of giving a new value to them would at once evoke into being an active and determined pecuniary interest. The opposition to all these influences, on the other hand, will have no personal ends to gain, and will only be based on a correct understanding of Political Economy and a general patriotic feeling.

Can an impartial observer say that Mr. Hayes' policy of purchase has not a reasonable prospect of success? We mean success so far as obtaining appropriations is concerned; how much political support he will gain by it is another branch of the subject.—*New York Sun.*

### The Truth About Grant.

The reception that European snobs and fools may extend to Grant is not a matter about which Americans possessed of a thimble of brains need care a bauble, and it is only when flunkies journalism on this side of the water attempts to make it appear that the recipient of aristocratic and royal favor merits the distinction, and that it gives the titled fools who bestow it a warmer place in the regards of Americans, that the subject is entitled to any consideration whatever. The send off that Grant received at Philadelphia was in no sense a tribute of respect to him as a man, a soldier, or ex-president. The affair was deliberately gotten up by the Don Camerons of Pennsylvania as an insult to Hayes. It was intended to say, "We prefer Grant, the despot, the sot, the bribe taker, the associate of thieves and the debauchee of the government, to a Presidential fraud who accepted power from crime stained hands and had not the courage to stand by Grant's bayonet policy." The ovation to Grant had this significance and none other.

The papers that were the most bitter in their hostility to Grant—who charged him with the design of making himself dictator, with all the collateral crimes necessary to such a *coup d'état*—are now overflowing with gush over his reception by the snobs and flunkies of England. All of this is unfortunate for Grant, however much he may desire to be regarded as an "ex-sovereign;" for