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THE BUSINESS OUTLOOK.

The "good time coming" has already come, if we may trust sanguine editors of the North. All the papers are discussing the outlook, and all appear to be confident that already there is manifest improvement and that the prospect is very cheering.

The New York Graphic says there is no mistake about it—that better times have already come. We quote: "Everything promises a better fall and winter trade than we have had for the last four years. We not only have enormous crops, but it is settled that there will be a market for them on the other side of the water at very good prices. Coal has advanced, and the best authorities believe that it is not likely to fall back to the old figures. Merchants, everywhere, who are out of debt, are preparing for the largest demand they have known for years. There is a general feeling of confidence in all commercial quarters. Bottom prices have been reached, and with proper legislation by Congress there is scarcely a doubt but that there will be a large and profitable business transacted during the coming year."

We trust these hopes and expectations will be fully realized. The country is in a very depressed condition, and if some reaction does not take place, and at an early day, there will be great suffering and immense failures. The men of means at the North have got to give work to the laborers, or to feed them. There is no other alternative. Most of the mechanics and operatives in factories had been able to save something, and to deposit in the savings banks, but during the last year or two, owing to the scarcity of work and reduced wages, they have spent all their savings, and now must have work, or be fed without work. The manufacturers and other capitalists will be compelled to carry on their operations, and they must find a market somewhere.

We hope the "good time" has come, for almost the last feather has been laid on the camel's back. Relief must be found this winter, or the country will be bad off indeed.

President Hayes is treating his own civil service order with the contempt to which it is subjected by some of the newspapers. Of course he need not expect a ready and willing compliance with an order that is neglected at will by himself and Cabinet. We quote from the Baltimore Sun, a careful paper in its statements:

"Another example of the President 'going back' on his own rules was alluded to by some of the disaffected of his own party here to-day. A short time ago and subsequent to the issue of his civil service rules, the President wrote a letter to the collector of one of the largest Atlantic ports recommending an appointment in the custom house. It is not known whether the appointment asked for has yet been made, but as a request of that character from the President is equivalent to a command it can be confidently counted on that the appointment will be made, civil service rules or no civil service rules. Still another instance where the President breaks his own rules is pointed out in the case of William Henry Smith, just appointed as Collector of the port of Chicago. To make way for Mr. Smith the President has removed J. Russell Jones, whose term has not more than half expired, and against whose competency there has been no complaint. Mr. Smith is the general manager of the Western Associated Press, at a salary of \$6,000 per annum. The salary as Collector of the port of Chicago is \$5,000 per annum, and it is understood here that Mr. Smith is to hold on to both positions and receive both salaries. Last year the Western Democratic papers complained very strongly that Mr. Smith professed his powers as associated Press manager in the interest of the Republican party."

The New York Tribune advises people in search of homes "to go South." We hope in this instance it means well—that there is no wooden horse in the scheme. The South stands prepared to greet kindly all honest, deserving men who may come with the purpose of remaining, and of aiding in building up and developing our country. We want settlers, not fellows who come to steal, to plunder and destroy. In other words, we do not want the "carpet-bag" tribe. Read the following from Orangeburg, S. C., from county and State, and Solicitor Jervey will be furnished with evidence.

"The gallant" gentleman referred to was the late Major John Pelham, of Confederate fame, who was killed in the war when quite a young man, and who was born in Person county, N. C. We state this upon the authority of the late Dr. Thomas P. Atkinson, of Danville, Virginia, who was a walking cyclopedia of facts and dates, and a genial, witty, high-toned gentleman.

Granville sends four students to the University.

CORNELL AND THE PRESIDENT.

When we bestow praise we mean precisely what we say. When we censure we mean, too, precisely what we say. We do not satirize or attack any man unless we feel fully satisfied that he deserves it. When we have uttered words of approval of the President's course we were quite serious and quite honest. We meant precisely what we said. When we have spoken disparagingly of some of his official acts we were equally serious and sincere.

We cannot approve of Mr. Hayes's course in regard to his boasted civil service order. We think he has placed himself in a rather unfortunate and absurd position before the country. He has betrayed a weakness and vacillation that are unfortunate, possibly humiliating to himself. He has put his hand to the plough of reform that is so needful in these corrupt times, for the political fields are overgrown with noxious plants and exhausting weeds, but unfortunately he has begun to look back. He should have proudly proclaimed, "I take no step backward." *Nulla actio retrosum.* Mr. Cornell holds an important office in New York under the United States Government. The civil service order applied to him. What does he do? Obey, like thousands of other officials, or defy the government? He is the friend of Senator Conkling, and is sustained by him in his action. He, therefore, refuses stiffly to do as ordered, declaring that it was an infringement, an invasion of his rights as a freeman, and that he would not tamely submit to such an impertinent domination. He would stand by his guns, and would squarely meet the President and defy all his authority. Such is the attitude of Cornell. The whole country looks on and wonders what will be the result of the issue thus clearly made. Will the President be firm, resolute, prompt, or will he change his tactics, shift his position, beat a retreat, and take shelter under some new dodge?

We are pained to know that the weakness and vacillation of the President have given the victory to Cornell. Cowardice has won the day in one sense. Cornell has triumphed through the timidity and faltering course of the President. The country was greatly interested in this contest. If a refractory servant came out conqueror, then a fatal blow was given to the reform movement that is so necessary at this time, and upon which depends so much that is of the utmost importance to the country at large. It is a test case. If Cornell succeeds in defying Hayes, then the other office-holders may do likewise, and then the civil service order is torn into shreds and scattered to the winds. It was a challenge thrown boldly at the feet of the President. It was throwing the gauntlet down and defying the President to a trial of strength. The result is a backdown on the part of the President, a change of accusation—a hiding behind a new dodge. The New York Herald, that is kindly disposed towards Mr. Hayes, thus states the case:

"Does Mr. Hayes mean to advertise to the country that if Mr. Cornell were a competent officer he would ignore and condone his contempt of the civil service order? Does he intend to have it understood that he will not suspend officers for mere disobedience of that order unless he can also accuse them of incapacity or inefficiency in discharging the duties prescribed to them by law? If he has retreated to this position what respect will be paid to the civil service order? If open and defiant contempt of it, such as has been exhibited by Mr. Cornell, is not to be regarded as of itself a ground of removal, then the civil service order is stamped by the President himself as a mere nominal instrumentality which may be safely defied by any officer against whom it is not possible to take up other charges."

But when, instead of promptly and boldly suspending Mr. Cornell for public and contemptuous defiance of the order, he hesitates and recedes and makes up his mind to suspend him for another and entirely different cause, he has no reason to complain if the public draw inference that he dares not make a fight on the issue so distinctly tendered. The postponement alone is a symptom of vacillation, but the threat of removing Cornell at a future day for an entirely different cause is equivalent to saying that any officer who defies the order, but is correct in other respects, may defy it with impunity."

It would be unfair to the President if we did not state that his power does not extend to a removal from office of a recalcitrant or even corrupt official, but he can only suspend him until Congress meets, when the Senate can review the matter, and either confirm the action taken, or restore the suspended official to his place. The President is evidently afraid of the Senate. He knows that Morton, Blaine, and Cameron are no friends of either himself or his policy, and he dreads to test their strength in that tribunal. The Tenure of Office law, that was passed by a Republican Senate to hamper Andrew Johnson, is the stumbling block in the way of President Hayes. Under it he has no power to remove from office.

THE OAKSMITH DOCUMENT.

As the two Observers, Raleigh and Charlotte, have been pleased to criticize the STAR with reference to the Oaksmith document, we must have one more brief essay.

What is the head and front of our offending? We questioned a date—that was all. We have never raised any question as to the genuineness of the document as published. It may be all right for aught we know. We merely suggested that the occurrence of the words *United States* might arouse suspicion, not as to the genuineness of the document, but as to its age, as to the date of the document. We thought, and still think, that 1774 is possibly older than the document, and for the reason we assigned, which was the occasion of an "intolerant" exhibition on the part of our sometimes "moderate in tone" Raleigh contemporary. We do not understand from the Raleigh Observer that the date 1774 is affixed to the document. If we are mistaken in this we shall be glad to be put right. At any rate, there is no date affixed or prefixed or accompanying the document as published. It is mentioned editorially, but that was an inference, as we supposed, of the editor of the paper or of Mr. Oaksmith. If the date is a part of the document, and if the document is really genuine, which we have never denied, then no test can destroy its value as a witness for North Carolina patriotism and zeal in behalf of liberty and independence. In case the date is not a part of the document, then we most respectfully and delicately suggest that the words *United States* will be extremely useful in determining its date. Now that is all we have said or meant to say. "Behold, how great a matter a little fire kindleth."

Our Charlotte contemporary was kind and appreciative enough to read us a lecture after the following style: "Seeing this pleasant reference in a Virginia paper to the document in question, leads us to remark, without offence, we hope, that the Wilmington STAR is doing itself no credit by attempting to cast a shadow upon the authenticity of this document before it has seen it, and will not raise itself any in the estimation of the people of North Carolina, by attempting to strip the State of any of its revolutionary glory."

Probably what we published in the STAR of the 9th, in reply to the Raleigh Observer, and what we have said above, are sufficient to put us right in the estimation of our critics. We must add, however, that we deny with decided emphasis that in any way, or upon any occasion, has the STAR ever "attempted to strip the State of any of its revolutionary glory." We are as true to North Carolina as is the Charlotte Observer. We are as prompt to uphold her good name and defend her honor as our contemporary, or indeed as any paper or any man. We stand by the true historic record of the State, and are prepared to make it good against all comers.

The people of North Carolina are too sensible not to allow investigation before belief is demanded. When a document is thoroughly examined and has borne the test, then we stand by it. But we do not feel ourselves called upon to "go off half-cocked" over every document that is unearthed among the papers of dead men. We propose to exercise some caution before we pin our faith to any newly discovered document.

We have had two lessons recently as to the folly of giving credence to all statements that may be made that are calculated to give "glory" to North Carolina. We refer to the telegraph and the torpedo discoveries. The former was discovered by an ingenious Frenchman in the last century; the other was invented nearly or quite a hundred years ago, or over seventy years before Rains ever utilized or improved it.

When we have examined a question or point with due particularity, and have made up our judgment, we are not afraid to express it when we consider it necessary, nor are we to be deterred from doing so by any amount of scolding or unjust censure. We would bear a great deal before we would prostitute ourselves to say we believed a document genuine when we really felt assured it was spurious, however much said spurious document if blindly accepted by all, at home and abroad, might invest North Carolina with "a glory" which she was not entitled, and which she does not need to make her great and illustrious. We believe in independent investigation and independent thought. We examine both sides of a question before we undertake to dogmatize about it, and when our opinion is formed, we do not hesitate to maintain it with proper temper and becoming language.

The STAR has never contained any words calculated to throw discredit upon "the genuineness of the Mecklenburg Declaration of 20th May, 1775." Nor will it so contain as long as it is under the present management. What may be the views of this member of the staff or this member, at this time or at another time, is a matter with which the public has nothing to do so long as those views are not paraded in these columns.

COURT COMMISSIONERS.

The Board met in special session yesterday afternoon, at 3 o'clock; present, J. G. Wagner, Chairman, and Commissioners E. G. Worth, I. B. Grainger, D. S. Sanders and Duncan Holmes.

The Board being called to order, A. B. Black, Esq., came forward and pleaded according to law as School Examiner for the county of New Hanover.

Frank Moore, Constable elect for Cape Fear Township, came before the Board and qualified according to the requirements of the law, tendering his official bond in the sum of \$500, with Claus Schivel and Jackson Wood as sureties, which was, on motion, ordered received and placed on file.

Nicholas Carr, Constable elect for Masonboro Township, came forward and qualified according to law, tendering his official bond in the sum of \$1,000, with Geo. F. Tilly and A. O. H. Finck as sureties, which was, on motion, ordered received, put on record and placed on file.

On motion, it was ordered that the bond of the Constable of Wilmington Township be fixed at \$1,000.

On motion, it was ordered that all township claims against townships which have no funds be referred to the County Attorney, to report on the liability of the county with regard to such claims.

The Board proceeded to draw the regular session of jurors for the October term of the Criminal Court, as follows:

First Week—Edmund Lilly, Julius F. Reeves, Samuel L. Nixon, Jos. H. Neff, Allen Evans, Jas. C. Stevenson, Jos. Starnell, David Jones, Wilkes Morris, Isham Swett, W. M. Hankins, W. M. Collins.

Second Week—G. Boney, Peter Timms, Samuel N. Cannon, Virgil Hill, C. U. More, Newton Gilchrist, Wright Dixon, Charles H. King, Samuel Merrick, L. McGinnis, C. M. McAustin, Thomas Franks, Ellis Dudley, Daniel O'Connor, E. F. Bryant, James Walton, Delrich Stiefes, A. Schriver.

On motion, it was ordered that the Chairman be authorized to complete a contract with Dr. A. E. Wright for certain specified duties in connection with Coroner's inquests, examining the insane and attending the out-door poor beyond the limits of the city, for the sum of \$300 per annum.

On motion, the Board adjourned, subject to the call of the Chairman.

The Rice Crop.—We learn that the rice crop is little later than usual in this section the present season. It is generally cut about the 1st of September, whereas this year it has not yet been touched, but the most of it will probably be cut on or about the 15th inst., though we hear of one or two crops that will be harvested two or three days earlier. The rice birds are quite numerous, which necessitates the laying in, by the planters, of a good stock of ammunition. It may be safe to assume, therefore, that rice birds will be cheap in a few days, or as soon as they get fat enough for the market. The rice crop is very good in this section.

THE STORM IN THE COUNTRY.

We learn from a gentleman, who started to Masonboro Sound yesterday afternoon, but who turned back in consequence of the difficulty he encountered in making his way, that the turpentine was overflowed in many places. The bridge at the first Masonboro turnout was found floating in the road, while the pond just this side of the second Masonboro bridge was barely passable; the water being above the hubs of the wheels.

The bridge over the Tommer Mill branch on the Masonboro turnpike, was washed away. Several fords on the other road were rendered impassable. Several parties made the attempt to reach the Sounds during the afternoon, but how many succeeded we are unable at this writing to say. The roads were flooded to such an extent that it was a dangerous experiment.

We learn that the bridge over Point Mill Creek, nearly abreast of the National Cemetery, was swept away, and no doubt, many of the bridges on the other roads shared the same fate.

A gentleman who arrived here yesterday evening, as wet as a "drowned rat," informs us that in the Hood's Creek section, in Brunswick county, through which he passed, the whole country is flooded; no such rains as that of yesterday and the day before having fallen there for many years.

Preparations for the Accommodation of the Military Visitors to the State.—We learn from the Raleigh Observer that Camp Russell has been secured for the use and occupancy of the visiting military during Fair week. Our contemporary adds: "Camp Russell is the garrison recently occupied by the Federal troops, and the barracks are in superb order, neat and clean, beautiful parade grounds, elegant kitchens, dining halls, a convenient distance from the heart of the city, in fact just the place best suited for the citizen soldiery that will be present at the Fair. There are good wells of water, cisterns, sinks, shaded groves, flower gardens in short every attraction and convenience that the Government of the United States could possibly bestow upon it for the next two years. We learn that twenty-four volunteer companies are expected at the Fair, and at Camp Russell there is ample room for all, as the buildings and grounds occupy several acres."

Wilmington as a Grocery Market.—The last issue of the Raleigh Observer uses the following sensible and significant remarks: "There is no reason why Wilmington, with its superior natural advantages, having marine commerce direct with the ports of the world, and nearer, by several hundred miles, to the Cuban sugar and molasses markets than New York, should not be the great center for staple groceries with North Carolina merchants. We are glad to note the fact that it is fast becoming so; and only a little more energy on the part of the Wilmington merchants is required to develop a much larger trade than they now enjoy."

Spirits Turpentine.

The Family College had 85 students, when last heard from.

Orange Presbytery meets at Milton on the 13th inst.

The "Honorable" Legislators are now and then heard from.

Over 1,000 sheep will be shipped North this fall from Yancey and Macon counties.

Fifty-two persons have recently professed religion on Newton circuit, M. E. Conference.

Mrs. Vaughan, in Mecklenburg, by mistake gave a child a dose of morphine, from which it died.

Buncombe and Yancey had a Fruit Fair at Asheville on the 8th. Yancey exhibited 85 varieties of apples.

William Robinson, Esq., of Goldsboro, died on the 8th inst., aged 92. He was an old editor and a man of talents.

General Sax: We are sorry to hear that our old townsman, Alex. Patterson, now living in Bryant City, Texas, was bitten by a snake.

And now it turns out it ain't Scott Partin after all. And Clay Crawford went Osman Pasha, nor Bazaine want a Turk either for all that.

Reidsville News: J. W. Reid, of Wentworth, was thrown from a wagon last week and very badly hurt, but no serious damage, and we are glad to hear he is rapidly recovering.

The Hickory Press has a big snake story. His snake bit a "thirty foot long," if he did have a head "as huge as a gibbon's," and could be "heard blowing nearly a mile."

Mr. H. S. Shaffer, a Northern man, resident in Davidson county, has swapped homes with Judge Howk, of Kannas, in Tennessee; by which Shaffer leaves to educate his children, and because if he were to run for office he would be dubbed a "Montpelier-bagger," so says the Bellville Times.

Superintendent Mills, with a chapter of orphans, will give entertainments at the following places: Friday, 14; Pink Hill, Saturday, Sept. 15; Catherine Lake, Monday, Sept. 17; Onslow Court-house, Tuesday, Sept. 18; Trenton, Wednesday, Sept. 19; Kingston, Thursday, Sept. 20; Hillsboro, Friday, Sept. 21; Snow Hill, Saturday, Sept. 22; Gastonia, Sunday, Sept. 23; Falkland, Tuesday, Sept. 24; Speight's Bridge, Wednesday, Sept. 25.

Hickory Press: Farmers in McDowell have begun cutting tobacco. Last Wednesday a gang of wild turkeys was on the railroad six miles above Hickory, and the East-bound train, which was one jumped on the cow-catcher and rode to town. The camp-meeting held at Nebo, embracing last Sabbath, was very largely attended. Excursion trains from the city to Hickory were run on Sunday and an unusually large crowd was present. Gov. Vance making one of the numbers.

Danbury Reporter: In Sauratown, twenty three rattlesnakes have been killed in a mile square this season, and still the people are not happy. We learn that a party of citizens at Lawsonsville, last Sunday, in which several parties participated. Sundry cuts and bruises were the result. Lee Bennett, living a few miles distant, lost his house, with most of contents, by fire a few nights ago. His grain, meat, etc., were consumed. We have been informed of the horrible death of Mrs. Astrop, which occurred last Wednesday, at her residence, near Patrick C. H. Her husband was at work on the farm and she was literally burned from her body, resulting in fatal injury.

Oxford Free Lance: The colored people are becoming fully aroused on the subject of education in the county, and are naturally indignant that the School Fund should be so carelessly administered, for which it was intended.

The Primitive Baptist Association was held at Lebanon Church last week and was largely attended, as many as 5,000 people being present. The session of the County Commissioners representative student to University of the State from the county of Granville, in pursuance of an act of the General Assembly, passed on Sunday, last, an old resident of Oxford, but for a number of years living in Kentucky, returned to this place on Monday last. We understand it is the intention of Mr. Stegall to make Oxford his permanent home for the remainder of his days.

Montic Airquirer: Mr. Josiah Wentz, found in the woods near Pleasant Bentons, on the 31st ult., the body of a pine tree, about twenty-five feet high, the top having been broken off many years ago, and the trunk being a hollow shell, in which the topless tree has continued to live and grow as if it were whole. We learn that Mr. Wm. Love was severely cut, while engaged in cutting wood, on Sunday, last, near his father, who was driving a wooden pin into the trunk with an axe, when the axe slipped from the handle, and the edge struck him about the middle of the chest on the right eye. One corner of the axe cut into the eye-ball; then the corner, and through the lower eyelid; then, striking between the nose and cheek bone, laid open a rash abscess, which, severing the bone entirely.

Montic Express: We learn from Mr. C. N. Simpson, Register of Deeds, that recent investigation discloses the fact that there is still due and unpaid \$45,000 of the original \$60,000 of bonds issued by the State in 1876, in favor of the W. C. & R. R. From the Register's statement we learn that from the first Monday in September, 1876, to the first Monday in September, 1877, claims were presented in the amount of \$47,713.89, including \$1,225 allowed the keeper of the county jail, and \$250 10 allowed the commissioners for services.

We learn that a severe hail-storm passed over the western part of the county about the 25th ult., on last Saturday evening, doing considerable damage to the fodder and cotton crops. It covered an area about three-quarters of a mile wide and seven miles in length.

Charlotte Observer: The firmness, in its practice, last Saturday afternoon, in Schipra Pass, and the newspapers are spelling his name wrong. And it is such an easy name to spell, too. *North's town Herald.*

THE NEW YORK TIMES.

The New York Times, speaking of the apprehension of evil from women becoming too learned, are much exaggerated, owing to the fact that the female mind is eminently gifted with the capacity of forgetting. Two seasons of fashionable care, certainly three of marriage cares, will efface every vestige of college learning from memory.

Montgomery Blair.—[Special Dispatch to Journal of Commerce.] New York, Sept. 10.

The Post's Washington special says Montgomery Blair has formally entered on the canvass for the United States Senatorship from Maryland. He will go to the Legislature as a member, so that he can manage his own canvass. His principal competitor will be A. S. Gorman, President of the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal and the head of the Democratic machine in Maryland.