

THE WEEKLY LEDGER.

SATURDAY, June 15, 1878.

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FRANK D. WINSTON, ROBERT P. PELL, Editors.



NOTICE.—We will be pleased to publish any communications from any person relative to the good of the people; but any communication relative to personal matters or tending to bring about a controversy will not be tolerated.—Ed's.

[Special to the Richmond Dispatch, June 8.]

THE TOBACCO TAX.

WASHINGTON, June 6.—I am clearly of the opinion after a careful survey of the field, that a majority of the Senate is for reducing the tobacco tax to 16 cents, and this is the opinion of Senator Ransom and others who have taken great pains to ascertain. Messrs. Spencer, of Alabama, Patterson, of South Carolina, and Conover, of Florida—all Republicans—are for the reduction, and of course there is not a Southern Democratic Senator who is not warmly in favor of the measure—in fact, the majority of them are working for it. Then Mr. Stanley Matthews says he will vote for reduction, and our friends claim Messrs. Ingalls, of Kansas, and Allison, of Iowa, and other Republicans, and not without reason. Mr. Voorhees has told me he is for reduction, and I know we can count on Western Democratic Senators. The weak point is the Finance Committee. If the bill can be gotten up, I repeat, it will pass the Senate. The friends of reduction in and out of Congress are working with an earnestness that deserves success to get it through both houses before adjournment.

This is evidently the right thing and should have received the attention it merited long since. Our tobaccoists have endured suspense and disappointment, until almost every nerve has been paralyzed. Since this question has been agitated in Congress, they have accomplished comparatively nothing, and we heard one gentleman a short while since say that he had not filled any orders for tobacco since January. Why cannot our Senators lay aside investigating committees and motions for adjournment a short while, until something can be done to promote the internal interests of the country, rather than oblige wrangling politicians? When party spirit is carried to such an extent that the commercial and financial interests of the people are smothered beneath its deadly weight, surely something must be done to purge our public men. We earnestly hope that the Senators from North Carolina will exert themselves to settle this matter, as it affects to a considerable degree the financial interests of their constituency.

We have received from Col. Polk the report on the results of the Chemical examination of fertilizers sold in North Carolina during 1877-78, by Dr. Albert R. Ledoux, Chemist to the Department of Agriculture. These reports should be read with great interest by every farmer in the State, and the ready, efficient and constant labor of Dr. Ledoux in their behalf should be fully recognized.

GEN. SEALES has been mentioned in connection with the United States Senatorship. If the contest between Merrimon and Vance should become so close that there should be danger to the Democracy, both parties should compromise on some man. Gen. Seales, the Christian patriot and soldier, would fill the place very acceptably and not a single complaint would be heard.

Hon. W. N. H. SMITH was nominated for the Chief Justiceship unanimously.

THE CARD OF SENATOR MERRIMON.

We are sorry that we are unable to publish this ably written document; but, in order that our readers may hear both sides of the question, we will make a few remarks concerning it, and attempt to paraphrase the more important passages. The Legislature of 1872 elected to the Senate of the United States a man, who in private life bore an unexceptionable Christian character, and who, in the shortness of his political career before his election, presented a record of honesty and ability not surpassed by any public man in the State. Judge Merrimon as a man of the most firm and admirable morality, a man of truth, a man of honesty, a man of political as well as judicial ability, has no superior in the State of North Carolina. However, when we laud our favorite among public men, remember that we do so, not intending to cast a single imputation upon Governor Vance, a man of undoubted patriotism, but rather in order to free Senator Merrimon from the effects of falsehood and slander, and to prevent an unjust and unexcusable deprivation of his senatorship. And we wish our readers to bear in mind that the veracity of Senator Merrimon has stood unassailed through all his career, has even become a maxim among the people of the State, and when we quote from his vindictive card, let his words sound as though they came from the Oracle of the Goddess of Truth, bright with purity and heavy with conviction. His senatorial record has never been attacked; it stands as a brilliant memorial of his own ability, and as an honor to his native State. His speeches in the Senate are of the highest order of oratory, noted especially for their soundness and legal acumen, moderately varied with eloquence and patriotism. And we would impress our readers especially with one thing that while some of the professed Southern patriots, when the Southern name was slurred and dishonored, answered in pathetic as well as indignant eloquence, Senator Merrimon inspired with a loftier sense of duty and patriotism, instead of wasting his time thus; worked to so improve our internal resources as to place us on a footing with the Northern people. The only reasons so far adduced for removing him from his present position is that he was elected, not by the majority of the Democracy, but by a minority of Republicans and Democrats, he himself concurring, and participating in such proceedings, and thus destroying his allegiance to Democratic principles and organizations. Senator Merrimon in his card says:

"This charge I flatly deny. It is utterly false in substance and details, and I challenge any one to produce aught in proof of it." Col. W. H. Avera, who was a member of the Democratic caucus, and supported Senator Merrimon, in a number of his papers, the Rocky Mount Mail, after effecting a decided vindication of his conduct, says: "We beg our readers to remember the following material points: 1. The integrity of the caucus being destroyed, (i. e. by the members being packed and pledged) the friends of Merrimon did not join its deliberations. 2. That they at all times expressed a willingness to withdraw the name of Merrimon if the friends of Governor Vance withdrew his name. 3. They proposed that a vote before the Legislature might decide the contest, which was declined. 4. When Vance was withdrawn, they withdrew Merrimon. 5. They met in joint caucus to aid in nominating the third man in good faith. 6. That they did not put the name of Merrimon in nomination before the Legislature the second time until after the friends of Gov. Vance had voted in the caucus to re-nominate him; after they had called a caucus in which the friends of Merrimon were invited to participate, with the assurance that neither Vance, nor Merrimon were to be brought before it. 7. That the charge that coalition, bargain, treachery of any kind was practiced, or that personal honor was compromised with the Republicans, is absolutely false, and is a foul slander upon the Judge and his friends. Furthermore, Col. Avera says:

"In this way and under these circumstances both Gov. Vance and Judge Merrimon were for the second time brought into this memorable and unfortunate contest before the Legislature, and a vote was taken: At the end of the roll call it was found that 17 of the original Democratic supporters of Merrimon had voted for him with 18 Republicans, and while the tellers were casting up the vote the Republicans who had voted for Mr. Pool, upon roll-call, began to change their votes to Merrimon, stating emphatically that they did it as a choice between what they considered two of the most objectionable Democrats to them to be found in the State; and that no overtures, promises or pledges of any kind had been made them by Judge Merrimon, or from his friends for him. In this way, and under these circumstances, he was elected to the United States Senate." Senator Merrimon in his card says:

"The imputation that I colluded with the Republicans in the Legislature, or bargained for their votes is utterly false and scandalous, and the reckless mendacity of those who persist in making it has scarcely a parallel in the vilest type of political warfare. I denounced the suggestion of it in a published card in January, 1873, as utterly false—my whole course of conduct ever since proves that it was false—the Democrats in the Legislature who voted for me have denuded it as false—the Republican newspapers likewise; and so have many prominent Republicans from time to time. How lost to every sense of truth, decency and honor, must be the calumniator who can persist in making such imputation to advance the political fortunes of his favorite." Thus the main and only argument which the enemies of Judge Merrimon have produced against him utterly fails, and is completely refuted by men of acknowledged truth and ability. In writing this article, we did so, feeling that the unjust sentiments of the people had been avowed against a man who has been unable in person to deny the imputations cast upon him, and who always has and is now sacrificing his good name, while working for an ungrateful people. We do not intend for our readers to understand that we are opposed to Gov. Vance, for, if they do not choose to elect Judge Merrimon, we think everybody will be satisfied with Gov. Vance, but we wish to make the contest as near an equal one as possible, and, in order to do this, justice must be done to both men. Now that every infamous and unfounded charge against Senator Merrimon has been proved to be utterly false, the contest stands upon a consideration of the ability and influence of each one. This we do not propose to discuss, but leave to the private judgment of all. Both men will fill the place eminently well.

THE third number of the University Magazine has been issued. It contains a lithographic portrait of Hon. B. F. Moore, L. L. D., an alumnus of the University, and one of its most generous supporters. The first article is the address of Gov. Vance on the Life and Character of Hon. David L. Swain, delivered at the University Commencement of 1877. Besides this it contains other well written articles, one on the "University Normal School" which is so much to the point that we cannot refrain from publishing it. The present editors after one more issue will retire and make way for fresher hands. May they live to see the Magazine which they have by their industry placed upon such a sure foundation, the peer of any college periodical published.

HURRAH for the Torchlight! This same old "Torch" has been burning for five years, and the fire gets hotter every day. It beats any torch we ever heard of. We think she must be using the oil extracted from the dead carcasses of the Radical party in Granville. Very well, let her use it free of charge, for she has been the prime manufacturer. Our hand on that!

THE Republican State ticket of Oregon has been elected. F. R. Hines, Republican candidate for Congress, is defeated, and there is a Democratic majority of 10 in the Legislature. A United States Senator will be elected by this Legislature, and unless treachery occurs in the camp he will be a Democrat.

THE UNIVERSITY NORMAL SCHOOL.

The second session of this School will begin at Chapel Hill, June 18th. It is an event of more importance to North Carolina than the meeting of the Legislature or the election of Supreme Court Judge, an event to which all who ponder over the ills of the present and the dangers of the future look forward with great anxiety. Education is our only salvation. The people must be educated as well as the rulers. Free thought and intellectual activity must be stimulated everywhere, in the churches, by the press, and especially in the school-room. There are plenty to be taught. But who shall teach them? Where are the men and women to take this clay and fashion it into vessels of honor? They will come from the University Normal School, if they come at all. They will be found among those who, having saved a mite from their scanty earnings, go to Chapel Hill resolved to increase their knowledge of what they teach and to learn the best methods of teaching as practiced elsewhere. They will be found among those teachers who are all ways eager to be taught.

What a scandal teaching generally is! We have our shoes made by men who have learned their trade, and employ professional barbers to trim our children's hair; but, when we wish some ideas put into their heads, ah! anybody can do that! Yes, anybody; and the job isn't worth much anyhow! We dole out as little pay as we can, the teacher doles out as little knowledge as he can, and the boy doles away stupidly over his dirty, musty book (the same that his father had) in a dark, cheerless, uncomfortable log house. We must reform. Teachers must reform. Teaching must be a profession, a genuine profession, for which men train themselves as for the bar or the pulpit. Teachers must make their services valuable, and they will be appreciated. Hurrah for the teacher that charges a good price! He is generally worth it. I always admired the Horner School for charging \$100 a year tuition. I think more of the Bingham School for charging \$120. The best lawyers always command high fees. Why should not the best teachers? They will, as soon as they make teaching a profession. They must make their business as respectable as any other. They must give it their best talents, energies and thoughts, in the school room and out, night and day. Precisely as merchants, lawyers and manufacturers attain success, must teachers succeed. We have Business Colleges, Medical Colleges, Law Schools, &c., all intended to train men for professions. What these institutions are to other professions, the Normal School is to teachers. It gives them special knowledge, special training, new ideas; it lays before them the results wrought out by teachers pursuing different methods; and, above all things, it stimulates their pride, ambition, and desire for learning, and then turns them into an organized body with common interests, aims, and hopes. Hurrah for Vance! Hurrah for Battle! Hurrah for the last Legislature! Long live the memory of every teacher in our first Normal School! We are on the right road. Let us go straight forward!

Teaching in Europe is a permanent business, therefore Normal Schools are abundant. The German Empire is famous for its school system as well as its Universities. It supports 170 Normal Schools. France has 92; Italy 59; Austria 56. Nowhere are untrained teachers employed. In our democratic country one man is generally as good as another for teaching. There is too often perfect equality of ignorance. Teachers are fixtures in Europe, like physicians and lawyers, seldom moving from place to place. In Pennsylvania pupils at the Normal Schools are paid by the State for attending, and receive a respectable sum of money on graduation. That State has spent on her Normal School more than half a million dollars. What does this mean? Simply that Normal Schools are a good investment. They pay. They are immense grindstones sharpening all the educational tools in a State. The Germans have found this out. The Yankees know it; and we will soon understand it. We began sharpening last year, and rubbed off considerable rust. We are going to get on a fine edge and polish a little this year. We are done hacking with blunt axes. We shall have some circular saws presently driven by steam, and maybe we shall use dissecting knives after a while. Dr. Sears is going to visit the school this year. That means something. Dr. Sears visits none but successful schools. We are getting up steam. Teachers of North Carolina, awake! The feast is preparing. Gird up your garments and come. Prof. Ladd will be here again. He has been traveling and learning. He is full of ideas. It is worth a trip to Chapel Hill to hear Prof. Ladd.

The State of North Carolina ought to hire him at any price to canvass among our people and build up the school system. He is a genius. The Board of Education have exerted themselves to the utmost in order that all possible advantages may be obtainable at the Normal School this year. They have counted the money and calculated the expenses, over and over again, trying to make one dollar git in three places at the same time. It is a tough problem, but the Board will solve it, if it can be done. They have sent to New York for a teacher in a Kindergarten school, and for a professional electionist. Prof. Owens, with his accurate scholarship and deep thought, will greet old friends and new. Prof. McIver, unsurpassed as a clear thinker and teacher, has been secured. The famous John Hopkins University lends us one of its fellows, Mr. Walter H. Page, of Cary, who has made a specialty of English Philology. Mr. Page will teach grammar and lecture on philology. Maj. Jed. Hotchkiss, a most brilliant lecturer on geography, will be with us a fortnight. There will be a class in algebra as well as several in arithmetic, and chemistry, with laboratory practice, will be offered to all who wish to take it. The study of Latin will be continued. Those who never studied it, can begin. Prof. Winston hopes to have 100 beginners. Old students will read Caesar. Next year they will take up Virgil. Mr. M. C. S. Noble, formerly assistant teacher in the Bingham School, will teach the Latin classes. Mr. Noble is a special student of Latin in the University, and a candidate for the Latin Diploma, which has not been bestowed on any student as yet. Instruction in book-keeping and penmanship will be provided. A great improvement has been made on last year. The Board did not spend all the money last year (the only instance of the kind ever recorded.) Books will be free again. Board will be cheap again. The Campus is prettier than ever.

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Teaching in Europe is a permanent business, therefore Normal Schools are abundant. The German Empire is famous for its school system as well as its Universities. It supports 170 Normal Schools. France has 92; Italy 59; Austria 56. Nowhere are untrained teachers employed. In our democratic country one man is generally as good as another for teaching. There is too often perfect equality of ignorance. Teachers are fixtures in Europe, like physicians and lawyers, seldom moving from place to place. In Pennsylvania pupils at the Normal Schools are paid by the State for attending, and receive a respectable sum of money on graduation. That State has spent on her Normal School more than half a million dollars. What does this mean? Simply that Normal Schools are a good investment. They pay. They are immense grindstones sharpening all the educational tools in a State. The Germans have found this out. The Yankees know it; and we will soon understand it. We began sharpening last year, and rubbed off considerable rust. We are going to get on a fine edge and polish a little this year. We are done hacking with blunt axes. We shall have some circular saws presently driven by steam, and maybe we shall use dissecting knives after a while. Dr. Sears is going to visit the school this year. That means something. Dr. Sears visits none but successful schools. We are getting up steam. Teachers of North Carolina, awake! The feast is preparing. Gird up your garments and come. Prof. Ladd will be here again. He has been traveling and learning. He is full of ideas. It is worth a trip to Chapel Hill to hear Prof. Ladd.

The State of North Carolina ought to hire him at any price to canvass among our people and build up the school system. He is a genius. The Board of Education have exerted themselves to the utmost in order that all possible advantages may be obtainable at the Normal School this year. They have counted the money and calculated the expenses, over and over again, trying to make one dollar git in three places at the same time. It is a tough problem, but the Board will solve it, if it can be done. They have sent to New York for a teacher in a Kindergarten school, and for a professional electionist. Prof. Owens, with his accurate scholarship and deep thought, will greet old friends and new. Prof. McIver, unsurpassed as a clear thinker and teacher, has been secured. The famous John Hopkins University lends us one of its fellows, Mr. Walter H. Page, of Cary, who has made a specialty of English Philology. Mr. Page will teach grammar and lecture on philology. Maj. Jed. Hotchkiss, a most brilliant lecturer on geography, will be with us a fortnight. There will be a class in algebra as well as several in arithmetic, and chemistry, with laboratory practice, will be offered to all who wish to take it. The study of Latin will be continued. Those who never studied it, can begin. Prof. Winston hopes to have 100 beginners. Old students will read Caesar. Next year they will take up Virgil. Mr. M. C. S. Noble, formerly assistant teacher in the Bingham School, will teach the Latin classes. Mr. Noble is a special student of Latin in the University, and a candidate for the Latin Diploma, which has not been bestowed on any student as yet. Instruction in book-keeping and penmanship will be provided. A great improvement has been made on last year. The Board did not spend all the money last year (the only instance of the kind ever recorded.) Books will be free again. Board will be cheap again. The Campus is prettier than ever.

There ought to be an amendment to the Constitution requiring every member of the Legislature to come to the Normal School. Every newspaper editor should come up for a course. We would welcome even the Tarboro Southern quillist. We feel jubilant. We will soon see the great heart of North Carolina throbbing and beating and getting fresh blood to send out to its long-famished limbs. Oh, let the blood be pure and strong! We will soon see the waters gathered into clouds to send quickening showers upon our thirsty soil, making the intellectual seed to swell and burst and grow and ripen into blessed fruit. Teachers, come, rub up your armour, unite your forces, close up the ranks, heads up, eyes front, forward march, he! he! he! Carolina, Carolina, Heaven's blessing attend her! While we live, we will cherish, protect and defend her." OLD NORTH STATE. NORTH CAROLINA. The Educator says that Capt. Nat. Atkinson and M. E. Carter are to represent the good people of Buncombe in the House of Representatives. Wake Forest College Commencement came off this week. The sermon before the Graduating Class was preached by Rev. P. S. Henson, D.D., and eleven young men graduated. Trinity College closed her year's work this week. The Commencement is said to have been a success. Bishop Wightman preached the sermon before the Graduating Class, and Gov. Colquitt, of Georgia, delivered the annual address. Hon. Montford McGehee has been re-nominated by the Democrats of Person County for the next Legislature. This gentleman has acquired considerable reputation in the State as a man of good, hard sense, and a most refined literary taste. Davidson College Commencement takes place the 26th and 27th of this month. Hon. Gustavus J. Orr, of Georgia, delivers the address before the two Societies. The Hop Club will have a ball at the Central Hotel, Charlotte, Friday evening after the Commencement. Among the Commencement officers we notice several of our old school mates. Should like very much to be with them. A correspondent of the Raleigh News writing from Greensboro on June 8th, says: The wife of Prof. Alex. Melver, (formerly a teacher in the University of North Carolina, but for several years of the Greensboro Graded School,) died yesterday, the 7th, at their home in Greensboro, leaving a husband and six children, the oldest of whom (a son) is now a cadet at West Point. They are natives of Moore County, N. C. William Cullen Bryant, one of the most celebrated poets America has ever produced, is dead.

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