

Home-Democrat. CHARLOTTE, N. C.

N. C. Supreme Court Decisions. Spring Term, 1884.

State Democratic Executive Committee.

RALEIGH, April 16, 1884. Pursuant to the call of the central executive committee, the State executive committee of the Democratic party met this day. At noon the chairman, Capt. Octavius Coke, called the committee to order. The following members were found to be present: Messrs. R. H. Battle, George H. Snow and J. Litchford, of the central executive committee.

First district—Harry Skinner, of Pitt; R. W. Wharton, of Beaufort. Second district—A. J. Galloway, of Wayne. Third district—H. B. Short, Jr., of Columbus. Fourth district—S. S. Battle, of Nash. Fifth district—A. E. Henderson, of Caswell; M. S. Robins, of Randolph. Sixth district—J. D. Shaw, of Richmond; W. J. Yates, of Mecklenburg. Seventh district—W. B. Glenn, of Forsyth.

Eighth district—Jordan Stone, proxy for R. M. Farman, of Buncombe. Mr. R. H. Smith, of Halifax, represented as proxy S. J. Pemberton, of the sixth district. Mr. E. R. Stamps represented Mr. Chas. M. Busbee of the central committee and Mr. John D. Stanford, of the third district.

At this stage of the proceedings the chairman, Capt. Coke, called Mr. W. J. Yates to the chair in an appropriate speech tendered his resignation as chairman of this committee and then retired.

Mr. W. B. Glenn offered the following resolution, which was unanimously adopted: Resolved, That this committee duly and highly appreciate the able, honest and efficient services of the Hon. Octavius Coke, chairman of the State executive committee, and his resignation as such chairman be not accepted; that they fully recognize the fact that he has made efforts for the party which have been successful, and that his personal sacrifices for the party have been such as to entitle him to the gratitude of the Democratic party of the State.

Messrs. Glenn and Battle were appointed to wait on Capt. Coke and inform him of the action of the committee. Capt. Coke, returning, urged the committee to accept his resignation, giving the reasons that influenced him, and stating that he was ready and willing to aid in any and all legitimate ways the objects of the committee. The committee then accepted the resignation.

Mr. R. H. Battle was unanimously elected to fill the vacancy and assumed the duties of the chair. On motion, Wednesday the 25th day of June, was fixed for the meeting of the State convention, and Raleigh designated as the place of holding the same.

The following resolutions, offered by Mr. Galloway, of Wayne, were unanimously adopted: Resolved, That individually and as a committee we heartily approve the plank in the platform of the Democratic party advocating the abolition of the internal revenue system of the general government as onerous and oppressive to the people of the State.

Resolved, That the policy of the party in this State on this question has been repeatedly declared both in its platform and in numerous memorials from Democratic legislatures, addressed to the Congress of the United States, and the position of the Democratic party in this regard is too well known to admit of doubt or misconception.

Resolved, That we heartily commend the earnest and faithful efforts of our Democratic representative from this State to secure a speedy repeal of the taxes imposed by this oppressive system.

Resolved, That the people of North Carolina are too enlightened to be deceived by the pretended claim of the coalition and Republican parties of this State to desire a repeal of this system. They asserted in their platform and maintained upon the canvass two years ago the justice of continuing said system, and their sudden announcement of an opposite policy is a recognition of the validity and justice of the position of the Democratic party upon this great question.

The resignation of Col. L. D. Stephenson of Wake, as a member of the central executive committee, was tendered. It was accepted, and R. G. Dunn, Esq., was chosen to fill the vacancy.

The following resolution, offered by Mr. W. B. Glenn, was adopted: Resolved, That it be recommended to the county conventions that when they meet to send delegates to the State convention they also appoint delegates to attend a congressional convention of the districts as now constituted, to be held at the same time and place with the State convention, for the purpose of organization in the congressional districts, and also to elect delegates from said districts to the national convention.

It was understood and announced that the congressional conventions alluded to in the above resolution, are solely for purposes of organization and electing delegates to the national Democratic convention, and not for nominating candidates for Congress.

R. H. BATTLE, Chairman. J. J. LITCHFORD, Secretary.

The Bird Law.

The gun and dog can have a rest, now as the bird law went into effect on April 1st. It could be well to see that it is rigidly enforced, for farmers have no better friends than the insect destroying birds. We give below the clauses from the "Code" upon the law. Cut it out and preserve for reference: "Section 2834.—No person shall kill or shoot, trap or net any partridges, quails, doves, robins, larks, mocking-birds or wild turkeys, between the first day of April and the fifteenth day of October in each year; and the person so offending shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and fined not exceeding ten dollars for each offense.

"Section 2836.—No person shall at any time take or destroy the eggs of partridges or quails; and any person violating this section shall be guilty of a misdemeanor, and punished by a fine of not more than fifty dollars or by imprisonment for not more than thirty days."

White vs. Commissioners of Chowan.—A county is not liable in damages for an injury to the plaintiff occasioned by a defective bridge, (forming a part of the highway across a stream) in the absence of any statutory provision to that effect. Distinction between towns and counties and their corporate powers and liabilities stated.

State vs. Burns.—Bigamy was a misdemeanor at the time the indictment in this case was found, but it is made a felony by section 988 of the Code of '83.

Gibson vs. McLaurin.—An appeal will be dismissed when the transcript of the record shows no complaint, no answer and no statement of the case.

Bason vs. Mining Company.—A deed by a corporation, the concluding clause being "In witness whereof the said Gas-ton Mining company have caused this instrument to be signed by their president and attested by their secretary, and their common seal to be affixed," with the signatures and seal, is properly executed as a common law deed.

State vs. Lee and others.—Appeals in criminal actions must be perfected and the case for the Supreme court settled, as provided in civil actions. Code section 1,234.

McKee vs. Angel.—1. A justice of the peace has no authority to depute a special officer to serve process in civil action. 2. A judgment rendered by a justice of the peace without notice to the defendant, may be set aside by a direct application to the justice, and where he refuses to do so the proper cause on appeal is to reverse the ruling of the justice, but not to direct the justice to enter judgment vacating the original judgment.

ADDITIONAL DECISIONS.

The following is a statement of the decisions delivered on Monday last by the Supreme Court Judges: H. G. Trotter vs. Commissioners of Swain county, from Swain—no error—judgment affirmed.

Gilbert Patterson, executor, vs Robert Lilly and others, from Richmond—no error—judgment affirmed.

State vs. G. H. Crumpler, from Cumberland—error—cause remanded for judgment to be pronounced according to law.

Mary C. Medley vs. Dunlap & Little, executors, from Anson—error—judgment reversed and judgment for the defendants.

D. L. Cowles vs. Joel T. Ferguson, from Wilkes—error—new trial awarded.

Mark Young vs. W. W. Rollins and C. M. McLoud, from McDowell—contempt case—no error.

Alexander Jackson vs. McLean & Leach, from Robeson—no error—appeal dismissed.

S. A. Young vs. B. T. Barden from Columbus—no error—judgment affirmed.

State vs. Stephen Royal, from Cumberland—no error.

A. M. C. Council and others vs. W. H. Averett, from Bladen—no error—judgment affirmed.

R. D. Moore vs. Julius Vanderburg and others, from Iredell—remanded for other proceedings.

N. G. Penniman vs. John H. Daniel, from Catawba—error—rulings of the Court below reversed.

D. L. Saylor and others vs. B. F. Powell and others, from Anson—no error—judgment affirmed.

R. McMillan vs. Commissioners of Robeson county, from Robeson—no error—judgment affirmed.

Washington Items.

From Correspondence of Goldsboro Messenger. Mrs. Owens of Greensboro, has received an appointment to the Treasury Department.

Of the public buildings which it is expected North Carolina will get at this session Charlotte only has been reported. It is before the Committee of the Whole, but may not be reached for some time.

A strong combination for carrying all that class of bills exists, but the opponents—gentlemen who have secured all their wants already—are numerous, and their numbers increase every day. This afternoon a motion to rescind the special order for their consideration was voted down by only 101 to 77. The Wilmington bill, appropriating \$100,000, was agreed upon in committee, but Col. Green's necessary absence in Illinois defeated the report, as no one else could give certain information.

The committee has also agreed to give Asheville a fifty-thousand dollar building. The Charlotte building will cost \$75,000.

Almost the entire delegation from North Carolina were in the members' gallery of the House in attendance upon North Carolina visitors. These were Messrs. Pemberton of Albemarle, Alspaugh of Winston, Cotton of Edgecombe, and Smith of Anson, with ladies.

Col. Green's bill to enable persons making fruit to distill it free of tax was formally reported and referred to the Committee of the Whole.

State News.

The third annual fete champagne at Davidson college, will be given Friday evening, May 9. The invitation committee are Chas. S. Johnson, C. S. Bratton, I. R. Oland, E. B. McGilvray, J. S. Carson.

The North Carolina Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church will meet at Ebenezer Church, near China Grove, Rowan county, Wednesday 30th inst.

Strawberries in market yesterday going at 50 cents per quart.—Newbern Journal, April 19.

Newbern is shipping Green Peas on a large scale to New York and the Journal says the truckers are realizing from \$4 to \$6.50 per box. They are getting ahead of the Norfolk truckers.

The Normal school at Newton opens on June 30th, under the Superintendency of Prof. M. C. S. Noble, of Wilmington, who was recently elected to that position.

The Medical Society of North Carolina will hold its Thirty-first Annual Meeting in the city of Raleigh on Tuesday, May 20th, 1884. Arrangements are being made with all the railroads, as far as possible, to pass members, delegates and visitors at reduced rates.

Rev. A. W. Mangum, of the N. C. University, will deliver the Literary Address at Trinity College Cemetery June 12th.

Mrs. Green, the mother-in-law of Hon. Wharton J. Green, (member of Congress from the Fayetteville District), died at Bloomington, Ill., at the residence of Hon. David Davis, on April 17th, and her remains passed through Raleigh to Fayetteville on Saturday last. Mrs. Green was the widow of the late Col. T. Jeff. Green of Warren county.

On Sunday last Mr. Robt. Strange, son of the late Col. Robert Strange of Wilmington, was admitted to holy orders in the Episcopal Church at St. James Church, Wilmington, by the Rt. Rev. A. A. Watson, Bishop of East Carolina.

Business Failures in North Carolina during the past week.—Castalia—J. W. Wheelers, general store, assigned to Jos. Collins; liabilities about \$4,000; preference \$1,500. Dockville—W. H. Moore, general store, assigned. Salisbury—Wiley T. Rouse, grocer, reported closed by creditors. Wilmington—John T. Bradstreet, assigned to J. M. Forshee.—Schwadret's N. Y. Reports.

Adjutant General Jones, of the State Guard, has issued a notice that in accordance with law a board will assemble at Asheville, N. C., on Thursday, May 22, to establish and prescribe rules, regulations, forms and proceedings for the use, government and instruction of the Militia of North Carolina, subject to the approval of the Governor and the Senate.

The board will be composed as follows: Brig. Gen. Johnston Jones, Adjutant General; Col. F. H. Cameron, Inspector General; Col. J. W. Cotton, 1st Regiment; Lieut. T. R. Robertson, Co. E, 4th Regiment; and Private J. L. Cantwell, Co. C, 2nd Regiment.

Cards are out for the marriage of our former townsman, Mr. Jacob Wallace, now the resident buyer in New York for the firm of Wallace Bros., of this place, of which firm he is a member. He is to be married on the evening of the 29th inst. to Miss Henrietta E. Calm, of 24 East Seventy-fourth street, New York.—Statesville Landmark.

Mr. Frank Lander, of Lincoln, is now opening a valuable mica mine on Dr. A. Thompson's place, in North Brook Township, Lincoln county. He has found immense blocks of mica, and on April 14th he took out 1,500 lbs mica, so says a friend in North Brook. Mr. David A. Elliott has placed on our desk a fine specimen of mica 11x13 found on his mine near Shelby.

A NARROW ESCAPE.—On Sunday morning while Leon McLean was examining a self-cocking revolver in the room of his friend Robert Michal, it was discharged, the ball barely missing the head of the latter. From the fact that Robert had playfully pointed the pistol at Mr. T. H. Hoke only a moment before, Leon concluded that it was unloaded, and hence handled it carelessly.—Lincoln Press.

KILLED BY A JERSEY BULL.—On Saturday, Mr. Eli Patton, one of the best citizens of Transylvania county, went out to his lot, untied his Jersey bull to let him run out, when the animal turned on him and gored him to death. This is a sad loss to that county.—Asheville Citizen.

FRUIT AND SMALL GRAIN.—From the best information we can get the fruit crop is safe. Some of it has been killed, but if no further accident shall befall it there will be an abundance of most varieties. The small grain crop escaped any material damage from the cold. There is plenty of time for it to recover from any injury sustained, and the prospect is still good for the largest cereal crop ever harvested in the county.—Monroe Enquirer.

Last week, Mr. John Rankin brought the notorious Bill Meek, col., to Concord and turned him over to the Sheriff. He is now safe in the cage. Mr. Rankin captured him near Charlotte. He was working on the A. & T. Railroad.—Concord Register.

Work on the northern wing of the Western Asylum has been resumed and will be actively pushed forward to completion. It is hoped that the wall of the unfinished wing will be ready for the roof by the close of the present season.—Morganton Mountaineer.

The N. C. State Board of Education met in Raleigh on Tuesday of last week. The list of the Normal Schools is as follows: University, Chapel Hill, J. L. Tomlinson, superintendent, opens June 17; Newton, Prof. M. C. S. Noble, June 30; Wilson, Rev. Sylvester Hazard, time not set; Elizabeth City, principal not yet known, time not fixed; Franklin, Macon county, principal not yet chosen, opens about June 25. There are five colored schools: Fayetteville, Franklinton, Plymouth, Salisbury and Newbern.

CAPT. RENNO.—The first bridge ever built by Capt. Renno, the veteran bridge builder, who is now engaged in building a bridge over Long Creek on the Carolina Central, and has the contract for building one at Indian Creek, was the bridge over the Catawba at Rozzella's Ferry on the old plank road. Since building this bridge, Capt. Renno has built hundreds on the principal railroads in the United States. He is about 67 years of age, is worth about two hundred thousand dollars, and is of such an active temperament that when he quit work for two years his health failed, and he had to commence building bridges again.—Lincolnton Press.

That Shower of Blood in Chatham County, N. C.

UNIVERSITY, N. C., April 14. A singular shower of some red liquid, supposed to be blood, which fell in Chatham on February 25th, was mentioned in some of the State papers, but little notice was taken of it. Nearly a week after the fall, Dr. Sidney Atwater brought a small specimen of sand soaked with this liquid to the University, to be examined. It was looked upon as a joke and no analysis was made for some time. When it was taken up several days afterwards there seemed to be sufficient interest attaching to it to warrant paying a visit to the locality where the matter fell. Meantime nearly three weeks had elapsed, and several heavy rains had fallen, so that when the place was reached (a small negro cabin in New Hope township, about a quarter of a mile from the Raleigh and Pittsboro road) no vestiges of the matter could be found on the ground, and only one or two marks of drops on the fence. The woman who saw it fall was, however, examined and inquiries were made of the neighbors who visited the spot soon after. The fall came from a cloudless sky, when the wind was so slight as to be almost imperceptible. The direction of the drops on the fence indicated a very slight wind from the South or Southwest, across some ploughed land. The woman was standing on this ploughed land, near a fence, along which small pine bushes were growing. She noticed something falling between her and the ground, saw it leave a red splash on the sand, heard a pattering like rain around her, looked up, but it was all over and she could not see the cause of the fall. She was frightened and affected, taking it as a portent of death or evil of some kind. Mr. S. A. Holleman visited the spot the next morning, (the fall took place about midday), and has kindly given me the following facts observed: The space covered was about fifty by seventy feet, and nearly in a rectangular form. The drops were of size varying from that of a small pea to that of a man's finger and averaged about one to the square foot. Smaller drops were instantly absorbed, larger ones, with those on the wood coagulated. Some fell in the bushes and coagulated upon the limbs. Dr. Robinson, living near, collected some of the freshly fallen material and made certain simple tests which satisfied him that it was blood. It even had the smell, he says, of fresh blood. Now as to the sample which I could procure for analysis: One from Mr. Holleman was gotten by some third person and consisted only a few grains of stained sand. The other, also stained sand, was somewhat larger in quantity and came indirectly into the hands of Dr. Alston, who gave it to me. It is a pity that a sample could not have been gotten more directly—one whose origin would have been placed beyond all dispute. The analysis is detailed at length, as it is important to see to what foundation rests the claims of this material to be blood. The sand placed in cold water gave a brown-red solution, which coagulated on heating. The coagulum, a dirty brown, was soluble in caustic alkalis, giving an indistinct green solution—treated with an acid solution of mercury nitrate, it gave a brick-red color. Nitric acid caused the formation of a yellow precipitate and gave the characteristic yellow tint on heating. The original solution in water was brightened in color, not turning green or crimson on adding ammonia. On leaving the solution two or three days it readily putrefied, showing under the microscope a great swarm of bacteria. Examined by the microscope the appearance of small, slightly altered corpuscles was seen, corresponding well with those gotten from some slaughter-house soil. The spectrum of this substance when the solution was perfectly fresh gave a line in the yellow one in the green and a faint one in the red. On standing, the first two disappeared, and the red absorption band or line became very distinct; on adding ferrous sulphate the red line appeared and the two first lines were distinct. To explain now: The yellow and green lines are characteristic of reduced hematine (the red coloring matter of the blood). The red line is characteristic of acid hematine. If you take fresh blood and add tartaric acid to it you get the red line—if you then add ferrous sulphate you get the yellow and green. The material then, according to the spectroscopic analysis, is a mixture of reduced and acid hematine, crystals could be gotten only indistinctly, if at all.

This leaves little or no reasonable doubt then that the samples examined had blood upon them. The question arises were they carefully taken; had no animal ever bled on the same ground; had pigs never been slaughtered in that quarter of the field; and the theories accounting for so singular a material falling from a cloudless sky, I have no plausible ones to offer. It may have been some bird of prey passing over, carrying a bleeding animal, but a good deal of blood must have fallen to cover so large a space. The subject is quite a puzzle and offers a tempting field for the theorist blessed with a vivid imagination.

P. P. VENABLE, Prof. in N. C. University.

The Mutiny of the U. S. Brig Somers.

Swift Execution of a Son of a Cabinet Minister—A Tragedy of Forty-one Years Ago Retold.

On Sept. 13, 1842, the United States brig Somers sailed from New York, bound for the coast of Africa, there to deliver certain dispatches and at once return. The Somers was in command of Master Commandant Alexander Slidell McKenzie. The next in rank of seniority was Lieut. Ganevoort of Albany, N. Y. Among the midshipmen, of whom there were six aboard, were two sons of Commodore Perry—Oliver and C. H. Perry, a Mr. Henry Rogers, and Mr. Philip Spencer, a son of John C. Spencer, then Secretary of War. Young Spencer had by no means a good general character as an officer, having already been compelled to resign on account of intemperance. Capt. McKenzie had sought promotion to sailing-master, but was unsuccessful, and, according to his own statement, his feelings toward the young man were anything but favorable. The entire crew of the Somers numbered about 120 men, of whom eight were apprentices, eighteen ordinary seamen, and the remainder midshipmen and petty officers. The Somers reached her destination on the coast of Africa, and, delivering her dispatches, started on the return voyage, the intention being to stop at St. Thomas on the way for provisions.

It was noticed that Spencer generally held himself aloof from his fellow officers, but associated in a very free manner with the ordinary seamen. One evening in November he entered into conversation with Mr. Wales, the purser's steward, and hinted to him a plan of mutiny, detailing how it should be effected, and declaring that he had already made recruits on board. Some time previous, while Surgeon Leacock and another officer were engaged in examining a chart of the West Indies in the cabin, Spencer had asked whereabouts the Isle of Pines lay. The Surgeon answered, and asked in return why he asked the question, as the Isle of Pines was known to be a practical rock.

Spencer did not reply. On broaching the matter to Wales, he commenced by asking him "if he feared death, or dare he kill a person to serve his purpose?" Wales appeared to agree with him, and took the oath of secrecy, when Spencer told him all his plans. How he would get up a sham fight during Midshipman Rogers' watch, and at the intervention of the purser, throw him overboard; how he would proceed to distribute the arms, proceed to the Captain's cabin, murder him and kill the other officers as they emerged from their quarters, and throw overboard all of the crew that would not join them, or whom they did not want. This done, the brig was to proceed to San Antonio or the Isle of Pines. While detailing these plans to Wales, a seaman named Small approached, making an angry accusation against Spencer, but when told that he need not fear of Wales' account, he again looked pleased. A third offer of mutiny was made, and death was threatened if he uttered a syllable of what he had been told. Wales became anxious to communicate with the Captain as to what he had heard, but, seeing that he was watched, in the morning told the Captain, who, in turn, informed the Captain. Among the men that Spencer had tampered with was one named Cromwell, who had formerly been on a slaver, and was considered a rough character, and another seaman named Small, already referred to. Spencer had been seen sharpening a battle-axe; a seaman named Wilson was found sharpening a curious knife.

Capt. McKenzie could not at first credit the wonderful story told him, but evidence accumulated so rapidly that he was determined to have the principals arrested. Approaching Spencer, he said: "I understand that you aspire to the command of this vessel. How you are to arrive at it I do not know, unless by walking over my dead body and those of my officers." Spencer replied that it was all a joke. The Captain responded, "It is a very serious joke, sir, and may cost you your life."

On the day after Spencer's arrest, some apparent further developments of mutiny appearing, the Captain ordered the arrest of Cromwell and Small. Fearing an attempt to rescue, the Captain appealed to the officers for advice as to the propriety of executing Spencer, Cromwell and Small. The officers approved of the idea. Capt. McKenzie then went to Spencer and told him that he had ten minutes to live. Spencer pleaded for an hour, and it was granted. Small assented to his punishment, but being with greater coolness than either Cromwell or Spencer, Spencer asked permission to give the order to fire the gun which was to be the signal of the execution. This was granted, but he found himself unable to carry out his intention. The commander gave the order to fire, and the three men were instantly run up to main yard. The bodies were buried at sea.

On arriving at New York Capt. McKenzie immediately forwarded a report to the Secretary of the Navy. An inquiry was held, which resulted in the full justification of the Captain's conduct. Ere its close, a court martial was ordered aboard the North Carolina; before it Capt. McKenzie was tried. He was acquitted.

Female Suffrage—A Set Back.

The vote in the Massachusetts House upon the woman suffrage bill was a regular roar-back. It showed that the "crazes" had lost rather than gained ground. About four to one were against even the smallest exercise of the elective franchise in right.

If the strikers had gained that foothold they would have planted their banners, erected their barriers, brought out their siege guns and prepared for other and more important conquests. So it was well done to scotch the snake at once if you did not kill it. Four to one will do. We hope that the next attempt made to level the standard of female purity and respectability in any State will show a still smaller minority vote.

The worst enemy of the human race is the man or woman who would introduce the women of the land into the political arena. Of course if women vote they will next want to hold office. It would indeed be a sad day for the race when the mothers began to mouth political maxims and to their friend or favorite, to elbow and button hole men to secure their suffrage and influence, for all this would come, and come quickly if the ice were first broken by conferring the ballot upon women. Let the sanctity and purity of the domestic circle be kept pure from all contaminating influence. Let politics be kept out of the mothers' confidantes' leaves to women the dirty work of politics. Thousands and tens of thousands of men who dislike the atmosphere of the polling booths stay away rather than breathe it. It is a fact that men are not made better and purer and more elevated by politics. The science of government is a noble one. The study of the laws that govern nations and the great principles of a federative, constitutional government are some of the noblest and truest of all. But the scramble for office—the wire-pulling and pipe-laying—the scheming, plotting, manipulating—the self-assertion and immodesty of the professional office-seeker—the corruption and profligacy that so often attend official life—the insatiable thirst for public place and the greed for pay—the broken promises, the concealments, the hedging, the constant practices of dissimulation—the want of honest convictions and honest purposes—these are not inspiring—these do not lift up men to a higher plane, do not ennoble and dignify and add a sweet grace to life. Fortunately not all men who are in politics are of this class, for we are glad to know that there are noble, high-toned, conscientious, sincere, pure men in politics who maintain principle and honor under all circumstances and amid the contentions and rivalries of parties. But the political arena is not a good school of morals. The record of our country will show that. The life of the legislator is not half so pleasant or pure as is sometimes thought. Many a man who went to Washington virtuous and sober became impure and debauched. Politics are a necessity and men must have less to do with them. But not so with the women. Let them keep away. Let them keep "far from the mad-making crowd of ignoble strife." Let not the purity of female life be brought in contact with the low standard and debasing influence that belong to politics. Let not the slimy serpent enter the sacred paradisaical bower.—Wil. Star.

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If the strikers had gained that foothold they would have planted their banners, erected their barriers, brought out their siege guns and prepared for other and more important conquests. So it was well done to scotch the snake at once if you did not kill it. Four to one will do. We hope that the next attempt made to level the standard of female purity and respectability in any State will show a still smaller minority vote.

The worst enemy of the human race is the man or woman who would introduce the women of the land into the political arena. Of course if women vote they will next want to hold office. It would indeed be a sad day for the race when the mothers began to mouth political maxims and to their friend or favorite, to elbow and button hole men to secure their suffrage and influence, for all this would come, and come quickly if the ice were first broken by conferring the ballot upon women. Let the sanctity and purity of the domestic circle be kept pure from all contaminating influence. Let politics be kept out of the mothers' confidantes' leaves to women the dirty work of politics. Thousands and tens of thousands of men who dislike the atmosphere of the polling booths stay away rather than breathe it. It is a fact that men are not made better and purer and more elevated by politics. The science of government is a noble one. The study of the laws that govern nations and the great principles of a federative, constitutional government are some of the noblest and truest of all. But the scramble for office—the wire-pulling and pipe-laying—the scheming, plotting, manipulating—the self-assertion and immodesty of the professional office-seeker—the corruption and profligacy that so often attend official life—the insatiable thirst for public place and the greed for pay—the broken promises, the concealments, the hedging, the constant practices of dissimulation—the want of honest convictions and honest purposes—these are not inspiring—these do not lift up men to a higher plane, do not ennoble and dignify and add a sweet grace to life. Fortunately not all men who are in politics are of this class, for we are glad to know that there are noble, high-toned, conscientious, sincere, pure men in politics who maintain principle and honor under all circumstances and amid the contentions and rivalries of parties. But the political arena is not a good school of morals. The record of our country will show that. The life of the legislator is not half so pleasant or pure as is sometimes thought. Many a man who went to Washington virtuous and sober became impure and debauched. Politics are a necessity and men must have less to do with them. But not so with the women. Let them keep away. Let them keep "far from the mad-making crowd of ignoble strife." Let not the purity of female life be brought in contact with the low standard and debasing influence that belong to politics. Let not the slimy serpent enter the sacred paradisaical bower.—Wil. Star.

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