

THE LENOIR TOPIC.

W. W. SCOTT, Jr., Editor and Publisher

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EXIT MR. LINNEY.

We are not capable of striking a man after he is down; and, though, when we strike, we hit as hard as we can, we do it fairly and not from ambush. We have at all times stood ready to allow Mr. Linney room in the columns of THE TOPIC to defend himself against what we might print to his discredit. We therefore do not hesitate to print the manly and candid letter of our friend Downs, who speaks a word in favor of his friend Linney. We desire to correct two errors in Mr. Downs' letter. (1) He says that Mr. Linney "has changed certain views that he formerly held." Mr. Linney contended that he had changed in nothing but that the whole Democratic party had drifted from him. (2) He says further, "of course, Mr. Linney may have abused the press, but which was the aggressor?" We speak only for THE TOPIC, and charge Mr. Linney with being the aggressor so far as this paper is concerned. Every reader of THE TOPIC knows that this paper treated Mr. Linney with all courtesy and consideration up to the time when he made his onslaught upon THE TOPIC at Boone and at Lenoir. But that is a small matter and we do not think of it now in the time of Mr. Linney's trouble and only refer to it to vindicate the "truth of history."

The withdrawal of Mr. Linney was a genuine surprise to everybody and, viewed from a political standpoint, was a great mistake. Looking through the spectacles that Mr. Linney used when he made his pathetic speech of withdrawal and drew such a charming picture of his domestic fire-side, one cannot but say that the game is not worth the candle and that so thorny a path as the way to Congress would never be trod by a man who could remain at peace in the bosom of a happy family and who could command a competency of this world's goods. That is philosophy and well for Mr. Linney it is that he can turn philosopher at this time, but practical politics governs more men than philosophy and the practical politician will tell Mr. Linney that he would have gained more by running the race to the end and being defeated than by throwing up the sponge before he had entered upon the canvass. We cannot imagine ourself in the position of Mr. Linney, as he antagonized slaves, but, having once put hand to plow we would have gone to the end of the row in spite of all opposition. The fact that Mr. Linney did not manifest this stubborn spirit is cause of surprise to nearly everybody in the district, for, though he had many vulnerable places in his character, the lack of bull-headedness was not considered one of them. Utter reasons for his withdrawal are advanced by some, as that he had hopes of preferment in an entirely different sphere from that of politics, but we have no right to intimate that Mr. Linney was influenced by any other motives than he confessed in his speech of withdrawal.

Mr. Linney was in the field as a candidate just 18 days. On the 1st day of September he formally announced himself at Boone and on the 18th of September he withdrew at Downsville. Within that space of time his hopes ebbed from high tide at Boone to the low water mark of despondency at Downsville. Who knows what high and lofty thoughts passed through his mind as, just before Boone court, he sojourned at his pretty mountain farm on the banks of the beautiful Longhope creek in Watauga county? Embowered in this sylvan retreat, alone with nature and her manifestations of beauty, his mind was not busied with the contemplation of these things, but he struggled with himself, his better nature pulling back, against this revolt against his party and its traditions. He fell and he crossed the Rubicon at Boone. He has told us why he retraced his steps. Let us hope that he will return to the starting point.

THE TOPIC, in entering upon its twelfth volume this week, completes the eleventh year of its existence. We hope that, as the years have ac-

cumulated upon it, it has grown and increased in wisdom and usefulness. Its popularity has certainly kept pace with its years and it is now the local mouthpiece for a very extensive scope of country that is the fairest the sun shines on and whose population will merit and always have THE TOPIC's most earnest co-operation in making this the garden spot of the earth. A paper devoted to the interests of this enlightened and progressive people cannot but be an interesting sheet if it is true to its trust. The paper of the people, THE TOPIC reflects popular sentiment and will always promptly antagonize whatever militates against the interests of the masses. In 1876, when THE TOPIC was one year old, its circulation was 284. Today, in 1886, when THE TOPIC is 11 years old, its circulation is 1848.

The question that is becoming a lively one in Republican circles is whether the late Republican convention, held in Raleigh, in which only 54 out of 96 counties were represented, was legally called, constituted and held. Mott calls it a "rump gathering," and it seems very like a rump concern, as no man having authority signed a call for it. The next question is whether or not Mott and the old executive committee will pay any attention to the action of this convention. In case they ignore it what course is open to Mr. Chairman Hargrave to make his authority felt? It will descend into a rivalry of popularity in the Republican party between Mott and Hargrave, in which Mott will probably come out on top of the pile.

This copy of THE TOPIC ought to be preserved by every Democrat who takes it, as "The sound views of Carlisle," printed on the first page, and "Vilas on the party's work," on the fourth page, are the two most powerful campaign documents we have seen and furnish irrefragable proof of the march of reform under the Democratic administration. Any Republican, who will read calmly and in an unprejudiced frame of mind, Carlisle's facts and verify his figures, will be forced to acknowledge that the country was fortunate when it elected Cleveland President, and invested the Democratic party with power.

We seldom quarrel with the proof reader but we must take him to task for several gross errors which he failed to eliminate from the editorial page of THE TOPIC last week. He made us say, for instance, that the Tennesseans have all the "gift of sap" more or less. Those of our readers who are acquainted with our gallant brethren across the line will know that we meant "gift of gab."

STATE TOPICS.

Presbyterian Synod of North Carolina meets at Concord Oct. 4.

Hog cholera prevails in North Iredell and Southern Wilkes.

State Fair Oct. 29-29. Raleigh expects to have street cars by that time.

Salisbury has placed 1,360 loads of gravel on her streets this summer.

The prohibitionists of Burke have nominated Rev. R. L. Patton for the Legislature.

Last Wednesday a son of W. R. Jay, of Rutherfordton, fell on a pocket fence while at play and was killed.

The Wilmington Star was 19 years old last Thursday. "Ancient and Honorable," like wine, it improves with age.

The Charlotte Observer says that there is big boom in the McDowell, Burke and Mitchell gold mines which are panning out ore richly.

A company, with a capital stock of a million dollars, has been formed to extend the W. N. C. R. R. from Paint Rock, 80 miles, to Knoxville, Tenn.

The Twin City Daily is a lively little paper and, if the Winston folks give it the encouragement it deserves, it will grow and be a credit to the town.

Arthur Snider, aged 14 years, brother of P. A. Snider, Editor of the Winston Twin City Daily, accidentally shot himself with a rifle, Saturday week, and was killed.

Mr. C. B. Green, having retired from the Durham Tobacco Plant, Mr. Will G. Burkhead, a bright young lawyer, formerly of Newton, becomes editor. We welcome him to the profession.

It is stated, upon authority of more or less reliability, that Minister Jarvis will give up his Mexican mission this winter and come home to inaugurate an active campaign for Senator Ransom's place. A McDowell county boy found in his father's spring, the other day, a large 14-dwt or 3 1/2 karat diamond, as large as a May cherry. The owner, who was in Charlotte Friday, refused \$30 for it and will send it to Tiffany and have it cut and polished.

TIMELY TOPICS.

Columbia, S. C., inaugurates her first line of street cars this week.

The President and his party returned to Washington, Wednesday, and professes to have had a royal good time in the Adirondacks fishing.

Wiggins, who "prophesies" the great earthquake for today, Wednesday, 29th of Sept., is classed by the Washington scientific men as a fraud who says that he knows nothing about "seismology."

On the night of Sunday, Sept. 19, a number of troops who had been stirred up to mutiny by plotters, made an insurrection in the city of Madrid, but, after a few hours, were put down by the authorities. The conspiracy, which was clumsily managed, spread over some of the provinces, but was easily snuffed out.

After Oct. 1st, the new 10-cent immediate delivery stamp placed upon a letter or package in addition to ordinary postage will cause its immediate delivery by messenger, as soon as it is received at the postoffice of its destination, provided the person to whom it is addressed lives within a mile of the postoffice. The postage paid upon each letter to postmasters by the Government will be 8 cents.

Miss Winnie (Varina) Davis, daughter of ex-President Davis, is on a visit to friends in Virginia. She was born in Richmond during the war and her visit there the other day was her first since she left the city after the surrender. The Lee Camp of Confederate Veterans elected her an honorary member and, at the Soldiers' Home, Tuesday evening, presented her with a gold badge of membership as the "Child of the Confederacy." Gov. Lee made the speech of presentation and Rev. Dr. John William Jones spoke in reply for Miss Davis.

On the morning of Tuesday, Sept. 21, there were three shocks of earthquake, between 4:25 and 5:20 a. m. at Summerville and Charleston, the one at 5:20 being the most severe. A loud noise like a heavy gun was heard at the beginning of the severe shock and there were detonations with two of the shocks at Summerville. "Subterranean thunder" was heard at frequent intervals in Columbia and, after a severe shock, lasting a minute, at 5:50 a. m., the thunder lasted for several hours. Just before the shock at Columbia the atmosphere grew very cold and windows had to be closed and blankets used by sleepers.

PERSONAL TOPICS.

Married, in Statesville, last Tuesday evening, Mr. Robert E. Armfield and Miss Alice Gray.

Married in Charlotte, last Wednesday, Mr. R. A. Dunn, and Miss Haseline Norwood, niece of Mr. W. H. Bailey, all of Charlotte.

Major J. H. Wagner, of Taylorsville, Tenn., is trying for the Knoxville pension agency which Bob Taylor resigned to become Governor of Tennessee.

Col. Marshall Parks has received the Democratic nomination for Congress in the Norfolk, Va., district. The Commodore will be remembered by our people as a patron of Blowing Rock.

Republican Convention.

The Republican State convention met in Metropolitan Hall, Raleigh, last Wednesday, Sept. 22, 110 delegates being present and representing 54 counties out of the 96 in the State. J. C. Logan Harris called the convention to order and the committee on permanent organization reported James E. Boyd, of Greensboro, permanent chairman and F. M. Sorrell and John C. Dancy secretaries. There was a vice-president from each Congressional district. Mr. Boyd, on taking the chair, made a short speech in which he handled the late chairman Mott severely. Jim Harris, the negro, made a ringing speech.

The platform adopted declares for the Blair bill, a protective tariff, &c., &c., and goes for the Democracy as usual.

There was some division of sentiment in the convention as to the advisability of nominating candidates for the various Judgeships, but the majority was in favor of nominations and the following ticket for the Supreme Court was nominated: Chief-Justice, W. P. Bynum, of Charlotte; Associate Justices, John W. Albertson, of Elizabeth City and R. P. Buxton, of Fayetteville. The following Superior Court Judges were nominated: 3rd district, B. A. Bullock; 4th district, T. P. Devereux; 6th district, D. M. Furches; 8th district, W. S. O'B Robinson; 9th district, A. E. Holton; 10th district, J. W. Marsh; 12th district, P. A. Cumming.

The following executive committee was chosen: Razewell L. Hargrave, chairman; R. E. Young, Jas. H. Harris, A. V. Dockery, G. T. Wassom; 1st district, C. O. Pool; 2nd district, H. E. Davis; 3rd district, G. O. Seay; 4th district, John H. Williams; 5th district, Robert M. Douglass; 6th district, W. O. Coleman; 7th district, H. G. Cowles; 8th district, W. G. Bogle; 9th district, Virgil S. Luak; J. E. Boyd is ex-officio a member of the committee. This new organization is a clear anti-Mott deal. The shrewd Doctor, who has declined at Statesville for several years past and held the destinies of the Republican party in North Carolina in his hands, is not altogether annihilated by this convention and Mott will be heard from in the Republican ranks yet.

The Press on Mr. Linney.

Assuming that, in addition to the motives of selfishness and ambition that may have actuated Mr. Linney, there was a still higher aspiration on his part to correct certain faults which he fancied he saw in the Democratic party, his withdrawal was eminently wise and patriotic. He may remember that THE TOPIC warned him in the spring against a resistless current which landed York on the shores of Republicanism. He heeded not the warning but took the leap and buffeted with the waves. Is it not possible that he at last saw whether he was drifting—to Radicalism? He has always declared that he is and always expects to be a Democrat; finding that he could not remain a Democrat and remain in the course upon which he started, he withdrew, moved by principle and patriotism, we hope.

One thing to be regretted is that this withdrawal was not made before he had forced many of his true friends to array themselves against him as an enemy of the party. Neutral stand in danger of the fire of both parties. Just as the Democracy was drawn up in line of battle prepared to meet its ancient enemy, Republicanism, Mr. Linney appeared in front of them. They had to fire or give up the fight to the enemy. If Mr. Linney was unfortunately wounded we are sorry; he was certainly wise in dropping to the ground out of the range of the guns when he did. We will take him from the field, wash his wounds and have him ready to fight on the right side in the next battle. Below are some opinions of the press:

Statesville Landmark.

In taking this step Mr. Linney has done a manly and highly creditable thing. He should not suffer himself to think that the public will think otherwise of his action. He has very many friends in Statesville and in Iredell, and they deeply deplore his independent candidacy. The gratification among them on account of his reconsideration is general. It would please him if he could know how his genuine friends now applaud him. It remains with him now entirely to determine how quickly he shall regain his standing in his party. He retraced his steps before he went so far that forgiveness would have been long delayed. Patient and long suffering, broadly tolerant of the errors of its members, the Democratic party proclaims a cheerful amnesty in every case in which defiance of its organization and its established methods is not persisted in to the end. To restore one's self to its fellowship no penance is required; no course of purification is prescribed. One needs only to submit himself again to its rightful authority, and its yoke is easy and its burden light. Mr. Linney is so brilliant and so useful a man that there will be no disposition in any quarter to prosecute him, unless he himself should further court prosercription.

Shelby Aurora.

Mr. R. Z. Linney plays the part of a wise man and lives up the battle when he sees that fighting in a bad cause must needs lead to defeat. His withdrawal is a candid and honest confession of the weakness of his claim and he has enough discretion left to save him from political death.

Shelby News.

Mr. Linney's candidacy was based upon no principle. He was not in accord with either the Democratic or the Republican party and he proposed to found no new political organization. He ran for office as an Independent because he knew that he was not the choice of the Democratic hosts, and, in his egotism, he imagined that his admitted ability, in spite of his political unscrupulousness, would attract to him a sufficient following to elect him with the aid of those Republican votes which are moved by nothing but a desire to break up the Democratic organization in North Carolina. Mr. Linney's end was not a glorious one, but it became his effort fitly. It showed the true inwardness of his attempt to get place. He counted the cost, counted it by a money standard, and self triumphed. Principles were not there.

Hickory Press.

If he had been a worse man, he could have made a better canvass. He could have defied the opinions of those whose good opinion is worth something. He could have courted the baser elements and have made votes among a class who care nothing for political consistency or personal honor. That he has preferred not to do this, but to quit a field where nothing could be accomplished without running counter to the opinions of the best elements of society, and where even then success would have been impossible, shows that Mr. Linney is a much wiser man now than at the beginning of the campaign.

Interview between George Patrick and Tobe Smith.

As a humorist and raconteur Capt. Joseph W. Todd, the eminent Ashe county lawyer who has been prominently spoken of as a future Congressman in this district, stands without a rival in the tenth judicial district. His room at Coffey's hotel in Boone is the nightly rendezvous, during Watauga court, for gentlemen of the bar and other choice spirits, drawn thither by a desire to enjoy the constant stream of anecdote and mimicry which he good-humoredly is prevailed upon to pour from his lips. One prominent gentleman of this county is a regular attendant upon Watauga court for no other purpose than to hear Joe

Todd's inimitable waggery. The constant demand upon the Captain for these conditions is a bore to him and makes life a burden to him in Boone, but he is complaisant and cannot withstand the importunity of his friends.

There are many of these character sketches of his that merit preservation in print if the type could be made to lay hold upon the spirit of humor which animates them. One, in particular, in our opinion, excels in mirthful absurdity the famous story of "Consin Sally Dilard," and we have the temerity to attempt to give a faint idea of it on paper.

George Patrick and his wife Becky lived near Jefferson and occasionally, in the days when whiskey was free, kept spirits for sale. Having gotten in a barrel full of prime article, he sent word to Tobe Smith and Bob Parsons to come over and sample it, well knowing that they would appreciate the invitation. So Tobe and Bob went; and the next day Tobe was laid up in bed, being in a battered up condition, and he reported that George had imbibed too freely, got blind, crazy drunk, and jumped on him and beat him half to death.

When George heard of this story of Tobe's, he went over to Jefferson to give the correct version of it, fearing the next grand jury in the premises, and this is how he told it: "Tobe Smith and Bob Parsons comes into my house and I axes them to be seated and we passes the time o' day and I tells Becky to draw a glass full. We drinks around a few times, when presently Tobe sez to me, sez he,

"Mr. Patrick, I'd like to speak a word with you, if you please." And we steps out the side door and goes out behind that little Moxley house—you mind where it stands—and Tobe sez to me, sez he, "Mr. Patrick I'd like to git ye to go down with me to Wilkes to help me sell my burgy."

"All right, Tobe," sez I, "I'll go with ye down to Wilkes to help ye sell your burgy."

And we goes back into the house and I tells Becky to draw another glass full, and we all takes a drink round, and Tobe sez to me, sez he,

"Mr. Patrick, I'd like to speak a word with you, if you please."

And we goes out behind the little Moxley house, and Tobe sez to me, sez he,

"Mr. Patrick, I'd like to git ye to go down with me to Wilkes to help me sell my burgy."

"All right, Tobe," sez I, "I'll go down with ye to Wilkes to help ye sell your burgy."

And we goes back into the house and I tells Becky to draw another glass full, and we all takes a drink round, and, Tobe says to me, sez he,

"Mr. Patrick, I'd like to speak a word with you, if you please."

And we goes out behind the little Moxley house, and Tobe sez to me, sez he,

"Mr. Patrick, I'd like to git ye to go with me down to Wilkes to help me sell my burgy."

"Tobe Smith!" sez I, "I've told ye twice I'd go with ye down to Wilkes to help ye sell your burgy. Now I don't want you to be devilin' me about that burgy nor going down to Wilkes no more."

And we goes back into the house and I tells Becky to draw another glass full, and we all takes a drink round, and, Tobe says to me, sez he,

"Mr. Patrick, you ought not for to a knocked me down."

And that's adzactly how it all come about, gentlemen.

New Goods! New Goods!
My fall and winter stock of goods which is **Full and Complete,** and bought at first hand at **Rock Bottom Prices** for cash, is constantly arriving, and the people of Watauga river and the surrounding country, will do well to come and look at the bargains. Highest prices paid for good merchantable produce.

J. A. Crisp, Shull's Mills, N. C.
NOTICE.
A car load of Durham Guano just received. We will sell as cheap as the cheapest. We will take in exchange beef cattle. We want to buy all the beef cattle in 50 miles of this place, for which the money will be paid. **SHERAZELLE & HAWLEY** Lenoir, N. C.
To the Voters of Caldwell County.
At the solicitation of many friends, I hereby announce myself a candidate for the office of clerk of the Superior court of Caldwell. Respectfully
H. H. D. ROOPE.

Read This! R. S. Reinhardt & Co.

—1-0-1—

A rare chance to Secure

Bargains.

If you want a suit of clothes now is the time to get it. For the next

30 DAYS

we will sell a well-selected stock of

Ready Made Clothing

at actual cost for cash or its equivalent. Remember this offer is only

For 30 Days.

As the season for canning fruits is here, we would remind our customers that we are headquarters for

Fruit Jars.

We would also remind you that we want all the Blackberries we can get, for which we will pay the highest market price.
Call and see us.
Respectfully,

CLOYD AND NELSON.

July 27th, 1886.

Beef. Beef. Beef.

I will have for sale on every

Thursday morning at my warehouse

door BEEF to be sold in small

quantities.

I expect to have Beef every week,

and oftener if needed, early in the

morning.

S. W. HAMILTON,

July 14, 1886.

If you are going

WEST

—AND—

TICKETS

And Reliable Information About

LANDS,

And how to get them,

IT WILL PAY YOU

To write or call on

Jackson Smith,

Gen'l Emigration Agent,

1-5mch. 278 Gay St., Knoxville, Tenn.

To the Voters of Caldwell county.

Having become a cripple for life and no longer able to perform manual labor, I, at the solicitation of numerous friends, announce myself a candidate for the office of Register of Deeds. Respectfully
W. F. S. PARKER.

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Lenoir, N. C.

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