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April 25 1875 No 11 tf.

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From the Daily News' Extra.

Extracts from the Address of Montford McGehee, Esq., on the "Life and Services of Hon. William A. Graham," before the Raleigh Bar, Delivered on Thursday Evening, 8th of June, 1876.

The administration of Mr. Buchanan

The administration of Mr. Buchanan drew to its close amidst signs ominous for the future tranquility of the country. These signs awakened the fears of all who loved and valued the Union, and the trusted statesmen of the country made arrangements to meet for conference, and to give expression to their views. The Executive Committee of the Constitutional Usion party deterthe Constitutional Usion party determined early in January, 1860, to issue an address to the people of the United States upon the grave exigencies in national politics. A committee of seven, all men of the bighest national distinction, among whom was Mr. Graham, was appointed to prepare the address.—Mr. Crittenden notified him of his appointment in a letter of January 24th. pointment in a letter of January 24th, and urged his attendance at the meeting of the committee. In his answer, Mr. Graham had left it doubtful whether the pressure of his engagements would permit his attendance and requested that another might be appointed in his place.

Accordingly Gov. Morehead was appointed. But Mr. Crittenden wrote again; and to show the importance attached to his judgment and action, I subjoin an extract from his letter: "The crisis is important, and fills the public acter of our Convention should be con picuous and equal to the occasion. We have good reason to feel assured of the attendance of many of the most eminent men of the country, and it is by the great weight of the moral and public character of its members, that the Convention must hope to obtain for its acts or counsels, whatever they may be, respect and influence with the people. We cannot do without your assistance and name. All the members of the committee, who were present when your letter was read, united in wishing me to write and to urge your coming to the Convention. Your absence will be a positive

A number of eminent statesmen. among whom was Mr. Graham, met in Washington City in February to consult together upon the dangers which menaced the country. The result was the Convention which nominated the Con-stitutional Union ticket for the Presidency, in behalf of which he canvassed the State. Upon the election of Mr. Lincoln he made public addresses and exhorted the people to yield due obedi-ence to his office.

eight against us."

The doctrine of secession met with little favor in North Carolina. As a right deduced from the constitution, and to be exercised under its authority, it was believed by Mr. Graham and the school of statesmen to which he belonged to be without foundation. The Legislature of North Carolina directed the resistion of a Convention to be submitted. ture of North Carolina directed the question of a Convention to be submitted to the people. The question was discussed, in the light of recent events, by the Press of the State, and numerous meetings of the people were held in every part. These meetings were addressed by our ablest men. Amongst these a monster meeting was held at Salisbury which was addressed by Gov. Morehead, Mr. Badger and Mr. Graham, who as well for the exalted positions they had held, as for their commanding abilities, were looked to for counsel in this emergency. The people at the polls progency. The people at the polls pro-nounced with great unanimity against a

Convention. On the 20th of June the Convention passed the ordinance, by which the State of North Carolina became a member of the Confederacy. To this measure Mr. Graham offered a strong but fruitless opposition. In the perilous career upon which we were about to enter, he was which we were about to enter, he was unwilling to surrender the sovereignty of the State into the hands of those whose rash counsels had, in the judgment of the people of North Carolina, precipitated the war. He wished the State to hold her destinies in her own hands, that she might act as exigencies might require. Those who realize the delusive views under which the government at Richmond acted during the last months of the war will see in the opinion and

require. Those who realize the delusive views under which the government at Richmond acted during the last months of the war will see in this opinion another proof of his wise foresight.

In December, 1863, Mr. Graham was elected to the Confederate Senate by a majority of two-thirds of the Legislature. He took his seat in May, 1864. There was then need of the beet counsel. The brilliant successes which had crowned our arms in the early years of the War, had been replaced by a succession of disasters. The battle of Gettysburg and the fall of Vieksburg land brought us apparently to the brink of fate. As the year 1864 rolled on the prospect became darker and darker, and at the end of the year the situation was to the last degree critical. Our territory had been cut in twain; and we beleaguered by land and by sea. Within the area which acknowledged the Confederate Government, there was great exhaustion of all kinds of military supplies, and a like exhaustion of all the clements for the support of human life. Gen. Lee was only able to oppose the front of Gen. Grant by extending his line till it was ready to snap from excessive tension. To strengthen his force from the white race was impossible; conscription there had reached its limit. Gen. Sherman had swept through Georgia, and the broad track of desolation which he left behind him too truly told the story of our helplessness. It was known that each Confederate soldier was opposed by as many as five Federal soldiers; the former scantily fed clothed and shod; the latter supplied with every comfort and many luxuries. It was plain there was no longer any hope of a successful prosecution of the war. In the midst of the dense gloom which shrouded the country on every side, a ray of light dawned in the pro-

posed peace conference at Hampton Roads. Mr. Graham had endeavored to reach this form of intercourse from the commencement of the session. He was not without hope of a peaceful termination of hostilities; not so much from his estimate of the statesmanship of President Davis and his Cabinet, as from the extremity of the case which left no other alternative. The conference took place on the 3rd of February, 1865. The terms offered by Mr. Lincoln were, that the Seceded States should return to the Uniton under the Constitution, in the existing sate of affairs with slavery as it was, but liable to be abolished by an amendment to the Constitution. He sioners was for independence. There could be no middle ground, and the con-

ference ended. Upon the return of the Commissioners Mr. Davis and Mr. Benjamin made public speeches in Rich-mond, to fire the Southern heart anew; but the event proved how little sagacity they brought to the direction of affairs at that supreme hour. The speeches fell One principle had actuated Mr. Gra-ham from the beginning of the war: to sustain the Government in its struggle sustain the Government in its struggle for independence until it should be demonstrated that our resources were inadequate for that end; and when that

How well he sustained it, is matter of history. He sustained it in eyery way in which his talents and his means could be made available. He sustained it by his counsels in the State and in the Confederate Government. He sustained it by his counsels in the State and in the Confederate Government. He sustained it by his counsels in the State and in the Confederate Government. He sustained it by his counsels in the State and in the Confederate Government. He sustained it by his counsels in the State and in the Confederate Government. mind with expectation and anxiety. It is earnestly to be desired that the charin which his talents and his means could his own, all his sons, five in number who had attained the age of eighteen, enter-

demonstrated. It was known to Congress: it was admitted by Gen. Lee in his proposition to conscribe slaves; it was proclaimed from the steps of the Capitol by Mr. Benjamin: "Unless the slaves are armed," he said, "the cause is lost." Every expedient had been tried; the extremest measures had been put in operation; "by means of conscription, impressment laws and the suspension of the habeas corpus, the whole population and all the resources of the country had long before been placed at the command of the President for prosecution of the war." All had been found ecution of the war." All had been found

One resource, in the opinion of some, remained, the conscription of negroes.—

to it was clear the time had come. We know but little of what passed in the Confederate Congress at that time. Its proceedings were had in secret session: know but little of what passed in the Confederate Congress at that time. Its proceedings were had in secret session: nor is it now known whether the journals of the body escaped destruction.— All that we know, is derived from what was published by the members after the fall of the Confederate Government.— Among these publications is a paper contributed by Mr. Oldham, then Senator from Texas, to DeBow's Review in October, 1869, which gives us some information of the proceedings of the Senate at that time. A few days after the conference at Hampton Roads, he informs us a committee consisting of Messrs. Orr, Graham and Johnson was appointed to confer with the President, and ascertain what he proposed to do under the existing condition of affairs. In a few days they made a verbal report through Mr. Graham. "Among other things," I quote his words, "they stated that they had inquired of the President his views and opinions in regard to proposing to the United States to negotiate for peace upon the basis of the Confederacy returning to the Union, and that he had answered that he had no power to negotiate a treaty upon such a basis; that his authority to make treaties was derived from the Constitution, which he had sworn to support, and that such a treaty would operate as an abrogation of the Constitution, and a dissolution of the government; that the States alone, each acting for itself, in its sovereign capacity, could make such a treaty.—Mr. Graham said that he gave notice that he would in a few days introduce a resolution in favor of opening negotiations with the United States upon the basis of a return to the Union by the States of the Confederacy; that he did not give the notice at the instance or under the instruction of the committee, but upon his own responsibility. The notice was received in such a manner

not give the notice at the instance or under the instruction of the committee, but upon his own responsibility. The notice was received in such a manner that he never offered his resolution."

I never saw the paper from which the foregoing quotation is made, and was a stranger to this passage of Mr. Graham's life until within the last forty days I read it with a feeling of profound relief. I have ever regarded him from my earliest years, with the warmest admiration and the most affectionate respect; but his failure as I thought, to take some action looking to peace after the Hampton Roads Conference—when the plainest dictates of humanity so clearly demanded it—left upon my mind the painful impression that he had been wanting to himself in that, the most important criss of his life. There is a deep seated conviction that the blood which was shed after that conference might have been saved. That the wasto of the fruits

Mr. Graham did realize the facts of the case His letters published in "The Last Ninety Days of the War," show with what clear vision he swept the horizon. Hence his movement looking to negotiations "to ascertain for the States what terms would be yielded, provided they consented to re-adopt the Constitution of the United States."

Congress adjourned about the 16th day of March. Impressed with the imminence of the emergency, Mr. Graham stopped but one day at home—that day mergency, Mr. Graham lay at home

South. The demand of the Commis-recommended that the Legislature the state of the armies and earnestly recommended that the Legislature should be convened. He sustained his acvice by the opinion of General Lee and that of many good and able men with whom he had been associated. He ended by telling him that Richmond would fall in less than thirty days, and that event would be followed probably by a rout or dispersion of General Lee's army for want of food, if for no other cause. The Governor was surprised by his state. The Governor was surprised by his statement of facts, and incredulous in some degree as to his conclusions. He agreed should be seen and acknowledged, to seek, if possible, a peaceful solution.—
How well he sustained it, is matter of history. He sustained it in eyery way in which his toucher and his mercanical acknowledged, to depend on the day appointed, a bare quorum of the Council attended, and being equally divided, he had not summoned the Legislature. ject of peace. Mr. Graham remarked that if such an interview were held, Mr. Dayis should be apprised of it. To this, the Governor at once assented. Mr. Graham suggested further that if that course were taken, he, the Governor, should be in a condition to act independently of the President, and convene the Legislature. To this proposition the Governor manifested reluctance; but finally agreed to call the Council of State again. But while negotiation halted, the march of Gen. Sherman's army decided events. Inn few days no resource was left, but an unconditional surrender. With the part borne by Mr. Gra-ham at that trying time. a gifted author-ess of North Carolina has made the public already familiar in the captivat-

ing pages of her work, "The Last Nine ty Days of the War." In his opinion, that peace ought to be sought by the State after the failure of the conference at Hampton Roads, he was sustained by our entire delegation A bill for this purpose was introduced into Congress. It was opposed by Mr. Graham upon the ground, that it was unconstitutional, as well as inexpedient and dangerous. His sagacious mind saw that this was a measure not of safety but a measure born of the wild promptings of despair. On the 21st of February it was indefinitely postponed; though it was subsequently taken up and passed.

If ever negotiation was to be resorted to it was clear the time had come. We know but little of what passed in the know but little of what passed in the know but little of what passed in the cach acting in its sovereign capacity, and declared that the "States alone, each acting in its sovereign capacity, the little of the conference with the president, and then only in the track pointed out by him. The President disclaimed all power of making a treaty, which would abrogate the Government, and declared that the "States alone, each acting in its sovereign capacity, the little of the conference with the president disclaimed all power of making a treaty. each acting in its sovereign capacity, could make such a treaty." In the line of action here indicated the State could not be put in a false position; nay, her honor would be put beyond all cavil.—
It was known that we had no power to arrest Gen. Sherman's march. General Johnston confronted him, and all felt convinced that whatever his great military genius could accomplish would be done. But it was also known that his done. But it was also known that his gallant army was outnumbered six to one. A surrender in a few days would be inevitable. Burning capitols, desolated homes, famine and destruction of life followed General Sherman's march. Was it not worth the effort to put a stop to such frightful calamities? What Mr. to such frightful calamities? What Mr. Graham urged, was that the people might be allowed to determine their fate for themselves. Such a course was in strict conformity to the fundamental principles of our Government. A convention of seven Government. A convention of seven Government at Altoona had precipitated the war when peace counsels seemed to be in the ascendant. Was not Mr. Graham justified in the opinion that ascentive powers which opinion that executive powers which had been so destructively exerted in the beginning, might be beneficently exerted in the end?

Mr. Graham has left on record, in a letter to Gov. Swain, a full and minute account of this interview. That it was the same is proven by reference to the time. Gov. Vance says it was after the Hampton Roads conference. Mr. Graham, as we have seen, reached home from Richmond on the 19th of March and went to Raleign on Monday the 20th. It is proven to be the same by the identity of topics discussed or referred to, as far as those topics are alluded to by Gov. Vance. It is proven by the identity of words, one of them used not in its plain and obvious but in its remote and secondary sense.

An account of the interview was furnished by Gov. Swain to the author of "The Last Ninety Days," together with the letter in question. The inference is clear that Gov. Swain understood that what passed between Mr. Graham and

during Mr. Grabam's life it has the sanction also of Gov. Vance.

Now compare the narratives and note the difference. In Gov. Vance's version Mr. Graham comes to him from third persons whose names were not disclosed; in Mr. Graham's he went unprompted by any body, unprompted save by his own high sense of duty. In Gov. Vance's version he came the bearer of a proposition from others; in Gov. Graham's he went to submit his own views. In Gov. Vance's version the proposition is to "make separate terms with Mr. Lincoin; in Mr. Graham's to call the Assembly. In Gov. Vance's version he with-holds his advice; in Mr. Graham's he went for no other purpose than to give his advice and did give it at length. The only reference in Mr. Graham's narrative to any third person, is when he reinforces his advice by the opinion of Gen. Lee, and by the opinions of those considered by him, as the wisest and best men with whom he had conversed. It is absolutely certain that what is alleged in the "statement" as having occurred, did not happen before the 20th of March, because, between the Hampton Roads Conference and that time, Mr. Graham's advice to call the Legislature, and thus allow the Representatives of the people to decide their own fate, the latter would not have submitted a proposition that the Gov. Should at the instance of nameless men, decide their own fate, the latter would not have submitted a proposition that the Gov. Should at the instance of nameless men, decide their own fate, the latter would not have submitted a proposition that the Gov. Should at the instance of nameless men, decide their own fate, the latter would not have submitted a proposition that the Gov. Should at the instance of nameless men, decide their own fate, the latter would not have submitted a proposition that the Gov. Should at the instance of nameless men, decide their own fate, the interview occurred, when the facts were fresh in his mind; while Gov. Vance's was not written until over ten years had passed away.

had passed away. In his letters, given at length in the "Nine-ty Days," he lays open all his thoughts without reserve to his life-long friend, Gov. Swain. In them is to be found no hint of any other measure than that calling the Legislature and allowing the people to con-suit together for their common safety in this unparalleled strait. These letters show fur-

suit together for their common safety in this unparalleled strait. These letters show further that he never contemplated separate action by the State of North Carolina.

After the Hampton Roads Conference he had no longer any hope of a peaceful solution through the action of President Davis; from thenceforth he turned his thoughts to the accomplishment of the same end, thro' the action of the States. The subject is often recurred to, but not an intimation can be found of any plan, except that of the States acting in conjunction. Very soon united action on the part of all became an impossibility; conquering armies had dismembered the confederacy—had left indeed but two States that could act in concert.—But this plan still embraced these two.—March 16th, he writes as follows to Gov. Swain: "I went to Raieigh to have an interview with the Governor on the subject matter referred to in your letter. The result was a convocation of the Council of State to assemble to-morrow. The Legislature of Virginia has taken a recess until the 29th instant, and I think it very important that that of North Carolina should be in session as early as possible. The war is now nearly reduced to a contest between these two States and the United States!" In his letter of the 8th of April, which contains, as I think has been shown, the true account of the interview between Mr. Graham and Gov. Nance, Mr. Graham says, "I told him I should attend the session of the General Assembly, and If desired would address them in secret session; that I had confidential conversations with a committee of the Virginia Legislature, which had taken a recess for ten days, and that it was important to act in concert with that body."

### Democratic Economy.

The country has been treated to such a continuous howl by Democratic members of Congress in favor of retrenchment and economy that it becomes interesting to examine where their pretended economy exists The report of the conference ists The report of the conference committe upon the sundry civil service bill, and the ensuing discussion in the Senate, throw so much light on the subject that the proceedings of the Senate upon the report of the committee have been published in pamphlet form by the Republican Congressional Executive Committee. (See Campaigh Documents, No. 36.) A careful perusal will show that never was any boast more falsely made than that of the Democratic members to be economists of the public than that of the Democratic members to be economists of the public treasure. While devoting millions to the improvement of unimportant streams in Democratic districts-they have deliberately refused appro, priations to carry on those things which were absolutely necessary to the economy of the Government.—

They pretended to save 25,000 on the revenue service, while risking the sacrifice of millions of revenue.—

They save \$6,000 to the Government They save \$6,000 to the Government They save \$6,000 to the Government for service of examiners of rebel archives, and lose the people millions through fraudulent rebel claims.— This perhaps is one of the most pleasing features to the rebel constituents upon whom the party depends so largely for its success.

Their claim to economy is a bollow mockery, calculated, they believe to deceive the public, but showing the most reckless and criminal discrepant of the public interests and

Terrible Effects of Lightning in Frank-lin County---Two Whole Families Nearly Destroyed----Four Killed and Four Seriously Injured

Helms' Store:

A happy family, consisting of five persons, Mr. -Randall Abshire and wife, and their two sons and one little daughter about five years old, were quietly scated in their home, when a thunder-bolt struck the house, decended the chimney and killed out-right the mother and daughter, and very seriously injured the father and oldest son, a young man about grown. The other son, a lad some twelve years old, was also badly shocked and incapable of rendering any assis-tance to his wounded father and brother, or of making known the horrible death of his mother and sister. How long the family was left in this condition is not known.

But Mr. Samuel Jamison, a near eighbor, who was uneasy about one of his little sons that was absent during the storm, was looking for him, and called at Mr. Abshire's, thinking he might find him there. He hallowed several times, but no one responded to his calls. He went into the house, and what an appalling scene greeted his vision. It was more than Helms', who lived near by, and informed him of what had happened .-Mr. Helms at once proceeded to Mr. Abshire's, and found the horrible story of his freightened neighbor to be too true. He did all he could to resuscitate the dead and ministered to the wants of the wounded. The little boy who was stunned had by this time got up and gone for another neighbor. Dr. Muse was summoned and rendered the necessary medical attention. He thinks Mr. Abshire and his son will both recover, though they were both very seriously, as well as similarly, hurt. The electric current struck both of them on or near the right shoulder and passed down the right side to the hip, thence to the crotch and down the inside of alyzation of industry and the stopright thigh of the son, tearing and burnig the flesh and skin in its entire ministration ceases when the ballot

while Randolph Showles, wife and two children were in their yard under a tree, a small cloud was seen above, the weather clear, and they not suspecting any danger, didn't even go into the house. All at once a flash of lightning descended, stun-ning Mr. Showles and one child, and killing Mrs. Showles and the other child. It happened in Bowbrook township, Franklin county, near the Courthouse. It was certainly a visitation of Providence.

After the battle of the Little Big Horn, and the massacre of General Custer, and his brave band of three

of savage barbarity.

In 1864, when "Jim" Keith massace of the unarmed and defenceless citizens of Laurel, Madison county, in defiance of law, and of the usages of war, Zeb. Vance, then Governor of North Carolina, and now candidate of the Democratic party for reelection to that monorable post, wrote Keith an official letter complimenting him for the brave and fearless manner in which he had slaughtered unarmed and defenceless Union citizens, as well as helpless boys and decrepid old men. Persons familiar with this outrage are cognizant of the fact that these men were murdered in the most cruel and inhuman man imaginable. Sitting Bull with his savage thirst for blood did no more at the battle of Little Big Horn." He complimented his men for the slaughter of Gen. Custer, and a portion of the srmy of the United States, who had invaded his territory and taken possession of his property. Zeb. Vance complimented "Jim" Keith for the murder and massacre of citizens of Laurel, in Madison county, for no other offence than that of being true to the Union and the flag of our forefathers.

The Democratic party proposes to hang Sitting Bull for his offence, the massacre will doubtless, within a protect them in their lives, liberty and property." The carrying out of this measure will doubtless, within a protect them in their lives, liberty and property. The carrying out of this measure will doubtless, within a protect them in their lives, liberty and property. The carrying out of this measure will doubtless, within a protect them in their lives, liberty and property. The carrying out of this measure will doubtless, within a protect them in their lives, liberty and property. The carrying out of this measure will doubtless, within a protect them in their lives.

A terrible storm swept over Franklin Co., Va., Sanday evening (5th in-The Salem Conservative gives the tollowing account of the fearful effects of the lightning near

## A Bloody Comparison.

Custer, and his brave band of three hundred soldiers, by the blood-thirsty savage, Sitting Bull, and his Sioux warriors, they manifested their delight at the bloody tragedy by a grand scalp dance, with the bloody scalps of the United States' soldiers dangling at their belts. Great joy prevailed in the savage camp, and Sitting Bull made a flery speech. prevailed in the savage camp, and Sitting Bull made a flery speech, complimenting his savage followers for the gallant way in which they had executed their bloody work.—

The bare contemplation of the cruel and savage deed chills the blood in our value and avages. BOAD—UREEKS TURNED INTO RIVERS AUG. 13.—This morning, about 3 o'clock, a water spout struck the line of the Virginia Midland Railroad, near McIver's Station, six miles north of Lynchburg. The flood extended for about five miles, swelling the smallest creeks into rivers, and submerging bundreds of some parts. blood in our veins, and causes a universal condemnation from the whole civilized world; who characterize the deed as one of unparal-leld atrocity of inhuman cruelty and of savsge barbarity.

In 1864, when "Jim" Keith massa-

#### Read and Reflect.

The great falling off in assessed valuation of real estate in the Southern States, as indicated in the table given, is due not so much to the des truction which attended the war as it is to the bitter political prejudices held since its close by the property-owners of the South against North-ern capitalists, especially those who favor the Republican party. These prejudices have been so marked that Northern men, with money to invest, have sought other and safer channels for their investments. Had the South laid aside its political barred to the Republican party and extended a cordial welcome to Northern men, skill, industry, and wealth would have poured into its States, and ere this restored to it the prosperity lost by the rebellion. Numerically Republicanism has been stronger in certain Southern States than Dem ocracy, but the latter has controlled the property and moneyed interest, and thus checked the growth which would otherwise have followed the ascendency of Republicanism. No political party, however pure, can of itself restore prosperity to a people who combine the money power against it. A cordial relation must exist between the party in power and the business elements with which it has to deal before true prosperity can be attained, and if the South had long since recognized this truth tohe could stand. He instantly left day her real estate would have shown the house and ran to Mr. G. M. as large an increase in value as that

of other sections. The question may be asked, Why has not the Republican party advanced material interests of those States in the South where it has had control? The answer is because it has met the organized opposition of the intelligent, wealthy, and business elements of those States. Its control has been the control of a majority cut off by deep-rooted prejudices from the sympathy and support of an influen-tial minority. Thus, insurmountsble obstacles have been placed in its way. Its efforts to build up have been met by counter efforts to tear down, and this conflict, carburnig the flesh and skin in its entire course.

The Danville News gives the following account of a similar terrible visitation of another family the following day in the same county:

We are informed that Monday last, while Randolph Showles, wife and the administration of government lacks that co-operation of effort on the part of all classes essential to a complete development of State inter-

> We have already shown the material prosperity which the Union has developed. This far outweights the developed. This far outweights the money expenditures made necessary by four years of war. The compensation for the bloodshed cannot be found in dollars and cents. The elevation of the human race, the extinction of human bondage, the erection of free States throughout the world, and the future preservation of human posterior of human bondage. and the future preservation of hun-drede of thousands of lives which would be sacrificed in the defense of eparate nationalities are among the legitimate fruits which will spring up from the graves of the Union defend-

A WATER SPOUT STRIKES A RAIL-ROAD-CREEKS TURNED INTO RIVERS the smallest creeks into rivers, and submerging hundreds of acres never under water before. A culvert was carried away, leaving a gap ninety feet broad and fifty feet deep, into which the South bound freight was precipitated, killing C. D. Keyes, engineman, and Bob Anderson, brakesman.