

The Carolina Watchman.

SALISBURY, N. C., DECEMBER 7, 1876.

NO 8

VOL. VIII.—THIRD SERIES.

Published Weekly—J. J. BRUNER, Ed. and Prop.
T. K. BRUNER, Associate Ed.

Subscription Rates:
Per Year, payable in advance, \$2.00
Per Month, 17 cents
Contract rates for months or a year.

Advertising Rates:
Each inch one publication, \$1.00
Two publications, \$1.50
Contract rates for months or a year.

**The Prostrate State
Dragoned.**
PUBLIC TREACHERY OF THE
FEDERAL COMMANDER.

**A Manly and Outspoken
Denunciation of the Federal
Usurpation.**

BRING OF THE TRUE METAL.

**Will Remain Until Dragged Out
by Armed Troops—Is it a
Free Government or a
Centralized Despotism!**

**TEST TO BE MADE—WHAT
THE AMERICAN PEOP-
LE WILL SEE.**

THE POLITICAL SITUATION—While the telegraphic information which we receive to our readers to day is far from satisfactory, the manly protest of the leading democrats of the country addressed to General Ruger, reads like some inspired prophecy.

The situation is alarming, in one respect, but at last, in this Centennial year, the test whether the bayonet, or the ball and the law, shall prevail is to be made.

If General Ruger drives out the members of the South Carolina Legislature, who have been returned from Edgefield and Laurens counties, it will only be done at the point of the bayonet; it will only be done upon the order of President Grant at Washington, and we make the prediction, that if this order is carried out, Grant will be impeached immediately after the assembling of Congress.

If General Ruger carries out his programme, which he seemed to have agreed upon yesterday evening at three o'clock, it will only be done by the positive order from President Grant, and that act will be prima facie evidence, that he (Grant) has counted the cost, and dares to interpose the strong arm of his military, to throttle the will of the people, to set aside the law, to strangle justice, and to usurp the whole powers of the government, if necessary, to the supremacy of his party.

I will be an end of constitutional law, and there will only be one step more necessary to make the Executive a despotic ruler, to the principles of American liberty, and the rights of the people. Further news from the "Palmetto" State will be awaited with deep interest.

There is nothing, absolutely nothing, from Louisiana this morning, although the election was held twenty-three days ago, and all the returns must have been in long ago, if they had been desired. The returning board in that State are practicing a stratagem, known in military parlance, as "masterly inactivity." The object of the board seems to be truly "how not to get returns."

The news from Florida is remarkably negative. The democrats claim that the magistrates have "doctored" the returns from Lake county, was appointed since the election, presumably for that purpose, so that while there is no change in the situation, it may be said that the American people are daily hearing the destiny in which wise counsels, and an honest administration of the laws, the old ship of State, may glide safely over the stormy political sea, with Tilden at the helm, or be sunk to the bottom of the turbid waters of political oblivion, and become a warning to future generations.

Our republic will shine out as an emblem of the stability of our government, or it will be blotted out of existence, to become a stench in the nostrils of honest law abiding men.

COLUMBIA, Nov. 30.—The Democratic House took peaceful possession of the State Legislative Hall at their regular hour of convening, 11 o'clock, this morning, and proceeded to work under their organization. The Republican House entered the Hall at 12, their regular hour of meeting. Both Speakers are on the stand. Wallace Democrat in the Chair, Mackey, rep. at the Clerk's desk. A debate is progressing; Republican members, Hamblin and Myers denounce the action of the Republican House as illegal and unconstitutional. Everything is peaceable, and good temper prevails. No person allowed in the hall except members. The Democrats are cheerful and confident. Some of their members say they want a settled government and are for South Carolina rather than for the men who have ruined her.

7 P. M.—Situation but little changed at the State House. Good humor on both sides with some efforts at a compromise which may result satisfactory.

About 3 o'clock, P. M., Gen. Ruger sent his staff officer to the Speaker's stand and notified the Democratic Speaker, Wallace, that 12 o'clock to-morrow the Democratic members from Edgefield would not be permitted on the floor of the House. Upon the receipt of that order the following letter was immediately sent:

COLUMBIA, S. C., Nov. 30.

To Gen. T. H. Ruger, Commanding U. S. Troops in South Carolina:

DEAR SIR: We have just heard through Maj. McGinnis, of your staff, your order communicated to Mr. Wallace,

Speaker of the House of Representatives, that at 12 o'clock to-morrow, the members elect from Edgefield, would not be allowed upon the floor of the House. To say that we are surprised at such an order, after the explanations and pledges made by you to each one of us, is to use very mild language. When the outrage of Tuesday last was committed by the placing of armed sentinels at the door of the House of Representatives, who decided the admission of members to their seats and when the provisions of the Constitution and the decision of the Supreme Court were brought to your attention you distinctly and warmly asserted again and again that your orders were misunderstood, and that you had not intended to have sentinels at the door of the hall, and that you had not and did not intend to assume to decide upon the legality of any man's seat or upon his right to enter the hall. You were then reminded by us that your guard received instructions from one Dennis, a citizen and partisan of Gov. Chamberlain to admit parties upon his own pass, or that of one Jones, and had through armed forces excluded all Democrats from the hall until the republican organization was completed. You assured us again that such were not your orders. You were told by us that notwithstanding the perpetration of this inexpressible shame upon our free institutions and the rights of the people, the evils could still be remedied without any violence of bloodshed, by the simple withdrawal of your guard from the doors of the hall; that the Democratic member's struggle with the Republicans and by a majority of votes decide all questions in accordance with law, and the usages of legislative bodies, you stated that no troops should be at the door, and that under no circumstances would you interfere, except there should occur a serious disturbance of the peace. You affirmed your determination to exercise no supervisory control whatever over the body or bodies claiming to be the House of Representatives. All this occurred on yesterday. Last night in a later interview with Senator Gordon, you made the same assurances, and this morning after both bodies were assembled in the hall you assured Gen. Hampton that under no circumstances would you interfere, except to keep the peace. What now can justify measure our astonishment at the issuance of such an order as the one just sent by you. There is no breach of the peace and no prospect of its disturbance. You had it officially brought to your knowledge, that absolute good humor prevails in that hall. We cannot refrain from expressing the apprehension that the fact that a number of leading Republicans are taking issue with the legality of the proceedings by the Republican House has changed your views as to your line of duty. It is proper that we should say in conclusion that we relied upon your honor as a man, and your character as a soldier, to maintain your pledged position of non-interference. The Democratic members from Edgefield and Laurens are entitled to their seats by the judgment of the Supreme Court of this State, and we have advised them to remain in that hall until removed by your troops, that the issue may be made in this Centennial year of American Independence, whether we have a government of law, as construed by our courts or a centralized despotism, whose only law is force. Let the American people behold the spectacle of a brigadier general of the army seated by the side of Governor Chamberlain, in a room of the State House, and issuing his orders to a legislative body peacefully assembled in one of the original thirteen commonwealths of this Union. Respectfully yours,

Gen. Ruger Writes a Letter to the War Department.

DISCLAIMS INTERFERENCE WAS BY HIS ORDERS.

A Colored Member Severely Denounces His Party as Lawless and Revolutionary.

OTHERS DECLARE THEIR INTENTION OF LEAVING THE ORGANIZATION.

COLUMBIA, Dec. 1.—Everything unchanged. Both parties in the House expecting military interference. None up to six P. M. Gen. Ruger has done nothing as yet. The matter will hardly change before to-morrow. Democrats are cheerful. Republicans are uneasy.

COLUMBIA, S. C., Dec. 1.

Gen. W. T. Sherman, or the Secretary of War, Washington, D. C.:

I have cheerfully abstained from interference with the organization of the House from the first. On the application of the governor and my own belief for the necessity therefore, for the preservation of the peace, I placed troops in the State House, but not in the rooms of the assembly, or either the Houses on the day of the meeting. It came about that at the time the soldiers were placed on either side of the door of entrance to the hall of Representatives under the following circumstances:

A person at the door of the House and who claimed authority to examine certificates of those claiming to be members prior to their admission to the hall, but who I think had no legal authority for so doing, applied to the officers in command of the troops placed in the corridor for the preservation of peace, for assistance on the ground that he was being pressed upon and could not perform his duty. The soldiers were placed as stated. As soon as I was fully informed of the circumstances I ordered the soldiers withdrawn as I had previously informed Gov. Chamberlain that I should confine my action to the preservation of the peace, and should do nothing with reference to keeping the doors of the rooms of meeting of the Houses or the rooms themselves, unless it became necessary because of breach of the peace, which the civil officers of the Houses should be unable to restore.—No act was done by the soldiers except that of presence as stated, but whilst they were so present persons claiming rights of entrance under the certificate of the clerk of the Supreme Court were refused admission.

(Signed) T. H. RUGER, Commanding the Department.

A proposition signed by both Speakers to adjourn to 12 to-morrow, and meet with the status unchanged, provided Gen. Ruger would agree. Gen. Ruger refused on the ground he must obey orders from Washington. The Houses therefore are not likely to adjourn.

Hamilton a colored republican member from Beaufort, made a strong speech, said he was a republican, voted for Chamberlain, Hayes and Wheeler, but he could not stand to see all law stricken down in the effort to preserve the party. Every member knew that this body to which he belonged was not legal, had no quorum when organized, that laws made by it would be void and there would be no protection to property or life if we swayed the law; that we must bow to judgment of the Supreme Court. Several republicans have signified their intention to abandon the Mackey organization.

SOUTH CAROLINA.

Both Parties Spent the Night in the State House Hall Lighted by Gas for the First Time in Two Years—Ruger has not Yet Carried out his Threat—Thought he Would Resign First.

COLUMBIA, Dec. 1.—The situation is unchanged, both bodies have occupied the House of Representatives since 12 yesterday. Numerous propositions for compromise availed nothing. Now, half past one, the United States troops have not interfered. The Democratic Representatives from Edgefield and Laurens are still in their seats. The Democrats are cheerful and claim that the United States authorities cannot ignore the decisions of the Supreme Court. It is now likely that sufficient number of Republicans will unite with the Democrats, in which event the entire matter will be settled.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 1.—Specials from Columbia to ten o'clock last night represent the colored element of the combined houses as in a yelling State as night approached. They brought candles in their bottles. The gas company however upon security by the Democrats for the bills turned on the gas, and for the first time in two years the great chandeliers of the House were alight.

The very latest address this morning shows little progress toward the solution. What Gen. Ruger will do or has been ordered to do is unknown. His soldierly comrades here say, if obedience to orders infringes on his private honor he will surrender his sword.

LOUISIANA.

The Supporters of Kellogg Fire the City—One Incendiary Shot and Killed in the Act—Another Shot and but Escapes.

NEW ORLEANS, Dec. 1.—As far as could be ascertained the following is the number of houses destroyed by the fire here this morning: 40 on Calumet st., 24 on Robertson st., 32 on Vallerre, 3 on Maro's st., and 10 and St. Anna Church on Esplanade at. The dwellings of Augusta and Amadie Courterre, Abrams, Kooza, Clark, and Crazat Super's residences on Esplanade, were consumed. Most of the buildings burned were small cottages, and hundreds of poor people lost all their possessions. Leon Detrievre, a member of the fire department had his leg broken in three places. A negro who was detected setting fire to one of the buildings during the progress of the conflagration was shot and instantly killed. Another negro also found in the act of committing the crime was shot at but was unscathed, and succeeded in making his escape.

THE INDIAN WIGWAMS.

The Red Skins Badly Wounded on the Trail of Crazy Horse.

CHEYENNE, Dec. 1.—McKenzie's victory is most complete, the entire village with stores captured, leaving the Indians wholly destitute. The Indians loss is about 25 with a large number wounded. McKenzie will combine with Crook and attack Crazy Horse on the Rosebud river.

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Cabinet Meeting—Complexion of the Illinois Legislature.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 1.—Cabinet full session annually long. No developments of particular strength by any one for the Speaker. More important matters crowd the content out of conversation.

The Illinois legislature consists of 100 Republicans, 88 Democrats, and 5 Independents. This indicates that Gen. Logan will not be his successor.

The debt statement shows in treasury coin nearly eight million; currency 11 1/2 millions.

BISHOP HOOD.

HIS RESPONSE TO THE SENTINEL FOR THE COLORED PEOPLE.

EXPRESSION FROM THE COLOR-CONFERENCE OF NORTH CAROLINA.

The Sentinel Assurance in behalf of the Democracy accepted and if carried out will have no ground of complaint for the political affiliations of the colored people in the future.

PLYMOUTH, N. C., Nov. 11th 1876.

To the Editors of the Raleigh Sentinel. Gentlemen:

Nothing could have been more timely than the article in your issue of the 9th inst., addressed to the colored people. And, under the circumstances, nothing could be more noble and magnanimous than the spirit manifested by the sentiments expressed. I hail this as a beam of light which betokens the dawn of a brighter day.

I am prepared to assert that had such sentiments emanated from the same source years ago, you would not have seen what you have witnessed during this unpleasant period of our history—unpleasant to us, and certainly not less so to the colored man voting most solidly against the men for whom personally he had the highest possible respect, yet, a respect that amounted almost to reverence. You would never have cared nothing for them (except that by their suffrage they could hold office), had it not been that they believed that this was the only way in which they could maintain their own rights.

The situation of my people, as you frankly and generously admit, has been unpleasant in the extreme. I think you will agree with me that, as a rule, the black man has the organ of approbation in his own breast. He loves the approval of his fellow man, especially of the better and more favored class. It has therefore been more than a religious duty, that has induced him to sacrifice the good will of those, to have obtained which he would have been willing to make any reasonable sacrifice. As your articles, in substance, admit all this, I will not follow this line of thought further. You are right, my people do feel alarmed.

But if you will permit me, I will suggest a cause that may not have occurred to you. I think what has most alarmed my people is the tone of the democratic press. We receive so much abuse, so little praise, so little fairness.

Our crimes are magnified, our virtues are overlooked. When appeals have been made to us, it has been done in a kind of half-threatening style which repulses, or a don't care style that shows a want of heartiness. I am sure that from your own observation, a bare statement of the case is sufficient to enable you to take in the whole of my meaning.

The colored people are more discerning, more penetrating than they have the credit for.

It is because of the heartiness, the evidence sincerely, running through every line of your article, that I hail it with joy, as well as on account of the source from which it comes. The sentiments expressed are such as naturally flow from the hearts of christian gentlemen. The sentiments of the Sentinel under its present management have been far above what we have been accustomed to.

You, gentlemen, are entitled to all you claim. You have a right to speak for the democratic party. You, I believe can mould its administration of the affairs of the government. You represent the wealth, the intelligence, the refinement, the religion of that party. The party could not afford to lose influence of the class you represent.

And now, speaking for at least 1,000,000 one hundred thousand of my people who attend upon the ministry in the church I represent, I assure you that we receive and accept your very generous address with hearts of gratitude.

And I will further assure you that if the affairs of this State are administered during the next four years as you assure to complain of our conduct as to our political affiliations in future, we will be in this we sacrifice no principle. It is not men nor party interests that we have sought to promote, but our liberties we have sought to secure.

You assure us that you will maintain our rights, you use such language as cannot be mistaken. It comes from a source that we cannot distrust. You suggest a proposition that time will test. You say: "The colored people will now have the opportunity to learn that the democracy has no design against their liberties."

This is all we have ever asked for. Were we not satisfied with the fulfillment of those promises, we would deserve your scorn.

J. W. HOOD.

Bishop A. M. E. Zion Church, America.

The New York Sun says: To count Hayes in fraudulently is probably the most notorious political crime ever conceived in this country. If successful, it would be the murder of the republic. It would be the end of official accountability to the people—the end of elections. Therefore our rulers would be named for us by those in power at Washington.

CREMATION IN GEORGIA.

The Oriental Order of Humanity Burning the Body of W. R. Sappas.

[Augusta Constitutionalist.]

In Augusta, on Saturday evening last, the body of a man who died on the 2d in Atlanta, was cremated under the direction of "The Oriental Order of Humanity."

The coffin, a handsome rosewood, upon which was engraved upon a silver plate, "William R. Sappas; age, 42; Died November 4th, 1876," was placed upon the pile, and the order was then gathered in a circle, solemn grand and peculiar, around the mortal remains of the deceased brother. After the singular prayer of the order had been delivered by the Junior Friar, the torch was solemnly and deliberately applied to the pile, and at once the flames leaped upward and upward.

The coffin was soon enveloped in flames, and thousands saw what had never been known here before—a human body cremated. Balconies, windows, housetops, trees, awnings, to say nothing of the living mass that thronged the street, were crowded to witness the proceedings. While the fire was lapping in angry fury the lifeless body of this great man, the Friar delivered in the peculiar language of the order, a most eloquent and touching oration.

Soon the coffin began to crumble, and a ghastly spectacle was presented to the eye. The body, blackened, burning, hissing, smoking, was clearly visible, and as the stifling odors filled the air the shrieks and cries of men, women and children were heard on all sides.

After the funeral fires had burned down, all that was mortal of W. R. Sappas was gathered in the urn by the "Most Worthy Keeper of the Sacred Relics," and the society, headed by the band playing the dirge specially written for the occasion, entitled "He has gone to his long, long home, unsoaked by water," returned to the hut, where the ashes were deposited in the vault. Then the society dispersed.

PUBLIC AND PRIVATE ROGUES.

Opinions may differ as to the cause, but there is no doubt of the fact, that in the days before the war public plundering was unknown at the South. What of it was practiced was confined to the people of "great moral ideas," our brethren inhabiting the Northern section of the Union. With the changes induced by the results of the war between the States there has come change in this respect. Southern communities now, as well as Northern communities, number among their citizens those who have grown rich by plunder of the people; and Southern communities, as well as Northern communities, have learned since the war to look with complacency at least upon rogues who pass by the corn-cris and hen-roosts of their neighbors, but under the forms of law break into the public crib and appropriate the property of the people. Public opinion is still against the petty thief. It needs to be once more roused against the thief who grows rich by theft. The people must learn to think as they once did, that personal and political honesty cannot exist apart, that the man who lies as a politician will lie as readily, upon occasion, in any other relation of life; that he who plunders the public will plunder the individual citizen with as little compunction if the plunder be worth taking. As is well said by the Baltimore Sun, there never was a greater or more persistent fallacy than that which prevails in many minds that there is a difference in the guilt of public and private dishonesty, so that the crime of stealing, for example, which when an individual is the victim, brings the wrong-doer into universal contempt, becomes as it were diluted and innocuous when a whole nation is plundered. Even the shameless whisky ring rogues, when convicted and sent to the penitentiary, are not looked upon as common felons, and have a reasonable prospect of being speedily released from the inconvenience of their confinement by executive interposition—a result which has been curiously realized already. Tweed, the gigantic robber of New York city, becomes a kind of hero, and is brought home from his temporary place of retreat in a ship of war, the captain of which gives up his cabin to this felonious guest of the nation, though, it is true, not without strictly guarding him. As to the Credit Mobilier and robbing railroad rings in general, no punishment and severely and public obloquy ever overtakes them. They are just as influential with their party and receive as much social consideration as if they had never been suspected of felony. Yet nothing is more certain than that the moral quality of such men is essentially that of the inmates of the jails and penitentiaries of the land. While it may be doubtful whether the rogue who picks the pockets of an individual possesses the genius to pick the pockets of a nation, there is no doubt whatever that the man who picks the pocket of a nation is capable of picking the pocket of an individual. This view of the case ought always to be made prominent, in order that the public thief, if he has no other punishment, may fully understand that he is understood by his fellow men, and that they are not deceived as to his true inwardness as a rogue and felon because the deprecations are public instead of individual. —Raleigh Observer.

PATIENCE—BUT STAND FIRM.

[Bellefonte (Pa.) Watchman.]

It has been determined by the republican leaders to reverse the figures, or as many of them as may be necessary, and count Hayes and Wheeler in, instead of Tilden and Hendricks. To help them do this and prevent a rising of the people of those States against this damnable iniquity, President Grant has ordered all the available troops into those states and placed them under the command of Sheridan and Ruger.

In this emergency, which may precede a great crisis, our advice to the democracy and to the thousands of republicans who help to elect Tilden and Hendricks is, to be calm but firm! While it is not necessary to brag and bluster, or to say things needlessly to irritate our opponents, we must not yield an inch. There is no more doubt that Mr. Tilden is fairly elected than there is that the 25th of December next will be Christmas or the 1st of January New Year's day. This great fact is conceded by the masses of the republican party as well as by those of the democracy, and it is the solemn resolve of the whole people, the conspirators against our liberties excepted, that Mr. Tilden shall be inaugurated. It must end in this at last. No matter what the present delay may mean, or what infamous monstrosity may arise from it, the people who have voted for and elected Mr. Tilden, are determined not to be cheated out of his inauguration and administration. They wanted a change; they voted for a change, and now they have sworn by Almighty God that they will have a change. Let us be patient. Let us be magnanimous. Let us be charitable. Let us be calm. Let us be cool. Let us be considerate. Let us wait. But let us stand by our victory, and swear before Heaven, calling God to witness, that no power on earth shall deprive us of them! Freedom still lives in this country, and neither presidents, nor armies, nor bayonets, nor usurers, nor ambitious designing knaves, shall chain her to their car, nor crush her down to earth. The people are sovereign. They intend to assert their sovereignty, and we be to those who stand in the way. Retribution and vengeance are in the air and we solemnly warn those who stand with the knife at the throat of free government that the day of their power is at an end.

Store Houses Burnt.—The Store Houses of Mr. J. H. Thompson (recently of Charlotte) and Mr. W. A. Sossamon & Co., at Mount Monroe, Iredell county, were consumed by fire on Wednesday night last. There was an insurance on the goods in both houses. Mr. Thompson's loss in goods and wearing apparel amounts to three or four thousand dollars, with only \$1,000 insurance, and Mr. Sossamon's loss about \$3,000, with \$2,500 insurance—so reported. The fire occurred about midnight. —Charlotte Democrat.

The New York Sun says: To count Hayes in fraudulently is probably the most notorious political crime ever conceived in this country. If successful, it would be the murder of the republic. It would be the end of official accountability to the people—the end of elections. Therefore our rulers would be named for us by those in power at Washington.

THE DEMOCRATIC PRESIDENTIAL PROGRAMME.

The New York Herald publishes a letter from Hon. Clarkson N. Potter, reviewing the political situation, and stating the course which ought to be taken if Mr. Tilden should be cheated out of his election by the action of the Louisiana or any other returning board. The letter is a singularly able one. Briefly stated the conclusions reached by Mr. Potter are that in the event of the issue of clearly fraudulent certificates to the Hayes electors in Louisiana it will devolve on Congress to take the matter in hand. Mr. Potter holds, with Mr. Randall and many other prominent statesmen and publicists—and he cites precedents in support of his opinions—that the President of the Senate is subject to the direction of the two houses of Congress in counting the electoral votes. He contends that votes which are disputed by either house, on the allegation that they are tainted with fraud cannot be counted, and that the powers of the two houses being in this respect equal a dead-lock must ensue. In this case "a contingency may arise which will require the House of Representatives to elect the President."

The House, he argues, is the sole judge as to whether the exigency has arisen which makes it its constitutional duty to elect a President in consequence of the failure of any candidate to receive a legal majority of the votes in the official count. If the Louisiana Returning Board should fraudulently pronounce the Hayes Electors elected the Democrats of that State would dispute it, and whilst Kellogg would give certificates to the Hayes Electors McEnery (who has never abandoned his claim to being the rightful Governor) would give certificates to the Tilden Electors. There being thus two sets of certificates, the Senate would throw out those for Tilden and the House those for Hayes. In this case the recognized votes for Hayes would be 177 and for Tilden 181.

As 185 is necessary to elect—falling this one additional vote there would be no election by the people. The House then, in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution, would proceed to elect a President. It will be recollected in this connection, and in support of this view, that at the last election there were two sets of certificates from Louisiana, and that as a consequence Louisiana was left out of the count. The precedent is a striking one, though its vote at that time did not in any way affect the result.

Of the general programme marked out in Mr. Potter's letter, the Herald says: "This is undoubtedly the settled Democratic programme. This is the method of procedure the party chiefs have deliberately resolved to adopt. We commend their boldness in placing it so early before the country and submitting it to the ordeal of public discussion."

ANOTHER AMENDMENT NEEDED.

In the third section of the third article of the Constitution it is provided that the returns of the election for officers of the Executive Department shall be opened and the vote counted in the presence of a majority of the members of both Houses of the General Assembly. In the second section of the second article, as amended, it is provided that the Legislature shall meet biennially on the first Wednesday after the first Monday in January. In the first section of the third article of the Constitution however, it is provided that the terms of office of the officers of the Executive Department shall begin on the first day of January next after their election.