The Reporter.

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THURSDAY, DECEMBER 2, 1880.

THE WESTERN ROAD.

We never were of those to charge fraud on any one in connection with the sale of the Western Railroad, but from the time the sale of the Road was first agitated before the public, up to the very day it was confirmed, the REPORTER was never silent, but at all times, opposed the sale in the manner, and on the conditions on which it was sold, pointing to the irreparable injury that would be entailed on our eastern cities, including Raleigh and Charlotte. At first we were glad to find a number of our exchanges expressing our views, (only in better language than we could give them) but from some cause, we never knew what, these same State papers that had agreed with us at the start, suddenly change front to the rear, and with the same ardor that they had opposed the sale of the road, now advocate it. After seeing so much written on the subject and knowing that some of our best men were giving it their attention, we hoped that we had been mistaken in our first notions, and that in place of the road under the new management, acting as a channel through which our wealth would flow into other States, and build up our sister cities, it might in some degree benefit at least the west, and might not detract the products of the west from their natural and rightful centers our own cities in the east; but the change of the gauge of this road to suit the Richmond and Danville road, shows us too plainly that our faint hopes are blasted and that our worst fears are about to be realized, and instead of the Western Road fostering and building up our own waste places, vampire like it will suck the very life blood of the State, and sap the foundation of her fairest cities.

CORRESPONDENCE.

Reporter's Washington Letter.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Nov. 24, 1880.

One who puts faith in official papers, would almost believe, from the report of the Acting Commissioner of Indian Affairs made, a few days since, that all the bad Indians were dead, and only those who were fitted for teaching in Sunday-schools survived. Yet there came to the War Department, yesterday, a reliable dispatch detailing murders and robberies by Indians in the North west. Secretary Schurz is filled with a sort of sickly sentimentality on the subject of red men, though now more than suspected of coolness toward black ones, and the rosy report of his subordinate was, doubtless, written to suit him. Several shams will go out with this Administration, and the Interior Department will rejoice in the loss of more than one of them.

The coming session of Congress is asked by Secretary Ramsey to add five thousand men to the army. I know of no Democrats who will vote for the increase. Even those Texas Representatives who, a few years ago, were willing to increase the army to fifty thousand have been either converted or left at home. The increase will not be granted. The Secretary, however, makes one recommendation which will be generally approved. He asks that prompt action be taken for the future improvement of the Mississippi river. This great project is entirely in keeping with the material progress of the time and with the rapidly changing spirits of our politics, which is beginning to demand attention to what the people need, instead of what a few politicians fancy they need. A hearty union in Congress in favor of a comprehensive plan of improvement for our great Western rivers would do more than anything else to break up "Solid" sections of the country. I believe Garfield thoroughly appreciates this fact, and will not only urge the prosecution of this, but of other great works for the general benefit. DEM.

Our friend and neighbor J T Darlington who lately edited the *Democrat* at this place after a suspension of a week or more has moved his family and newspaper to Leaksville in this county. We regret to loose Mr. Darlington as a citizen of our thrifty and rapidly growing town, commend him to the kindness and courtesy of the good people of Leaksville and vicinity. If they give him a liberal patronage they will act wisely.—*Reidsville Dollar Weekly.*

Congress begins its session on the 6th prox.

The Political Situation.

AN INTERESTING TALK WITH SENATOR M. C. BUTLER.

Senator Butler was interviewed at Columbia on the 11th. We copy a part. He said:

The South asks no "conciliation." Her people are not spoiled children. All that they ask is common fairness and common justice at the hands of the Radicals or anybody else. She is as able to take care of herself as any other section of the Union, and if this eternal prating about the "Southern policy" of this man or that had been done away with long ago, the whole country would have been better off.

Q.—You do not apprehend, then, that the Radical majority in Congress will attempt to reconstruct the South?

A.—Not a bit of it. In the first place I am not sure the Radicals have a majority in Congress. I think we shall retain control of the Senate by a small majority, and Radical clerks of the Lower House have set us some valuable lessons in the preparation of the lists of members preparatory to an organization of the House, and it is by no means certain we shall lose the House. But, suppose they have a majority, what greater reason is there for reconstructing the Government of South Carolina than of New York? We are either in the Union, upon the same terms as New York, or we are not in it at all. If we are, then any "reconstruction" of South Carolina which did not apply equally to New York, would be revolutionary, and the money changers of the country are hardly for that.

Q.—I mean, is it desirable that there should be a solid South against a solid North, or vice versa?

A.—I do not think such an attitude desirable or advantageous to either section. But are you not mistaken in assuming such an attitude? The two parties at the North are very nearly evenly matched in point of numbers, and so they are in the South, so there can be no solidity, while this is the case. The white people of the South are solid, because the Radical majority made them so. They are so, not entirely because they are Democrats, but in self-defence, to protect themselves against the negro domination which the Radicals set up over them. That is the only immediate issue in the South, and just so long as there is a menace or possibility of negro governments being restored in the South, just so long will her white population remain solid. And, on the other hand, just as soon as we have guarantees from *any* authoritative source, Northern Radical or Northern Democrat, against a restoration of Carpet bag negro State governments, just so soon will that solidity dissolve, and not before.

Q.—Do I understand you to express the opinion that the solid South is a good thing for the South?

A.—Well, I say to you frankly that I think *sectionalism* in any form is bad for the whole country, and I have never used an expression or cast a vote since I have been in the Senate that can be tortured into sectionalism. But a much greater calamity may befall the South than its solidity. I am not so sure but that her solidity will be a great advantage to *her* in many ways. It will not interfere with the discharge of every duty she owes to the General Government. It may make her self-reliant and self-dependent, two very desirable elements in her future career. It will protect her against the sudden influx of a very undesirable population, which, with the negroes, would constitute one of the most dangerous *com unes* the world has ever known. It would bring about a torough introspection of herself, and gradually draw her into the line of progress with the rest of the civilized world. There are many elements of Southern civilization that are better than the Northern, and ought to be preserved. And then, again, there are many of our habits that might well be replaced by Northern ideas and methods. Besides, the solid South keeps the revolutionary Radicals at bay, and thwarts their machinations and plans to change the form of this Government from a Constitutional Republic to a centralized depotism. There is no more doubt that such a purpose is contemplated, seriously contemplated, than that we are here. I say, therefore, that the solid South is not an unmixed evil. So long as we have honest State Governments, we will advance and develop in a marvellous degree, and we will do this without aid from anybody, and we can stand the solidity as well or better than the North. If the North wills it, so be it.

Q.—Will Garfield's election keep up this solidity in the two sections?

A.—That depends upon Garfield himself. Southern representatives, the leaders of Southern opinion, will no doubt wait and watch. If Garfield is the statesman that his friends claim him to be, if he has a broad gauged mind, if he is not controlled by the revolutionary element of his party, if he has liberal and positive convictions and the courage to act up to them, (you see there are a great many "ifs"), he has it in his power to confer a great blessing upon his country. Not only will he be able to dissolve the Solid South, but the Solid North as well. One thing he and his advisers will have to understand, that the South cannot be bulliedor cajoled.—*Charleston News and Courier.*

Stick to It and Succeed.

Perseverance is the main thing in life. To hold on and hold out to the end is the chief matter. If the race could be won by a spurt, thousands would wear the blue ribbon; but they are short-winded, and pull up after the first gallop. They begin with flying, and end in crawling backward. When it comes to the collar work, many take to jibing.

If the apples do not fall at the first shake of the tree, your hasty folks are too lazy to fetch a ladder, and in too much of a hurry to wait till the fruit is ripe enough to fall of itself. The hasty man is as hot as fire at the onset, and as cold as ice at the end. He is like the Irishman's saucepan, which had many good points about it, but it had no bottom. He who can not bear the burden and heat of the day is not worth the salt, much less his potatoes.

We ought not to be put out of heart by difficulties; they are sent on purpose to try the stuff we are made of, and depend upon it, they do us a world of good. There's a reason why there are bones in our meat and stones in our land. A world where everything was easy would be a nursery for babies, but not at all a fit place for men. Celery is not sweet till it has felt a frost, and men don't come to their perfection till disappointment has dropped half a hundred weight or two on their toes.—*Sel.*

The Weather.

INTENSE COLD AT THE NORTH—RIVERS AND CANALS FROZEN—DEATHS FROM EXPOSURE, &C., &C.

ROUNDOUT, N. Y., November 23.—The Hudson river at and above Coxsackie is completely blocked with ice, and it is continually and rapidly freezing. The thermometer along the line of the Alston & Delaware Railroad ranges from two to four degrees below zero.

BORDENTOWN, N. J., November 23.—The Delaware river is frozen over here from shore to shore. There is more ice in the river than at any time during the past three years.

READING, PA., November 23.—The Schuylkill river here is nearly closed with ice, and the ice in the canal is three inches thick.

At Long Branch, N. J., John Conk, a man of intemperate habits, was found frozen to death this morning on the piazza of the Seaview Hotel.

WINNEPEG, MANITOBA, November 23.—The thermometer here marks 25 degrees below zero. Father Hert was frozen to death yesterday while out hunting near Bottleford.

DETROIT, November 23.—The continued cold weather has finally closed the lakes. The suddenness of the ice embargo has caught a large fleet of loaded vessels throughout the chain of lakes. There are seventy four vessels bound from Buffalo to Chicago frozen up at different points on Lake Erie.—*Tel. to Morning Star.*

Tennessee.

A FATAL FEAST—WEDDING GUESTS POISONED WITH ARSENIC.

KNOXVILLE, Nov. 23.—At a reception tendered Joel H Embrer and wife, at the residence of the bride's father, Col. Doil, near Kingston, Roan county, arsenic was used by mistake for soda, and five persons died from the effects. About thirty others are dangerously ill.

LATER.—The arsenic was intended for cows, but was put in the food accidentally, instead of salt. Twenty-seven of the guests were poisoned. Six are now dead, and three more will probably die.

The Next Congress.

WASHINGTON, November 11.—Two candidates for Speaker are already here and another is on the road, although the election does not take place until one year hence unless there is an extra session in March, which is improbable. Kasson and Conger are here. The latter is a candidate for the Senate from Michigan, and if reports from there are reliable, he is much more apt to be chosen Senator than Speaker. In conversation to day, Mr Conger said that he preferred to be elected to the Senate, and thought the chances were good that he would be. He thought not much business would be done during the coming session save the passage of the appropriations. Neither side of the House would be in the mood for business. He thinks there will almost certainly be an extra session as the fourth of March will almost certainly find a large amount of incomplete but necessary business on hand. Reports from Maine indicate that Mr Frye has a good chance of being elected to the Senate, which will diminish the number of candidates for Speaker.—*Special to the Baltimore Sun*

A Rome dispatch says a terrific thunder storm, during which rain fell in torrents, prevailed on the 21st. The waters of the Tiber reached the lower streets. Reports of the storm in other parts of the country are alarming.

The Sixes of 1880 Called In.

Secretary Sherman has issued the following circular in regard to the payment of United States six per cent. bonds, act of February 8, 1861, ("sixes of 1880"): Notice is hereby given to the holders of United States six per cent. bonds, issued under the act of February 8, 1861, and commonly known as the "sixes of 1880," that said bonds, with the accrued interest therein, will be paid at this department December 31, 1880, and that the interest on said bonds will cease on that day. These bonds, which are in denominations of $1,000, with coupons, and $1,000, $5,000 and $10,000, registered, bear the inscription "Loan of 1861," but should not be confounded with the bonds known as "sixes of 1881," issued under the acts of July 17 and August 5, 1861, and March 3, 1863. Holders of these sixes of 1880 are advised that if the bonds are received at this department with a sufficient time prior to their maturity to admit of the necessary examination, payment therefor can be made more promptly at maturity. The department will receive the bonds at any time, and hold them for that purpose, redeeming them in the order of their receipt. All bonds forwarded for redemption should be addressed to the "Secretary of the Treasury, Loan Division, Washington, D. C.," and all registered bonds should be assigned to "the Secretary of the Treasury for redemption."

An Ineligible Legislator.

MEMPHIS, TENN., November 8.—Some excitement pervades political circles over the discovery that Robert McKenna, one of the ten Republicans elected to the Legislature from this county, is ineligible, having been convicted of incest for marrying his wife's granddaughter. McKenna was pardoned by Gov John C. Brown four years ago, but it is claimed that McKenna has never applied to be restored to the rights of citizenship, and that he is, therefore, disabled from holding office. It is stated that the certificate will be given to W. B. Wisiston, a Democrat, who received the next highest vote. This charge may possibly determine the selection of United States Senator, as the complexion of the Legislature is very close.

Senator Hampton's Views.

GREENVILLE, S. C., November 13.—The *Daily News* publishes a letter from Senator Hampton, saying: "I think it very important, especially to the South, that the Democratic party should retain its organization. The fact that our friends at the North were not able to give us as large a vote as they hoped for, is no reason that we should desert them. The policy of the party will be dictated by future events. I regard the presidential election as settled, and I should oppose any action looking to a contest on mere sectional grounds as revolutionary."

Eight years ago the Republicans had eighteen members of the Senate from the Southern States. Twelve of these were carpet-baggers. In the present Senate there are only two Republicans from the South. One is Bruce, of Mississippi, a colored citizen, a native of Virginia; the other is William Pitt Kellogg, a Vermonter by birth, who pretends to belong in Louisiana, but has never lived in the State except when holding lucrative offices. In the next Congress he will be the sole Republican Senator from the South. He got his seat in the present Senate by the Republicans voting solidly for him, and the Democrats voting solidly against him on the last day of the session two years ago. Nobody believes that he is entitled to the seat.

The Raleigh *Star* makes the statement that Mr. W. J. Best no longer conceals non ownership, and that the Richmond and Danville, i. e., the Pennsylvania Central, now comes to the front as lord paramount. The *Star*, in its comment, says: "Wilmington, Morehead City, and, in fact, the whole part of the State, in a great measure, east of Greensboro, is to be sacrificed at the dictum of a foreign corporation, aided and abetted by a few interested native capitalists and politicians. As far as the promised Ducktown connection is concerned, it is folly to hope for that now. The promise was made in bad faith. The result of this great sale was planned at its inception."—[Goldsboro Messenger.

An esteemed correspondent, strong in the Democratic faith, writes earnestly to us to know "if the failure to elect a Democratic President at this time will not have the effect of modifying the principles and thereby disintergrating the Democratic party." We answer, certainly not. We cannot suppose that any respectable number of Democrats now propose to do what the Radicals are extremely anxious should be done by the Democracy. If there are any in our ranks who are willing to desert their party and strip off their uniform because a battle has been lost, they are at liberty to do so, and the sooner they do it the better.—*Baltimore Gazette.*

Says the Philadelphia *Times*, of the 11th instant: Senator Mahone, of Virginia, was in Washington yesterday, conferring with ex Secretary Gorham and other Republicans, and there is the most dreadful anxiety all around to know what he is going to do. We are all hoping that some time this country will be so big that one or two small men won't be able to hold it up by the tail all the time.

ITEMS OF INTEREST.

An advertisement in a newspaper reads: "Hands wanted on boys' pants." It isn't the boys that want them, though.

The cold weather is general all over the country. Many deaths by freezing are reported, and there is much suffering.

The cold in the Northern States has told sensibly on canal and river navigation, and the Delaware and Hudson have already been frozen over.

A Danville, Va., dispatch says last night was the coldest experienced there for years. The thermometer at sunrise this morning stood at 17 degrees above zero.

The Washington *Post* says: "There will be a Democratic working majority—small but sufficient—in the United States Senate after the 4th of March next."

Within the past twenty months 400 deaths have occurred from diphtheria near Deseret, Ontario, Canada. The disease recommenced its ravages two weeks ago in that district. It attacks young and old folks alike.

It is not generally known that if a one-dollar greenback is neatly cut in two, each of the halves is good for fifty cents at the Federal treasury. The same process can be carried on till the bill is divided into twelths, without injuring the aliquot value of its parts.

For a damp closet or cupboard, which is liable to cause mildew, place in it a saucer full of quicklime, and it will not only absorb all apparent dampness, but sweeten and disinfect the place. Renew the lime once a fortnight or as often as it becomes slaked.

The number of Indians in the United States, exclusive of Alaska, is 255,938, all of whom, except about 18,000, are more or less under the direction and control of government agents. The civilized Indians now in the Indian Territory number 60,500 and the uncivilized 17,750.

Twenty-three convicts were sent up to the Western North Carolina Railroad last week. In a few days about one hundred more will be sent to that road from the Cape Fear and Yadkin Valley Railroad. It is desired to bring up the number of convicts of the western road to five hundred, as required, as soon as possible.

The official returns as counted by the State Board of Canvassers show that Mr Fab. H. Busbee, Hancock elector, got 124,204 votes and Mr. W. S. O'B. Robinson, Garfield elector, got 115,878. The total vote is 240,082. In 1876 the total vote was 233,844. Hancock falls behind Tilden 1,223, while Garfield polls 7,461 more votes than Hayes did.

A gentleman from Florida was in Danville this week getting up hands to work on a railroad, during the winter. He succeeded in securing 150, who have left already and more may soon follow. We don't wonder that they are taken with the idea; twenty dollars a month and no snows, no ice is better than the prospect in Danville for the colored people.—*Danville Times.*

Tarboro *Southerner*: A man in an Edgecombe township was the happy possessor of an irredeemably culpable, mangy cur. This he was urged in vain to destroy, as it was strongly suspected of having a mutton tooth. Hydrophobia seized the cur, the cur bit other dogs and all indiscriminately bit every living animal with which they came in contact. Result—twenty-seven sheep, three cattle, two mules, a horse and eighteen hogs destroyed and a son of the owner, it is feared, will die from the bite.

The aim of the average legislator these days seems to be to make a little cheap reputation on which he can sail back into position again, and it is as difficult to get him to touch a question on which his constitutents may have a difference of opinion as it is to get the burnt monkey to gambol with hot chestnuts. They are pretty much alike everywhere. What the country really needs is bold, intelligent representatives who have sense enough to see the good and nerve enough to do it.—*Greensboro Patriot.*

Now, that the political questions of the day have received a quietus, we hope to hear of a solid effort to better our financial condition. A few years' rest from political turmoil ought surely to bring us renewed and permanent prosperity. The course of Gen. Robert Toombs, of Georgia, who has recently invested $200,000 in a cotton factory, will doubtless spur up some of the tardy capitalists of North Carolina to similar exertions. If such a course is followed, we have much to expect for North Carolina in the next decade.—*Raleigh Evening Visitor.*

It is estimated that the government now owns two thousand tons of silver, or more than four and a half millions of pounds. And will it be credited that our northern friends, who a few years back were making such a *furore* against "rag money" and calling for an "honest dollar," are not yet content? We would like to see the government with its vaults overflowing with the precious metal, for there can be no successful run on the Treasury while it can pay out silver in satisfaction of greenbacks. The remonetization of silver was the most important measure adopted by the government in the matter of resumption. Without it we would never have resumed specie payment, and were the silver legislation repealed we could not maintain our currency on its present sound basis.

ALBANY, November 22.—The State canvassers have declared the following results of the late election in this State: Garfield electors 555,544, Hancock electors 534,511; Weaver electors 12,373; Dow electors 1,517. The returns of the vote for the judiciary tickets being incomplete, the board have made no declaration of it.

Hickory *Press*: The authorities of the Western North Carolina Railroad are now changing the gauge of the road to conform to that of the Richmond and Danville Railroad. Work began Tuesday morning, and is progressing rapidly. Something over two hundred hands are employed. The first wide gauge engine will perhaps reach here this evening—the work will then be about half completed. ——Died, at the Western Hotel, in Hickory, on the morning of the 10th instant, of consumption, Miss Leila C, daughter of James B and Mary A Beard.

HOLIDAY GIFTS.

Before buying a Christmas or New Year's Present write to the Meriden Purchasing Co., Meriden, Conn., for their Catalogue of a thousand useful and ornamental articles for every day use, suitable for such presents. It costs you nothing and will save you money every year as they sell only Standard goods, and by selling direct at manufacturers prices, are enabled to offer great bargains.

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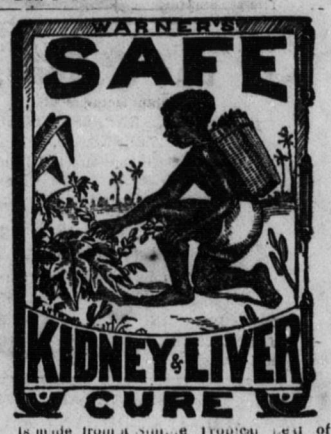

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