

THE DAILY JOURNAL, published every morning, except on Sundays and public holidays, at No. 100 North Second Street, Wilmington, N. C. Price, two cents per copy, in advance, \$1.00 per annum.

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WHAT THE EAST ASKS.

The Raleigh News publishes a letter under the title of "The East's Appeal," which presents the claims of the East for relief at the hands of the Convention in a strong light, and makes an apology for its publication in a commendable way.

The News says editorially of the letter: "In our issue of yesterday morning there appeared a communication from a distinguished gentleman upon the question now before the Convention, of doing that justice to the East which its condition so imperatively demands."

Our correspondent, as the champion of the East, relieves the demand of all its objectionable features. He presents facts which are incontrovertible. He exhibits a strength in the East which had not been acknowledged.

What the West asks. Raleigh, N. C., Oct. 9, 1875. Messrs. Editors: Enclosed is your excellent paper of this morning's issue. "The West will yield to facts and to sympathies where it would not be influenced by threats which some of the Eastern journals have been imprudent enough to utter."

I protest, Messrs. Editors, respectfully but most earnestly against the imputation contained in the above upon the course of the Eastern journals in regard to certain measures of relief asked by the white people of that section at the hands of the Convention now in session.

How far this fact accounts for the liberal support given by some counties to these papers it is not necessary here to enquire. In New Hanover there are two democratic papers, and there is one each in Edgecombe, Craven, Halifax, Granville and Lenoir—all of these counties, save Caswell, without representation in the Convention.

Now, Sir, what are the threats that Eastern journals have been imprudent enough to utter in behalf of their powerless and helpless readers? So far as appears they consist of assertions of the vital importance of certain measures of relief, and expressions of fear that if they are not granted it will be impossible to bring the white people of the negro counties to the polls in general election. There can be no doubt about the genuineness of Eastern journals upon these questions.

The head body of the colored man and negro to touch it in the belief that he was guilty, accused blood would wash from the gates of hell. And this is the case in the city of Wilmington, certainly the largest if not the most enlightened and refined city in the State.

And who and how many, Mr. Editor, are these disfranchised people, who have no representation, save that they get through the press? According to the last census returns the number of white voters in the following counties, all of which have negro majorities, is as follows:

Table with 2 columns: County Name and Number of White Voters. Includes Bertie (1,228), Caswell (1,510), Craven (2,028), Edgecombe (1,747), Granville (2,496), Halifax (1,469), Lenoir (1,038), New Hanover (2,884), Northampton (1,315), Warren (1,123).

The aggregate white vote of the State by the same census is shown to be 141,433, so that the white vote of the negro counties constitutes near one-eighth of the entire white vote of the State.

But let us look at these disfranchised people from another point of view. If they do not receive their full share of the privileges, they are certainly compelled to bear their full share of the burdens of the government.

The last Auditor's Report shows that for the support of the government of this State \$77,962.86 were collected in taxes of which the negro counties named alone paid as follows:

Table with 2 columns: County Name and Amount Paid. Includes Bertie (\$7,949.88), Caswell (8,058.79), Craven (12,551.37), Edgecombe (26,479.16), Granville (15,677.98), Halifax (15,763.71), Lenoir (8,011.89), New Hanover (44,030.75), Northampton (11,533.24), Warren (11,012.16).

So that it appears the negro people in these ten negro counties, unrepresented as they are, pay within a fraction of one-fourth of the entire expenses of the State government, for it is well known that negroes pay little or no taxes.

But suppose, Mr. Editor, that it is not only a threat, but a threat that it is imprudent to utter in the sensitive ear of all powerful Western friends, all powerful at least in the Convention, suppose we say that it is a threat for an Eastern journal to urge warmly that the present system of electing Magistrates must be changed, on the ground that if the amendments do not provide, the white people of the negro counties will cease nothing for their ratification, and will greatly weaken in their attachment for the Democratic party, from whom it may be permitted to ask, did Eastern journals learn the argument? If I mistake not, it was heard from Warren, N. C.

It should happen that relief should be intended by the State, it would possess singularly profitable white voters, who pay \$12,243.28 in taxes, all-motoring negro white voter, who pay \$7,071,000. It is a most curious fact, that these strange spectacles of 2,444 disfranchised voters, amounting to 14,186 Democratic voters for the counties of Allghany, Cherokee, Clay, Surry and Transylvania, with a white strength of 5,040 voters, contribute to the establishment of the Democratic party for Governor in 1872, while the negro counties of Bertie, Caswell, Craven, Edgecombe, Granville, Halifax, Lenoir, New Hanover, Northampton and Warren, with a white strength of 16,818 votes, cast 14,289 for him.

Western gentlemen expect 14 out of 16 white voters to go to the polls in the East for a party that regards only Western interests, while 8 only out of 15 in the West go to the polls for that party? What would be the condition of the Democratic party, if the white men of the negro counties voted in the same proportion as the white men of the West? Is there any hope of means that does not lie in the heavy vote given by negro counties? If anything be asked of the white men of the negro counties, but nothing shall be done for them by the Democratic party, how long can they be expected to remain true to that party?

I sincerely trust, Mr. Editor, that our friends in the Convention will put a and consider before they determine to refuse all relief to the people of the East. The white voters of the East are a noble set of men, but after all they are only men, and it will be idle for gentlemen of the West to expect a full vote if the dearest local interest of the East shall be disregarded.

I sincerely trust the experiment of trying to win a Democratic victory, without the enthusiastic support of the white voters in the negro counties will not be attempted. The man who, because of the smallness of the number of the negro counties thinks they can be disregarded, will surely come to grief. It may be they are only ten in number; their white voters constitute one-eighth of the white vote of the State, and they pay within a fraction of one-fourth of the entire expenses of the State, and they will be disregarded at the peril of the man and at the peril of the party so foolish as to attempt it.

I beg pardon, Mr. Editor, for occupying so much of your valuable space, but the importance of the subject, and the facts necessary to be stated, have rendered it impossible to say less. Yours respectfully, S.

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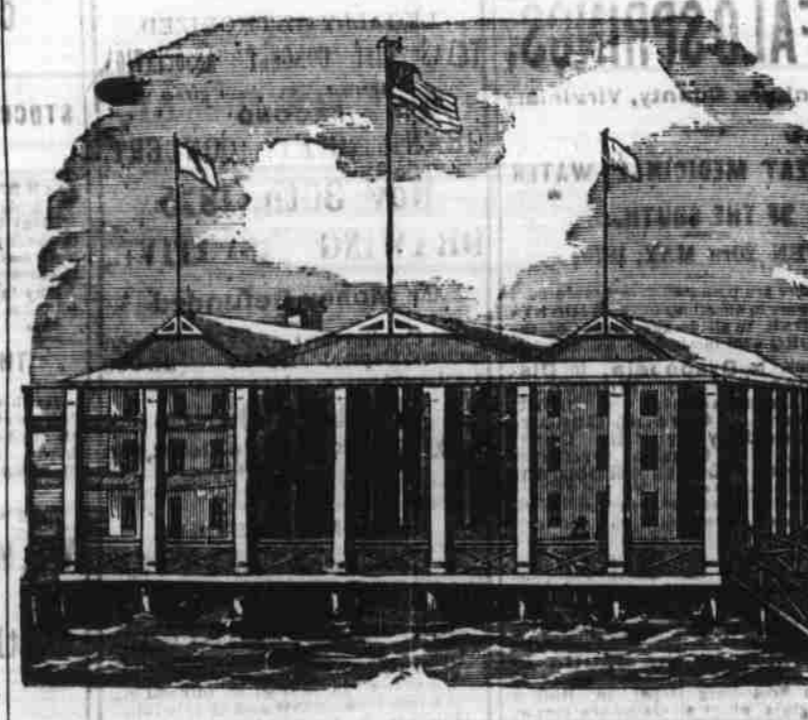
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