

The Charlotte Observer.

CHAR. R. JONES, - Editor and Proprietor

"Free from the doting scruples that fetter our free-born reason."

TUESDAY, MAY 20, 1870.

TO OUR READERS.—IT IS THE OBSERVER'S CUSTOM TO HONOR THE 20TH OF MAY BY RESTING FROM ITS LABORS ON THAT DAY AND BY PARTICIPATING WITH ITS FEW LOW-CITIZENS IN THE GENERAL FESTIVITIES OF THE OCCASION. IT WILL OBSERVE THIS CUSTOM TO-DAY AND AS A CONSEQUENCE NO PAPER WILL BE ISSUED FROM THIS OFFICE TOMORROW.

THE 20TH OF MAY.

We witness another recurrence of the natal day of American liberty. One hundred and four years ago to-day the forefathers of our people struck the first blow in the contest which afterwards resulted in securing to us of this day the freedom which we now enjoy; and it is well that the memories of those men, and of the event which has made their names illustrious, are still kept green by their progeny. It is well, because it is always to the credit of a people that they respect their traditions and their history; but these annual celebrations possess even a deeper significance than this: they argue well for the perpetuity of republican institutions; for if the patriotism of men glows afresh on the plains of Marathon, and their religious faith grows stronger in the shadows of the temples of Ion, it is easy to be seen how the hearts of a free-born people must beat faster when they are brought face to face with the memories of an event such as that which we celebrate to-day. That we celebrate it argues that we reverence it, and that we reverence it proves that we value and appreciate the fruits which it has brought us. So may we ever continue to do, for thus can we best prove our worthiness to enjoy the liberty which our ancestors at so much cost worked out for themselves and for us.

We add to the above that it is a hopeful sign that the observance of the 20th of May has, year by year, for many years past, grown in importance in the minds of our people. Without a prior interest in the day and the deal which it commemorates, we could never have shown up in a centennial celebration equal to that with which we astonished our neighbors and our own selves in 1875. And it is a no less hopeful sign that our interest in the day, instead of lagging after that event, seems rather to have been increased by it, and that with each recurring year the minds of our people revert to the patriots of '75 and fresh honors are done their memory with the return of each 20th of May.

The celebration of to-day will be of a marked and conspicuous character. Not that it will equal, in any particular, in pomp or ceremony, the centennial celebration of the Mecklenburg Declaration, but in that it will be, with that single exception, the most largely attended and in all respects most notable celebration of that event. Of themselves the people of Charlotte could not have given to the celebration of to-day such a character as it will bear. This marks the awakening of an interest in the day throughout the entire State. The day has, as it should long ago have done, lost much of its distinctive local character, and the whole people of North Carolina are realizing the fact that this is their day. Hence, the yearly increasing disposition, especially noticeable this year, to make common cause in this celebration, and to regard the Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence as an essential part not of local but of State history.

It is the growth of public sentiment with reference to the day which has warranted the extensive preparations which have been made for this celebration. A distinguished citizen of another town has been invited to pronounce the oration, with the full confidence that he will not have to content himself with an audience of Chaffett and Mecklenburg people. The sequel will prove that this confidence was well founded; he will number among his auditors representatives of scores of different counties of our own State, and not only so but even of other States.

It is ours to bid all of these people a cordial welcome to Charlotte: first, the honored chief executive officer of our State, whose courage, patriotism and unswerving integrity have won him many admirers among the sturdy people of Mecklenburg; next, the orator of the day, whose fidelity to his people, whose high talents and thrilling eloquence have made his name familiar to all; lastly, next the other distinguished gentlemen who will be the city's guests on this occasion; and not less cordially than these our other visitors, from our own and neighboring States, invited and uninvited. To these one and all we extend a hearty greeting, with the tender of the freedom and hospitality of the proud and pretty little city which claims the honor of the title of the Cradle of American Liberty.

A lengthy letter from Washington to the Philadelphia *Times* states that the administration is bolstering up the Secretary of the Treasury, for the presidential race next year, and that the Grant managers are becoming alarmed. It is intimated, too, that there is a possibility that Hayes himself may be a candidate.

Fraternal Greetings.

SARATOGA, N. Y., May 19.—After the Presbyterian General Assembly had opened, the members voted the following telegraphic message to be sent to the general assemblies at Louisville and Memphis, in accordance with the resolution of Rev. Dr. Prince, adopted Friday: "The General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church, now in session at Saratoga Springs, presents its cordial salutations to the general assemblies in session at Louisville and Memphis, praying for them grace, mercy and peace."

Out of Work.

There are those who say that there need be none unemployed—that there is work for all, if they will do it. What we say is, let every one who has a concern or care for the unemployed once. It is the only reliable remedy, that never fails to cure.

May 19.

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