

MUCH ADO ABOUT NOTHING.

An Attempt to Make Political Capital out of Gossip.

The White House Version of why Mrs. Cleveland Declined to Visit Richmond.

[From the New York Sun.]

WASHINGTON, Oct. 22.—There is still a great deal of gossip about the refusal of Mrs. Cleveland and the ladies of the Cabinet circle to go to Richmond with the President and his Secretaries. At the White House the action of the ladies is held to be a purely personal matter, and that the public has no concern. It is said that the reasons for the change of programme were good and sufficient, and related purely to the personal convenience and comfort of the ladies concerned. There was, it is said, some doubt about the ladies going at any time, and as the day drew near, and it was known that the trip must be a flying one, a long and dusty railroad ride, with no intervening rest, and not even time for the ladies to change their travelling dresses for suitable reception toilets, it was deemed best to give up the journey. This is the White House version of the affair, so far as any statement is made for the public. Members of the Cabinet take the same view—that it is a matter that concerns only the ladies, and not the public.

Secretary Lamar said to-day that he thought the explanation given in some quarters, that it was because the daughter of Jefferson Davis was visiting in Richmond, was perfectly absurd and ridiculous, and it was very reasonable to suppose that Mrs. Cleveland had some reason of her own, especially as it was known that at first she declined to accept the invitation to go to Richmond.

In spite of the disinclination in official quarters to discuss the matter at all, the topic was uppermost in everybody's mind. A handsomely dressed lady created a little breeze at the President's noonday reception in the East Room to-day by stepping up to the President and saying: "I am from Atlanta, Mr. President, and, next to meeting Miss Winnie Davis, I had hoped to see Mrs. Cleveland before I return home."

Those who were present expected to see Mr. Cleveland show some annoyance at the remark, but, without a change of countenance, he said, blandly: "I am very sorry that you were disappointed, Madam, and I passed on to the next visitor."

Southerners here are slow to accept the conclusion that there was any political reason for Mrs. Cleveland's absence. They are much pleased that the President himself went to Richmond, and are not disposed to find fault with Mrs. Cleveland for staying away, if she chose to do so. The Virginia newspapers received here to-day are filled with enthusiastic editorial approval of Mr. Cleveland; and praise his speech highly. They make no allusion to the Miss Davis episode, except in the news column.

One courteous old Southerner, in commenting on the matter, said: "There are two ladies involved in this affair, sir, and it is not a proper subject for public discussion. No gentleman has a right to give Miss Winnie Davis unnecessary pain by assuming that she is the cause of Mrs. Cleveland's refusal to visit Richmond, nor has any gentleman the right to assume, without full knowledge of the facts, that Mrs. Cleveland stayed away from such motives as have been attributed to her, and, as I believe, without any warrant."

The Washington newspapers, which usually take their cue from the Administration, contain some mild comment on the episode to-day. The *Critic*, in an editorial discussion of the question, says: "It is difficult to think it would have been a wise and gracious thing on Mrs. Cleveland's part to have gone, but it is not a matter of essentially grave importance any way. It concludes as follows: "Many good reasons suggest themselves, any one of which were a sufficient warrant for her not making what could not fail to be a most fatiguing trip, while we cannot see either sense or expediency in attributing to her a disinclination to meet Miss Davis. If the idea had occurred before-hand that Mrs. Cleveland's absence would have been thus misconstrued, or that the people of Richmond and the South would take it seriously to heart, she doubtless would have made a supreme effort to accept the invitation and give her Southern friends generous and self-sacrificing assurance of her sympathetic appreciation of their hospitality. Certainly nothing can be more unreasonable than to suppose the President or his wife capable of any lack of courtesy in the premises, especially in a matter affecting the popularity of the Administration. No affront the South would be less impolitic than unpardonable, so that this theory falls to the ground of its own heavy stupidity. Sensible people, South and North, can readily understand why Mrs. Cleveland may have remained at home without any violation of the rules of propriety."

HOOKERTON NOT DESPONDENT.

Although a greater part of the business houses were destroyed by the fire recently our people did not give up. Mr. Slaughter is serving his customers in a side shanty until his new house, the foundation of which is already laid, is ready for him. J. W. Creech & Co. have moved their stock to Lenoir Institute, where they were already conducting business. Mr. Harper, of the firm of Parker, Harper & Co., with Mr. T. E. Hooker and Daniel Taylor, Esq. The latter gentleman, one of Lenoir county's most prosperous farmers, will at an early day erect four brick stores upon the site recently left vacant by the fire. When such gentlemen as these start a

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At this season of the year the chattel mortgage figures very conspicuously in certain portions of North Carolina. It would be safe to venture the assertion that the givers of the twenty-one chattel mortgages referred to by the *Tobacco Plant*, gave these mortgages for money and supplies to raise tobacco, depending on that and that alone to redeem these mortgages when the obligations matured. They now have to dance to music they don't like and to pay the piper his price besides. And so it is year after year throughout the tobacco and cotton belt; planters borrow to raise a crop, pay enormous interest, manacle themselves with mortgages, and take the chances of good or bad crops to free themselves. If crops be good they may come out and have a little left for their year's labor, if the crop fail ruin is their lot, unless they throw themselves upon the mercy of their creditors, and the creditors prove merciful. There is not so much of this borrowing done as there has been in years past, and it is growing less every year, but there is still ten times as much of it as there should be, for there should be none. No farmer can afford to borrow money to raise crops, especially if he confine himself to one crop. And no farmer who expects to prosper can afford to cultivate one crop and depend upon it to pay his obligations and purchase the necessities of life. It is only the farmer who raises these at home, enough of them to supply his wants and pay his current expenses, who is traveling the right road to success. The farmer in Union county, to whom the *Enquirer* refers, furnishes an illustration of this, for while he raises cotton he has the good sense not to depend upon cotton alone, but raises enough of other things to supply him with the cash he needs, leaving his cotton to add to his bank account. He may not raise much cotton, but whether he raises little or much he is still an example that all cotton or tobacco planters should follow.

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The first thing we know he will have the county full of Republican magistrates, and the county business back in their hands. It is time to come to a halt, fellow Democrats, and think long and well before you do anything of the kind. Although he has made a good officer, vote for Democrats. You have one to vote for that is capable, and will make you as good an officer in every way.

The enemy are uniting their forces, and are making a mighty effort, well knowing this is their last chance. Let us gather all our strength, and in one solid phalanx, with redoubled earnestness, come down on them the second day of November, and crush them completely.

Let the sun that day go down on a bright and glorious victory, fairly won for Democracy, the underlying principles being the greatest good to the greatest number. It was Henry Clay, who said a tariff for revenue only, with such incidental protection as might be derived from it, was all that country required. Such were the sentiments of the great leader of the grand old Whig party, and such are the sentiments of the grand old Democratic party of to-day. Equal and exact justice to all men, and to every industry of the country.

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At this season of the year the chattel mortgage figures very conspicuously in certain portions of North Carolina. It would be safe to venture the assertion that the givers of the twenty-one chattel mortgages referred to by the *Tobacco Plant*, gave these mortgages for money and supplies to raise tobacco, depending on that and that alone to redeem these mortgages when the obligations matured. They now have to dance to music they don't like and to pay the piper his price besides. And so it is year after year throughout the tobacco and cotton belt; planters borrow to raise a crop, pay enormous interest, manacle themselves with mortgages, and take the chances of good or bad crops to free themselves. If crops be good they may come out and have a little left for their year's labor, if the crop fail ruin is their lot, unless they throw themselves upon the mercy of their creditors, and the creditors prove merciful. There is not so much of this borrowing done as there has been in years past, and it is growing less every year, but there is still ten times as much of it as there should be, for there should be none. No farmer can afford to borrow money to raise crops, especially if he confine himself to one crop. And no farmer who expects to prosper can afford to cultivate one crop and depend upon it to pay his obligations and purchase the necessities of life. It is only the farmer who raises these at home, enough of them to supply his wants and pay his current expenses, who is traveling the right road to success. The farmer in Union county, to whom the *Enquirer* refers, furnishes an illustration of this, for while he raises cotton he has the good sense not to depend upon cotton alone, but raises enough of other things to supply him with the cash he needs, leaving his cotton to add to his bank account. He may not raise much cotton, but whether he raises little or much he is still an example that all cotton or tobacco planters should follow.

FIREMONT ITEMS.

Items of Interest Gathered in the Nahunta Section.

THE MESSENGER has long been a household necessity, and in politics true in the Democratic faith. The principles it inculcated will live so long as man breathes the air of freedom. Stick to the people and Democracy, and when Parian marble shall crumble to dust, your name will be remembered and honored.

There are a few things that are past my humble comprehension. One is, how can a Democrat vote for the same old coon, (Mr. Grady) now a full fledged Radical, and doing all he can against the Democratic party, and what he can for the Radical party? That is not all, he has the appointing of magistrates, and as a rule generally appoints Republicans as successors to Democrats.

The first thing we know he will have the county full of Republican magistrates, and the county business back in their hands. It is time to come to a halt, fellow Democrats, and think long and well before you do anything of the kind. Although he has made a good officer, vote for Democrats. You have one to vote for that is capable, and will make you as good an officer in every way.

The enemy are uniting their forces, and are making a mighty effort, well knowing this is their last chance. Let us gather all our strength, and in one solid phalanx, with redoubled earnestness, come down on them the second day of November, and crush them completely.

Let the sun that day go down on a bright and glorious victory, fairly won for Democracy, the underlying principles being the greatest good to the greatest number. It was Henry Clay, who said a tariff for revenue only, with such incidental protection as might be derived from it, was all that country required. Such were the sentiments of the great leader of the grand old Whig party, and such are the sentiments of the grand old Democratic party of to-day. Equal and exact justice to all men, and to every industry of the country.

The unjust, unkind and iniquitous system of taxation, called a protective tariff, which oppresses the farmer and laborer, destroys the merchant marine, breeds and enriches monopolies, and impoverishes the poor, meets with unalterable opposition by the Democratic party. These are a part of the mid-sill principles, principles that will live so long as patriots breathe, or party is immortalized in song. They are the principles of the great Democratic, who loves liberty and hates oppression and tyranny.

The principles of the Radical party are just the reverse of the above. Now which party will you support, eye good, brave men, of Wayne county. In nobleness of character, and true manhood, the men of no other county surpass you. You have always been true, and you need only to see the danger to be true now. In the language of General Hoke to his men: "The love of liberty, which led you into the contest, burns as brightly in your hearts as ever. Cherish it. Associate it with the history of your past. Transmit it to your children. Teach them the rights of freemen, and teach them to maintain them. No blush can tinge your cheek, as you proudly announce that you have a part in the history of the Army of Northern Virginia."

No blush can tinge your cheeks, Democrats, in giving your aid and support to the underlying principles of Democracy. It will be one of the most pleasant recollections of your last days to think that you aided to uphold a free constitutional government, the ethical principle of which lies at the base of all civil law.

I have been bothered with catarrh for about twenty years. I had lost my smell entirely for the last five years, and I had almost lost my hearing. My eyes were getting so dim I had to get someone else to read for me. Now I have my hearing as well as I ever had, and I can see to thread as fine a needle as ever I did. My sense of smell is partly restored; I seem to be improving all the time. I think there is nothing like Ely's Cream Balm for catarrh.—Mrs. E. E. Grimes, Rendill, Perry Co., Ohio.

ITEMS TO REFLECT ON.

Two Instances Cited Against the Mortgage System.

Here are two suggestive items from two of our State exchanges, the first from the *Durham Tobacco Plant* and the other from the *Monroe Enquirer*.

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