

Daily Charlotte Observer.

VOLUME XXXIV.

CHARLOTTE, N. C., WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 28, 1885.

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DISCUSSING ANDY JOHNSON.

The after-dinner reminiscences of Mr. Chauncey M. Depew about Andy Johnson's revolutionary programme which was thwarted by Gen. Grant's stubborn opposition, has turned loose upon the public a large amount of slush, a score or so of distinguished and less distinguished men having been interviewed on the subject by a flimsy newspaper reporter in several States.

Mr. Johnson's secretaries, Gen. Sherman and Ex-U. S. Senator Henderson, of Missouri, Ben Butler, of Massachusetts, Sam Smalls, of Atlanta, Ga., and a number of others have been asked to tell the public what they know about it. These interviews are dished up in a captivating style and given to the public under striking headlines, but after they are waded through the sum and substance is that the interviewed gentlemen don't know anything about it.

Gen. Sherman says he was summoned to Washington about that time by the President, but didn't learn anything about any revolutionary programme, and though he met Gen. Grant, the General didn't hint at anything of that kind.

Ex-Senator Henderson, of Missouri, who was intimate with both Mr. Johnson and Gen. Grant, and who voted against the impeachment, says he never heard anything about it, and others who were in a position to know something, don't seem to know anything more about it than the uninformed millions outside of the favored circle.

Ben Butler, however, who about that time was a sort of a willopus wallopus in the Republican camp and a recognized leader in the anti-Johnson faction, did a little private detective work, of which he made a record, and says that he could a tale unfold if he would, but does not propose to unfold that tale for the accommodation of newspaper men now, and don't know that it will be unfolded until after he passes in his chips and crosses to the other side, from which it would seem that Ben is laying up notes for somebody to write something about him when he retires from business.

Mr. Depew became responsible for a large amount of stupid stuff when he turned loose those reminiscences born of too many libations of wine or something stronger and strung together with a free imagination or a deceptive memory. It is a poor business, to say the best of it, attacking the character and motives of a man after he and the principal witness are both dead and the voices of both are hushed forever.

In reference to the rumors that Attorney-General Garland contemplates retiring from his position, that gentleman is quoted as saying, that he nor his friends did not seek the office, it was tendered to him, that he accepted it with the resolve to make as good an attorney-general as he was able to, when he left the Senate he retired from political life, and when his service as attorney-general was ended he would retire to his home in Arkansas and never again participate in politics.

A special session of the Oregon legislature has been called to elect a United States Senator to succeed Mr. Slater, whose term has expired. On account of the numerous factions in the Republican party they failed to elect a Senator at the session of the legislature last winter, and it is doubtful if they can succeed in the special session, as the Democrats have votes enough to prevent an election unless the Republicans pull better together.

Philadelphia Times: That was awful bungling by the Democrats of Ohio in trying to cheat Sherman out of his new Senatorial term. If they could have commanded Sherman's ripe experience in election burglary, they would have done it better; but Sherman was in Ohio, not in Louisiana, this time and he wanted an honest election at home.

The expression of the eyes of persons killed by violence is considered an important matter jurisprudence, but its value has been greatly lessened by reason of its evanescent nature. A French scientist has found a means of restoring the life-like expression. It consists in applying a few drops of glycerine and water to the cornea.

Money does not always bring happiness. John Roach, the ship-builder, says he was happier when working for a dollar a day than when he employed thousands of men and his pay-roll amounted to \$50,000 a week. If John hadn't been quite so crooked he might be happier and have more of this world's goods.

Although Mr. Cleveland is very fond of horses, he was too busy to find time to attend the Jockey Club races. In the eyes of his Republican predecessors these races were of more importance than the public business.

Referring to the number of converts that Rev. Sam Jones the boy preacher Harrison and other evangelists claims to have made, the Philadelphia Record rises to enquire, "what becomes of them?"

John McCullough, the demented actor, was taken from the Bloomingdale Asylum, in New York, Sunday, to his home in Philadelphia to die. He can live but a few weeks, if so long. His mind is completely gone.

The Philadelphia Times complains of the wretched mail service between New York and Philadelphia, notwithstanding the fact that there are thirty-eight trains a day between the two cities.

Mrs. Langtry has bought the "old man" off by paying him an annual pension to not "molest" her. Under this the "Lily" has full swing to indulge her fancies for idiotic men, pug-nosed poodles, etc.

PENSION OFFICE ROMANCES.

How the Government is Cheated by Many Bogus Claimants.

A good many romantic stories are coming out of the pension office savoring of cunning fraud. One of the latest is that two families have been recently united through conflicting applications. In one case a Connecticut widow applied for a pension and the records showed that the man on whose account she claimed it was himself drawing the pension through the California agency. When informed of it she asked his address, declaring that she had mourned him as dead for twenty years. Another case of a similar character reverses the tale, the supposed widow having drawn the pension of the husband who had disappeared. When he applied the facts came out. In this last case the man had applied in 1863, but had not been heard of again until recently, the alleged widow, having in the meantime applied and proved her claim.

The probability is that a very large fraud is at the bottom of these pension office romances. It has from time to time been discovered that information as to pensions, back pay and bounty has been given out in the Washington offices, where the records show that no application has been made or where the applicant has not been heard from for many years, the data being furnished whereon to base a successful bogus claim. The bogus claimant is usually the tool of some swindling claim agent who is the confederate outside. These agents make the testimony fit the case and usually do so with comparative impunity, as the real claimant rarely turns up. The Connecticut soldier drawing his pension in California is not easily detected, unless a widow or the same soldier turns up somewhere else with a claim.

There are a good many such "romances" on file in the second auditor's office. Some are more extraordinary than those given out at the pension office. A widow conflicting with her husband (dead by affidavit) is a mild case. They involve such startling factors as two or three identical soldiers, two or three mothers of the same soldier, several only sisters, two fathers, etc. A romance of a soldier who died, leaving a couple of widows, three mothers and two fathers to mourn his loss and scramble for his back pay, bounty and pension and, to add to the departmental dilemma, suddenly comes to life and puts in his own personal application is none too strong for the second auditor's office.

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