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THE PRESIDENT AND HIS PARTY.

The rumors from Washington are conflicting. One report represents the President as yielding to the imperious demands of the Radicals, whilst still another report comes that he will remain firm in his policy.

Probably there is truth in both reports, and the middle ground will be taken by him. He will yield to the persuasions or threats of his opposers so far as to agree not to appoint Democrats to office when sound, reliable and capable Republicans can be secured.

Col. Alex. K. McClure, the editor-in-chief of the Philadelphia Times, is acknowledged on all sides to be a politician of uncommon sagacity.

Probably there is not a wiser editor in our country. Well, Col. McClure is in Washington with his eyes wide open, taking a general survey of the political outlook.

"The great political problem that now awaits solution is the future relations of the President to sustain to the old-time leaders of the Republican party, and the issue is one that must be decided at an early day.

If an adjournment shall be effected next week, which now seems very probable, the severest test of whether Congress shall vote the President, or the President shall vote Congress, and let Congress vote itself, will be postponed for a month; but whether it shall come now, or hereafter, I am persuaded that the Administration will not swerve from its faith.

We see from this that the President will be cautious hereafter as to whom he appoints to office. This is as it should be, for he has made some wretched selections, and has rebuked his own theory of civil service, as his enemies have not done.

Mr. Hayes from the first has had a most difficult course to pursue. The road has been broken, rugged, and beset with manifold dangers of a peculiar kind. He found the country in a most distressed condition.

he done all things precisely as the people of the North desired. But take it all and in all, his administration of public affairs has been really better than we had any right to anticipate.

His greatest failure has been in his appointments to office. He has had bad advisors or very imperfect information, or both. He has been doubtless the error of these selections, and he means to be more careful hereafter, according to Col. McClure.

Mr. Hayes was elected as a Republican, and it is best for him and the country that he should continue in that political creed. Democrats have no right to expect him to desert his party, and they could not respect him at heart if he were to be guilty of such desertion.

Our people are immensely hungry and very poor, and there are thousands of disinterested patriots who are now shivering in the autumn breezes and warming themselves on the sunny sides of streets, who would be perfectly willing to serve their dear country for a small consideration or "such a matter."

But we doubt the safety of such an experiment. Their stomachs could not, after the long fasting, be equal to "a feast of good things." Let Mr. Hayes continue to feed the fellows who have been sucking at the public teats for so many years.

They are used to it. Besides, if it should kill them, this surfeiting, they will make way for better men. We were surprised at the result in the House of the effort of the committee to reduce the army.

It now turns out that the friends of increase triumphed because of Democratic absenteeism. This is not the first time in the history of legislation that the wrong has triumphed through the indifference or infidelity of those who had been chosen to watch over the people's interest.

The Washington correspondent of the Richmond Dispatch writes: "Democratic absentees are responsible for the failure of the effort of the House committee on Appropriations to reduce the army to 20,000 men.

The Senate amendments, leaving the law as it is, were concurred in by the House by a vote of 124 to 123. Mr. Atkins and the members of the committee labored hard to have the House concur in the Senate amendment which allows the army to be recruited to 25,000 men, and would have succeeded if the Democrats had been in their seats.

FATHER-IN-LAW AND SON-IN-LAW.

If we may credit the statements of the Asheville Citizen, Judge Dick does not show much improvement. Experience to him brings no lessons of wisdom. Ephraim is clearly wedded to his idols, but we are of the decided opinion that it is not well for the public weal that he should be "let alone."

The Federal Court has been in session at Asheville, and Judge Dick has exhibited the same indifference to the frauds perpetrated by the officials of his son-in-law Douglas. He manifested no anxiety or willingness to bring the guilty fellows to trial.

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THE PENITENTIARY.

Judge Kerr is quoted as declaring that the penitentiary is not reformatory. He states a fact that is beyond question. It is a robbery of the gallows and of the red an oppressor of the law-payer. If the red is a robbery, the penitentiary is inefficient.

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STOCKHOLDERS MEETINGS.

Proceedings of the Eighth Annual Meeting of the Stockholders of the Wilmington, Columbia & Augusta Railroad Company, held in Wilmington on Tuesday, the 20th of November, 1877.

Pursuant to published notice, the Stockholders of the Wilmington, Columbia & Augusta Railroad Company convened at the office of the Company, in this city, at 9 o'clock A. M., this day.

The meeting was called to order by the appointment of Col. J. B. Palmer, of Columbia, as Chairman, and J. W. Thompson as Secretary.

The committee reported that 2,893 shares were represented, whereupon the meeting was declared to be duly organized.

The President of the Company, Hon. R. B. Bridges, then submitted the annual report of the President and Directors, with the reports of the Superintendent and Treasurer, all of which were ordered to be printed with the proceedings of this meeting.

The following resolution was offered and adopted: Resolved, That the Directors of this Company be authorized to make sale of the three tracts of land, in the county of Pender, at and adjacent to the station on the line of the Wilmington & Weldon Railroad, called Burgess, and also of about three acres of land at or near the town of Tarboro, upon such terms and in such quantities as may by them be deemed most judicious, in accordance with the provisions of any resolutions of the Stockholders of said Wilmington & Weldon Railroad Company on the subject matter of the sale of the lands referred to, that may be adopted at their annual meeting to be held this day, this Company hereby assenting, in all respects to the provisions and requests in said resolution.

The meeting then proceeded to the election of officers for the ensuing year, when Hon. R. B. Bridges was unanimously elected President, and W. T. Walters and J. B. Palmer were elected Vice Presidents.

The following were elected Directors, viz: W. T. Walters, J. D. Cameron, Geo. S. Brown, S. M. Shoemaker, J. B. Palmer, L. D. Childs, B. F. Newcomer, H. B. Short and W. H. Graham.

On motion, it was resolved that the next annual meeting be held in Wilmington on the Tuesday next succeeding the third Monday in November, 1878.

Spirits Turpentine.

—Tom Slack, a "colored citizen" living near Charlotte, hurled a brick at his skull. It is thought she will die.

—Lincolnton Progress: Another convict escaped on Tuesday night from the upper stockade, while the prisoners were being fastened to a chain in the enclosure where they are kept at night with a guard over them. The convict was a negro named Henry Galloway.

—Raleigh Observer: Only fifty-seven druggists were registered at the hotel yesterday. "Aunt" Caroline, the old and faithful servant of Maj. John Devreux, of this city, who has been suffering for many years with heart disease, died suddenly yesterday morning at Maj. Devreux's residence. She was the former slave of Maj. Devreux, and when the announcement came in 1805 that she was free, she said: "Mars John, don't cast me off. I want to stay as long as I can live just as I am." She died, and served her master and mistress as she had done before, and in that household there was nothing too good but old "Aunt" Caroline should have her part.

—Raleigh News: We understand that a dispatch was received by General Robinson, of the North Carolina Railroad, yesterday, that his son-in-law, Mr. Zack Pace, formerly of Company Shops, but recently an engineer on the Mobile & Ohio Railroad, was killed by an accident on that road last Saturday, and that his wife is on her way with his corpse for burial at Company Shops. Ninety-three boxes were ready yesterday, preparatory to sending out the extra copies of the laws of 1877-78, which will be ready for delivery. The young man High who tried to kill his father and mother in Columbus county last week, was pursued and captured in Greenville, S. C., a requisition being issued for his arrest in that county, and he was returned and lodged in Whiteville jail.

—Concord Sun: A negro named John Gill, in the employ of Mr. Teeter, near Harrisburg, was on his way to a mill last Monday, when he was thrown from his mule and killed by a log. The deceased died Sunday evening, and his body was found on Sunday morning. His wife and child John Klutz was found lying dead in the road, near Tulin, this county. Special Coroner E. G. Ervin empaneled a jury and proceeded to hold an inquest over the body, and returned a verdict that the deceased died a natural death. We regret to learn that the wife of our esteemed friend, Dr. Columbus Mills, had her leg broken this week by a fall from a door step.

—Concord Sun: A negro named John Klutz was found lying dead in the road, near Tulin, this county. Special Coroner E. G. Ervin empaneled a jury and proceeded to hold an inquest over the body, and returned a verdict that the deceased died a natural death.

—Monroe Express: The Rocky River Baptist Association held its annual session with the Prospect Church, Stanley county, N. C., commencing on Friday before the fourth Sunday in October. We learn that the Association was well attended and its meeting harmonious and pleasant. Larceny, highway robbery and burglary have become such common crimes that in many parts of the country no man's property is safe, and a man is hardly any part of the State where it is safe.

—Asheville Pioneer: Tuesday Mr. Erwin Sluiter killed a slop-seller, aged 14 months and 16 days, whose combined weight pulled down the scales at 1,138 pounds. The case of W. H. Deaver, ex-Deputy Revenue Collector, charged with receiving stolen goods, will be tried next term, as will also the case of Rev. W. C. McCarthy, charged with embezzlement. To-day two weeks ago Ned Boone shot and fatally wounded John W. Woodin, a grocery man, near from Brinsville. The grocery is owned by C. F. Young, and at the time of the shooting Boone was acting as bar-tender. Woodin was conveyed to his home, where he lingered until Spring term, and died. He was appointed Deputy U. S. Deputy Marshal. At the solicitation of members of both political parties, Mr. H. E. Egan has been appointed U. S. Deputy Marshal.

—Charlotte Observer: Mr. N. Dumont, of the firm of Griffith & Dumont, land agents and editors of the Charlotte Call, left yesterday morning for a two months' trip through the North, with a view of inducing the people of that section to emigrate to North Carolina. Mecklenburg Superior Court will be convened on Monday by Judge Kerr. The docket is as large as it has been within the past three years. There are thirty-two prisoners in jail, and there are eight cases on the criminal docket, while the civil docket contains over two hundred cases. There is one murder case, that of Rufe Lowrance, colored, for killing Hunsucker; a case against Hobbs, colored, for kidnapping a colored man from Irish county; that against Kirkpatrick for forgery, and others of importance, which will consume much time.

—Rafus Young, colored, was tried at the last Spring term, of Rowan Superior Court on charge of murder and convicted. The Supreme Court granted him a new trial, and at the recent term of Rowan Court he was again tried, and this time acquitted. Immediately he was held on another charge of assault with intent to commit rape; and the trial resulted in his conviction and sentence to ten years in the penitentiary. On Monday last he was taken to the head of the Western North Carolina Railroad, and, under the escort of the soldiers there, to work on the line. On Thursday he attempted to escape, and was fired upon and killed by the guard, and Friday saw the earth close over the remains of this misguided wretch. The Porter place, a well known farm in this county, embracing 5804 acres, was sold at the courthouse, yesterday, by W. L. Vall, commissioner, and was bid off by J. W. Wads-worth, Esq., for the sum of \$9,015.

Col. The Young's books have been overhauled and found all right.