State Library

The Carolina Watchman.

VOL IX.—THIRD SERIES SALISBURY, N. C., AUGUST 22, 1878. NO 44

YELLOW FEVER AND ITS SYMTOMS.

"A day or two of langor and 'bad feelings' generally precede an attack of yellow fever. Then comes a chill much like that of common ague, but accompanied by pain in the head and spine. The chill lasts from a few minutes to a few hours, and constitutes the first stage, or that wherein the morbific causes are invading the system. The next is the febrile stage, which follows the chill. Generally it is noted of a very high grade, the pulse being one hundred.

A distinctive symptom and characteristic of yellow fever is suppression of urine. Another symptom which can be readily recognized by any physician, nurse or other person who has ever been with a yellow fever patient, is a peculiar odor or musty smell from off the patient, and which can even be perceive in the streets during an epidemic. It is indescribable, and belongs to no other fever, and with doctors familiar with yellow fever is itself a sufficient diagnosis. The patient shows that the poison has also strack his nervous system; he is tremulous, easily excited, and startled by the least noise. The fever rages generally from twenty-four hours to forty-eight hours, the sufferer being delirious and raving in a large portion of cases. If asked why he screams he can give no adequate reason. Usually on the third day the fever abates, and there is a calm—the third stage—which lasts from a few hours to a day, and is the turning point of the disease. This calm ends either in convalescence or else in the fourth or fatal stage, that of collapse or black vomit, from which not one in fifty ever recovers. The vomit, which seems to come up without effort, looks like coffee grounds, and is the death warrant of the patient.

About the fourth or fifth day the eyes turn yellow. The skin, also, assumes a yellowness like that of a bruise, or bright jaundice yellow. However, the patient does not turn yellow in more than one case in six. As to the cause of the scourge, the old atmospheric theory has gone by the board, and the best writers now seem to have settled down to the belief that the poison is of animalcular origin—these animalcules generating and spreading over surfaces like the grasshoppers or caterpillars, and being introduced into the human blood. If they exist, the most powerful microscope has hitherto been unabled to discover them. One fact that seems to point to their existence is that the same extremes of heat and cold that kill other insects also kills yellow fever, whose contagion cannot exist and becomes innocuous at 32 degrees and 212 degrees. Yellow fever is always killed out after a good freeze. Yellow fever never spreads above six hundred feet above the sea level. Acclimatization does not prevent, and no person has a second attack. The period of incubation is generally four to nine days, though persons have been known to carry it in their system twenty-three days and then take it. Without treatment seventy-five out of every hundred will die. With treatment and good nursing, however, about one in three is the average mortality. In the great epidemic of 1867, in some Texas town one half died who took the fever. As to the cure no remedy has yet been found, and all treatment so far, even by the best physicians, is as empirical as the causes of yellow fever are unknown and beyond conjecture."

Intermarriage of Jews with Christians.

The Jewish Advance of Chicago deplores the tendency to marriage between Jews and Christians, which it declares to be alarmingly on the increase, both in Europe and the United States. In the Prussian province of Posen, official statistics show 262 such marriages to have taken place in a single year, and similar reports are received from England, France and elsewhere. The result of these marriages is usually that the offspring fall off into the faith of the Christian parent. Such has been the case with the descendants of Meyerbeer, Offenbach, and others, and with the grand children of Adolph Cremieux, the famous French lawyer and statesman, who is now President of the Alliance Israelite Universal, but whose children have married out of the Jewish faith. Such will be the case with the children of Hannah de Rothschild, the wife of Lord Roseberry. "And thus," says the Advance, "is the old fable verified once more. In the rays of the sun of freedom, the wandering Jew loosens the Jewish cloak into which he had wrapped himself so closely while the storm of former ages were raging around him, and with unconcern throws it aside."

Home-Made Apple Vinegar:—Every family should have their vinegar barrel replenished with the choicest vinegar. If no cider is made on the farm, the vinegar barrel can be filled by the proper use of the apple peelings. Almost every family in the State use apples enough, if they would save the peelings and cores, to constantly keep pure and healthy vinegar. Have a jar, throw all the peelings in, with soft water; and as soon as they thoroughly ferment, squeeze out the juice and put it in the vinegar barrel. Then as apples are used, fill up the jar again. This will give you a good vinegar without any cost but the labor.

A New Volcanic Island.—The captain of a German steamer recently arrived at Hong Kong, relates that he was a witness of a singular phenomenon in the Island of New-Britain, in the South Pacific (long. 152 E., and lat. 4 S.) He found all the northeastern coasts covered with a thick smoke, and experienced the greatest difficulties in passing the strait which separates it from New-Ireland on account of the fields of pumice stone which covered the sea to the depth of several feet. On the 9th of February he reached Makada, one of the Duke of York Islands and found that three craters had opened in a peninsula formed by the Island of New-Britian, at the foot of the so-called Mother and Daughter mountains, from which continuous streams of lava issued. The passage between Duke of York Island and White Bay was completely intercepted by a layer of pomice stone five feet in thickness. An enormous rise took place in the water of White Bay, and, almost suddenly, a new island appeared, about three-quarters of a mile in length. That land is situated to the South of Natopi, or Henderson's Island, and where it now exists the water was formerly seventeen fathoms deep. The probability is that other transformations have taken place which could not be observed on account of the immense masses of floating pumice stone. The captain mentions also that the water in White Bay was, during some days, at an exceedingly high temperature, and that immense quantities of turtle and fish were thrown on shore, and eagerly devoured by the natives, who are starving in consequence of the unusual dryness of the season.—*Ex.*

The Mexican dollar is a legal tender. It weighs 415.80 grains and is 109 fine, while the United States silver dollar weighs 412 grains and is 900 fine, making the Mexican dollar worth considerable more than ours. Brightley's Digest, Vol. 1, page 155, gives "Laws of the United States, act of 20th of June, 1834," as follows:

The following silver coins shall be of legal value, and shall pass current as money within the United States, by tale for the payment of all debts and demands of the rate of one hundred cents: the dollar, that is to say, the dollars of Mexico, Peru, Chili, and Central America, of not less weight that 415 grains each, and those restamped in Brazil of the like weight, of not less than 10 ounces, 15 penny-weights of pure silver, in the Troy pound of 12 ounces of standard silver.

A correspondent of the New York *Evening Post* says: "The aforesaid act of Congress has never been repealed, and the Mexican dollar of 415 grains is a legal tender in the United States. The Mexican dollar weighs from one to two grains more than is required by the law. They should be at a premium instead of a discount. It is a swindling transaction to discount them. It is an oppression of the weak by the strong which should not be tolerated."

Just So.

While thousands of men are out of employment in nearly all parts of the country, it is odd to read that the farmers in some parts of Illinois and Indiana are unabled to get the number of hands they want, although they are paying from $2 to $2.50 a day. Passing by these farms day by day are dozens of tramps, who go about begging and stealing, complaining of hard times and want of employment, but always refusing to work when they have a chance. In some instances they have even gone so far as to burn farm machinery because it threw them out of employment, and yet they will not labor, no matter what the compensation. Every man who takes to the road because he has nothing else to do may not be altogether bad, but if he travels long enough he is certain to find work or to drop into utter and criminal demoralization, prefering to steal and beg rather than earn an honest penny. It is probable these people would not have any sense of punishment if they were lodged in jail, but it is evident that something will have to be done with them or some portions of our country will shortly be at their mercy.—*Lancaster (S. C.) Ledger.*

Dangerous Spider Bite.

Recently, Mrs. Mary Jane Pope, wife of Mr. John Pope of the vicinity of Cedar Grove in this county, was bitten on the right hand by a small spider. She picked up a piece of bark while walking in the yard, in which the venomous insect lay concealed; and she was bitten on the back of the hand and almost immediately suffered the most excruciating agonies. As is usual in such cases there was marked mental derangement and violent spasmodic action of the limbs. Drs. Hughes and Baynes were called in and applied such remedies as their skill suggested. But for twenty-four hours the condition of Mrs. Pope was one of intense suffering and danger. She has since recovered.

Naturalists will still persist in the assertion that spiders are harmless. We give them as wide a berth as the rattlesnake.—*Hillsboro Recorder.*

Don't borrow anything—but, if you do, don't tell lies to avoid paying it

How many amusing and ridiculous scenes should we witness if each pair of men that secretly laugh at each other were to do it openly.

SHOOT HIGH.

"Ish ter Scheneral around?" asked an excited clothing merchant as the United States troops passed through Siatka last week in pursuit of the fleeing Bannocks.

"Well, my man," said Howard, reigning in his horse, "what is it? Speak quick."

"I am a ruin' man, Scheneral. Dem cursed redskins dey murder my boy Shacob about five miles from here un' shteal a dozen pair of pants he vos peddlin.' New pants, so hellep me kracious—right out of my store."

"Sorry for your loss, my man, but haven't time to talk about it now. If we catch up with these demons we'll stop their deviltries for good and all."

"Yes, I know Scheneral, I know," eagerly whispered the bereaved ready-made merchant, hanging desperately to the officer's stirrup. Dot's all right, but vell you come up mit dose Indians vot got dose new pants on, for kracious sake, Scheneral, tole de soldiers to shoot high!"—*San Francisco Post.*

We have been told a good story of the war by a veteran of the army of Northern Virginia. While the army was in Pennsylvania a lean, lank specimen of a soldier entered a house by the roadside, where was seated a mother rocking her babe in its cradle. Having asked for almost every article of food, and being told that there was not a mouthful in the house, he sorrowfully inquired if she had any salt. With this article he was bountifully supplied, which he proceeded to sprinkle nicely over the baby's arms and neck. The mother asked why he acted so strangely. The soldier replied he was starving and must have something to eat, and as there was nothing in the house but the baby, he would have to eat that. That soldier got a first class meal in very quick time.—*Weldon News.*

Watering Gardens.

To supply an inch of water to a garden or field one acre in extent, would require over 25,000 gallons or over 600 barrels of 40 gallons each. This would weigh about 100 tons and make 100 loads such as a pair of horses could draw comfortably over moderately soft cultivated ground. An inch of water will moisten the ground to the depth of from three to six inches, according to the dryness and the texture of the soil. Some clay soils, when thoroughly air dried, will absorb forty per cent. of water before being saturated. From these figures it will be seen that common hand watering, where only a sprinkling is given to soil that is deeply dried, can do very little good, as the roots are seldom reached by the water. Deep cultivation or mulching will accomplish the result better and cheaper.—*New England Farmer.*

Butler's Position.

By Telegraph to the News.

BIDDEFORD, Me., Aug. 10.—E. H. Gove, the Greenback candidate for Congress in this district, presided over a meeting last night, of the citizens of York County. In a short speech he introduced Gen. Butler, who spoke for two hours. He said he came not to make a speech, but commune with the people on the public interests of the day. He had left old parties, had belonged to the Democratic party until it attempted to destroy the Union. He was with the Republican party till it deserted its founders, the laboring men. Capitalists now hold the Republican party bound hand and foot. Hayes has violated every pledge and betrayed the negro of the South. The effort of Grant's administration to strengthen public credit was a swindle. He reviewed the eistory of Greenback currency and clained it should be made legal tender for all debts public and private.

Dog Days.—The Days of lot of a dogs was ended on yesterday. Somebody threw poisoned beef into the streets. The dogs ate it and died. It is a cruel thing to do unless there is some good reason for it. Why kill the dogs? Every dog however useless is somebody's dog, that somebody is attached to that dog. We would be very glad to see two-thirds of the hybrid race of dogs led to execution, but dogs like men ought to be formally, and with due sanction of law, put out of the way. It is, we say again, a reckless sort of cruelty to kill dogs by leaving poisoned meat in the streets. It would make repentance bitter in any true man's heart to see a little boy crying over his dead dog. The dog that had played with him and had been his pet since boyhood. The more worthless the dog the stronger the feeling for it. Its a sorry business.—*Ral. Ob.*

Farmer and Mechanic! We learn of a fatal accident near Jackson, Northampton county, on Tuesday night. Two daughters of W. H. Rae, and Miss Woodruff, attempted to ignite a fire with kerosene from the can, which exploded, Miss Woodruff was burned to death, and the other young ladies were at the point of death at last accounts.

Three dray loads of silver dollars were lately drawn to the United States treasury in San Francisco. The entire value was $300,000.

The Killing on the Statesville Railroad.

Coroner Alexander, who went up the Statesville road yesterday to hold an inquest over the body of the negro man killed on the railroad near Davidson College, did not return yesterday, and the result of the examination is not known. Since the report of yesterday morning it has been discovered that the remains are those of Allison Whitley, formerly a section hand on the road. The theory of his having fallen off the engine where he was stealing a ride, advanced by the engineer, does not hold good for the reason that he was seen a short time before the train passed at a point about a mile below that at which his body was found, and the train did not make a stop between the points. There is something mysterious about the manner of his death and the result of the coroner's examination is looked forward to with no little interest.—*Char. Observer.*

Scandal.—The story is told of a woman who freely used her tongue to the scandal of others, and made confession to the priest of what she had done. He gave her a ripe thistle-top, and told her to go out in various directions and scatter the seed one by one. Wondering at the penance, she obeyed, and then returned and told her confessor. To her amazement, he bade her go back and gather the scattered seeds, and when she objected that it would be impossible, he replied, that it would be still more difficult to gather up and destroy all the evil reports she had circulated about others. Any thoughtless, careless child can scatter a handful of thistle-seed before the wind in a moment; but the strongest and wisest man cannot gather them again.

Terrible Situation.

From the Cherokee Georgian.

A young man named Penny, while out hunting his steers barefooted the other day, stepped on the head of a large rattle snake. He had his heel on the snake's head, and being afraid to move did not know what to do for some time while the hideous thing was wirthing and squirming and vigorously lashing the youth's leg. Penny was badly frightened, but recovered presence of mind sufficient to take out his knife and reach down and cut off the snake's head.

Mules Drowned.

Mr. T. C. Sloan of No. 3 Township was in town this week with a wagon load of watermelons. Returning home he had to cross Coddle Creek at the ford near Mr. Johnston's house. The Waters were very high, but he drove his team in and came out without them. He was driving two mules---one his own and the other belonging to a neighbor of his---and both of them were drowned. Mr. Sloan is a poor man and the loss falls heavily upon him.---*Concord Sun.*

It is published that more miles of railroad are being constructed in Texas now than in all the balance of the United States.

Col. Dana, of the New York *Sun*, advocates the whipping-post. Some years ago he wept tears of blood over the wrongs of the negro.

The time a boy begins to think his mother doesn't know enough to select his clothing for him is a dangerous period in his history.

The Petroleum oil business is distressingly unprofitable for producers, especially for the crude oil. The price has fallen to below one dollar per barrel.

The London World remarks that more people eat themselves to death than drink themselves to death. Shall we not have total abstinence in this matter?

He that does good to another man also does it to himself, not only in the consequence, but in the very act of doing it, for the consciousness of well doing is an ample reward.

The Louisianna sugar crop of 1877 is set down at 127,743 hogsheads, against 169,331 hogheads for 1876. The largest crop ever raised before the war: in 1861 the yield was 459,410 hogsheads.

Becoming Civilized.

The Chinese are capable of being civilized. A couple of them had a lawsuit in Salinas, Cal., not long ago. The defendant was convicted, but declared he would hire more witnesses and try it again.

ON GOING TO CHURCH.

Some go to church to laugh and talk,
Some go there for a walk;
Some go there to learn the parsons name,
Some go there to wound his fame;
Some go there their time to spend
Some go there to see a friend,
Some go there to dose and nod,
But few go there to worshp God.

The attitude of the Democracy of South Carolina to-day is a splendid and deserved triumph for the statesmanship of Wade Hampton. A stranger to the arts and trickery which ordinarily form the stock in trade of the successful American politician, he has won the confidence of the State, and of good men the country over, by the simplicity and perfect honesty of his course and utterances as a public man,—*Charleston News and Courier.*

Speech of Hon. A. G. Thurman,

OHIO'S GREAT STATESMAN ON THE STUMP.

A Forcible Analysis of the Principles of the Democratic Party.

Mr. President and Fellow Citizens:

I have seen several statements in the public press to the effect that the object of my appointment to address you to-day was that I should "sound the key note of the campaign." I wish, in the very outset of my remarks, to disclaim any such pretension. Under free institutions, it is for the people to give the key note; and so far as the Democracy of Ohio are concerned, they have discharged that duty in the platform. I have advocated its principles heretofore and I shall continue to advocate them. Perhaps this is all I should say about myself; but inasmuch as, in certain quarters, I am denounced as a man who has surrendered his convictions to appease a popular clamor, it may be pardonable to me to occupy a few moments in repelling this charge. The accusation has reference to my support of the financial plank in the platform. Now, what is the financial plank? It condemns contraction of the currency; demands the repeal of the resumption act; advocates "the removal of all restrictions to the coinage of silver, and the re-establishment of silver as money metal, the same as gold—the same as it was before its fraudulent demoralization; the gradual substitution of United States legal tender paper for national bank notes, and its permanent establishment as the sole paper money of the country, made receivable for all dues to the government, and of equal tender with coin—the amount of such issues, to be so regulated by legislation or organic law as to give the people assurance of stability in the volume of currency, and the consequent stability of the value; no further increase in the bonded debt, and no further sale of the bonds for the purchase of coin for resumption purposes, but the gradual extinction of the public debt, rigid economy, the reduction of expenditures in all branches of public service, and a tariff for revenue only." These are the financial doctrines of the platform, and now, I confidently defy my critics, one and all, to name any vote that I have given, during the nine years that I have sat in the Senate, that was inconsistent with these principles. I have steadily opposed contraction ever since it was inaugurated. I have spoken and voted against the Resumption Act when it passed, and at the last session of Congress voted for its repeal. I worked hard to restore silver to the place it held before its demonetization. Several years ago I drew a resolution for our State convention favoring the gradual substitution of greenbacks for national banknotes, and that resolution, injudiciously amended, as I believe every one now admits, was passed by the convention. I was one of the first to propose in the Senate that greenbacks should be receivable for custom duties, and at the last session I voted for the bill making them thus receivable. I have been the advocate of a stable currency, and your platform demands stability. I have contended that the precious metals ought not to be demonetized and the platform asserts the same doctrine. I have spoken and voted against an increase of our bonded debt. I have advocated, to the best of my ability, strict economy, reduction of expenditures, and a revenue tariff. My course, therefore, has been perfectly consistent with the platform of our convention, as the journals and debates of the Senate will show. And I beg leave to add that I have never given a vote in the nine years I have sat in the Senate, to which exception was taken by the Democracy of Ohio, so far as I know, or have ever heard.

Fellow-citizens, I trust that I have not offended propriety or good taste by making these few remarks about myself. You are a portion of my constituents and have a right to know whether I have represented you correctly or otherwise. If I have a reputation worth preserving, it is for your interest as well as mine that it shall not be unjustly tarnished. But enough upon this theme.

When the currency part of the platform is carefully scrutinized, it will be found that its principal feature is the proposed substitution of greenbacks for national banknotes. I think that I do them no injustice when I say that the leaders of the Republican party are in favor of diminishing the opposite course—that is to say, they would retire all the greenbacks in order that their places might be filled with national banknotes. Let either course be taken and the metalic money of the country remains the same. Use either kind of paper and the amount of coin in actual circulation, apart from the small coins used for change, will be comparatively small, so long as one, two and five dollar notes are freely issued, for such notes always drive coin out of circulation. And whenever conversion into coin is practicable and desirable, it will be just as easy to convert greenbacks as to convert banknotes. The question then is narrowed down to this. Shall our paper money be national banknotes or greenbacks? For several reasons, that I will briefly state, I think the latter are preferable.

1. In the first place, a national bank currency means the indefinite perpetuation of the national debt. The national banks, so far as their circulation is concerned, are founded on that debt. It is the security for their notes; and whenever the debt be paid the banks must retire their circulation and cease to issue notes. In order, therefore, to perpetuate their privilege of issuing notes, they must strive to perpetuate the national debt. And you may rest assured that they will do so; and the influence of more than two thousand such institutions, spread all over the country, will be very powerful indeed.

Now, I am not one of those who believe that such a debt is a national blessing. I believe that the reverse of this is true, and that such a debt is a national curse. To say nothing of its corrupting influences, its drain of the resources of the people to pay interest is fearful by oppressive, especially when a large portion of the debt is held abroad. In a comparatively brief period the amount of interest paid exceeds the principal of the debt, while the drain continues in undiminished force. Heavy taxation is the necessary result, and every one who has studied the subject knows that oppressive taxation is one of the worst foes to the industry and prosperity of a country. It is true that the national debt cannot be speedily paid, but we ought not to put unnecessary obstacles in the way of its payment. The national banknotes are such an obstacle and for that reason are objectionable. Your platform wisely advocates "the gradual extinction of the public debt." It thus favors its honest payment, and opposes its indefinite perpetuation. And in strict harmony with this principle, it condemns a banknote system that tends to perpetuate it.

2. A second objection to the national bank system is, that it tends to combine, concentrate, and intensify the money power. I shall indulge in no declamation against of the money power. I seek to excite no passion, no prejudice. I wish to reason fairly when I say that, in view of the undoubted fact that during the whole period of the unlimited sway of the Republican party, the legislation of Congress steadily favored the moneyed interests and thereby greatly added to the burthens of the people: that the purchasing power of money has immensely increased while the exchangeable or purchasing power of everything else has remained stationary or has diminished; and in view of the further fact that the national bank system confers special privileges upon the banks that no other institutions and no individuals enjoy; that it combines more than two thousand institutions now, and if perpetuated, may combine thousands more, in a common purpose and with a common interest to maintain their power and prolong their privileges; that these institutions are scattered all over the Republic and, acting openly or in secret, are able to influence legislatures, Congresses, and thousands of voters: it is not injustice, but, on the contrary, it is the expression of a wise anxiety to suggest that such a system is fraught with danger to the prosperity of the people and to the purity of their government. If, in the time of Andrew Jackson, the existence of a national bank with a capital of only thirty-five millions of dollars, and a few branches here and there, was considered dangerous to the welfare and the institutions of the country, what shall we say of a wide-spread combination of two thousand national banks, now wielding nearly five hundred millions of capital and destined, if perpetuated, to vastly multiply in number, and to control thousands of millions?

3. A third objection to the National Bank circulation is, that it is a special privilege that puts many millions of dollars annually into the pockets of the stockholders and takes many millions annually out of the pockets of the people.

The general rule is that a person pays interest upon what he owes; but in the case of a bank note this rule is reversed. The note is a debt due by the bank but instead of paying interest upon it, the bank is authorized to loan it as money, and take interest upon the loan. It thus enjoys a privilege that no one else enjoys. It draws interest upon its own indebtedness, and this privilege of the National Banks brings them an annual income of probably twenty millions of dollars. Their aggregate circulation is, in round numbers, three hundred and twenty two millions. I think it may be reasonably assumed that three hundred millions of these notes are loaned at an average rate of interest of at least seven per cent. If so, the annual interest they receive for the loan, not of money, not of capital, but of their own indebtedness, is twenty-one million dollars. And this sum is taken out of the annual product of the country, before that product is divided between labor and capital. The general rule is, that the product of human industry is ultimately divided between labor and capital: but when a bank note circulation is used the banks first step in, and, by virtue of their special privilege, take a large slice in the shape of interest upon their own indebtedness. In the case of our national banks, the slice, as we have seen, amounts to twenty-nine millions every year. Now, if there can be no sound paper currency but bank notes, then there is nothing left for us but to bear this burthen or try to reduce the amount of the exaction. But if the greenback is as good as the bank note; and nobody denies that it is, why should it not be substituted for the bank note, and an end put to the exaction?

And, consider further, that for every greenback it has issued the government has received value. The greenback has paid for services rendered, or materials furnished, or it has discharged a portion of the interest bearing public debt. There is thus a saving to the government, or to the people, of an amount equal to the interest upon the outstanding greenback circulation; for, had the greenback not been issued, the government would have had to raise the money, by loan or taxation, to meet its expenditures. If it raised it by loan, it would, of course, have to pay interest upon the loan. If it raised it by taxation, the tax-payers lose the interest their money would have earned had they not been compelled to give it to the government.

The greenbacks now outstanding amount to $346,681,016. Computing interest upon this sum at the lowest rate at which the government can borrow money, 4 per cent, and we have an annual saving to the people, resulting from the use of the greenback, of $13,867,240. But if greenbacks were substituted for the $322,000,000 of national bank notes now outstanding, there would be a further saving to the people of 4 per cent annually on that sum, namely, $12,888,000—making a total annual saving by the use of the greenback of $26,747,210. From this, however, deduct the taxes on their circulation paid by the banks, amounting to about three millions annually, and the net saving would be about twenty-three and three-quarter millions. Perhaps, in strictness, this deduction for taxes ought not to be made, for it is probable that the banks throw the burthen of taxation upon their customers, who in turn shift it to the shoulders of those with whom they deal, until, like all other taxation, it finally falls upon the great body of consumers, the people.

I have thus given you, fellow-citizens, some reasons in favor of substituting greenbacks for bank notes. I now proceed to consider the only objection to the substitution that seems to have much weight. It is said that if greenbacks were to constitute our only paper currency, its volume would depend upon the action of Congress, and not upon the natural laws of trade; and that as Congress is liable to be influenced by popular feeling on one hand, or the arts and appliances of special interests on the other, the currency would be subject to inflation or contraction, as either influence might prevail, to a degree that would be ruinous to business and prosperity.

In answer to this objection, and admitting that it is not without force, I have to say, in the first place, that it is equally potent whether our paper currency be greenbacks exclusively or bank notes exclusively; for, let it be the one or the other, Congress would have the *power* to expand it or contract it at will. For instance, were Congress to repeal the tax on State bank circulation, a multitude of banks would spring up under State laws, and a great inflation of the currency would take place. On the other hand, should Congress retain that tax and retire the greenbacks, as the Republican financiers demand, a frightful contraction would result. In brief, if Congress should have neither sense nor honesty, it might, for the time being, ruin the country; but to assume that it would do so would be to condemn our form of government.

But our platform squarely meets this difficulty. It condemns contraction on the one hand or "kiting" on the other. It demands that "the amount of such issues (greenbacks) be so regulated by legislation or organic law as to give the people an assurance of stability in volume of currency and consequent stability of value," and in unmistakable terms, it opposes the demonetization, or disuse, of the precious metals. Could anything I appeal to you, be more conservative than this, if conservatism means to conserve the interests of the people at large and not those of a particular class? Can any intelligent man reasonably object to a policy that preserves gold and silver from destruction and demands a stability in the volume and value of the currency greater than has ever yet been attained?

Fellow-citizens, our platform has been denounced by men who never read it, and by others whose interests or prejudices incline them to misrepresent it; and now the answer I make to them is to ask you to read and to study it. It is vain for its enemies to say that it means what it does not express. Its language is too plain to be misunderstood by a candid man and the character of the committee that reported, and the convention that adopted it, is sufficient to shield it from the charge of deception. It is an honest platform and means just what it says. It means opposition to monopoly, opposition to special privileges, opposition to contraction of the currency, opposition to the demonetization of the metals, opposition to wasteful expenditure and opposition to a never ending public debt. And it means equal rights and privileges, an honest and stable currency, a strict economy and lighter taxes, and a faithful payment of the public debt. It gives no sanction to irreligion and communism; but it fully recognizes the dignity of labor, and sincerely sympathizes with the laboring man in his toil and privation. It asserts the principles upon which the government was founded, and which are essential to its usefulness and perpetuity. It promotes fraternal feeling throughout the length and breadth of the Republic and condemns sectionalism as the worst foe of the Union. In a word, it is an honest platform of honest men, a patriotic platform for patriots to stand upon.

Fellow-citizens, if I am not in error in what I have said, I have given you a sufficient reason why there should be a change in our Federal administration. If our financial policy is correct, that of the Republican party, or at least of those who shape its legislation, is wrong. If this be so, then, as soon as the forms of the constitution will permit, that party should cease to rule.

But there are other reasons why there should be a change, and to some of them I wish briefly to call your attention.

The claim of a party in power to a prolongation of its rule necessarily involves an inquiry into its policy and government in the past. If its past rule has been vicious or unwise, prudence obviously dictates that an end, for the time being, at least, should be put to its dominion.

Now, has the rule of the Republican party since the close of the civil war, thirteen years ago, been wise and beneficent? I think that this question must be answered in the negative. It is not necessary to go into a detailed examination of all its measures, nor could that be done in the limit of a speech, or indeed many speeches. Nor is it necessary to assert that all its measures have been bad and injurious. It is sufficient to look at the general result, and see whether that is good government and prosperity or the reverse. Now, certainly no one will deny that this country has for the last five years suffered, as perhaps no other country ever did suffer, from depression in every branch of business, in every industrious occupation. The entire body of the producing classes—employers, employees and middlemen—have been affected.—Bankruptcies are numbered by tens if not by hundreds of thousands, and the aggregate of losses almost defies computation. The number of laborers thrown out of employment or reduced to half time and diminished wages has been estimated by millions, and however exaggerated the estimate may be, the extent of the evil has no parallel in the history of this if, indeed, it has in the history of any people. Startling is the fact, and at first view almost incomprehensible, that in a country whose population averages but eleven persons to the square mile there have been, and there are yet, thousands destitute of bread. A single interest—the moneyed interest—has flourished and yet flourishes, and that, it is to be remembered, is precisely that interest that has received the fostering care of Republican legislation. Now, my friends, so far as this deplorable state of things is the result of vicious legislation or of the omission of wise legislation, the Republican party, or at least those who have controlled it, are responsible. From the 4th day of March, 1861, to the first Monday in December, 1875, more than fourteen years, that party had uncontrolled power power in every department of the Federal government, and since then it has continued to hold the Senate and the Presidency, and to have the consequent power to negative any measure of relief a Democratic House of Representatives might propose.

Is there, then, any injustice in calling that party to account for the evils the country has suffered and yet suffers? Can it with truth be said that the evils could