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PREJUDICE AND MISREPRESENTATION.

Few men are really fair and just. In controversy they will readily expose their proneness to take undue advantage of an opponent or adversary. To be just and fair is a very rare virtue.

We take a recent instance. The Philadelphia Press is an able Republican paper. It lately professed to have entered upon an independent course whilst remaining true to the Republican party.

There was a time when the Senate was looked up to as an illustration of the most eminent statesmanlike ability. In eloquence, learning, and all the qualities of political leadership, it stood pre-eminent.

We accept this as true. Until the Republican party got possession of the government, and Congress passed completely under its control, the United States Senate was an august body. When the men of the South, who, according to Charles Sumner, controlled and shaped the policy of this country, were dominant in that body.

But the Press, to show how it appreciates the truth, and how elevated are its ideas and principles, has this to say: "In the latter part of his administration ex-Governor Kellogg showed certain qualities that went far to redeem his previous record, but he is not what a Senator from Louisiana ought to be.

The reader will note this immaculate sheet thinks that the corrupt sounder Kellogg is possibly "as good" a Senator as Louisiana could have "under present circumstances."

scrupulous honesty. He was as innocent of the crimes and cruelties charged upon him as any of his traducers. Only last week Judge Merrimon came to his defence in an able, exhaustive speech, in which he fully exposed the dishonest dealings of the Republicans with South Carolina, and showed the absolute falsity of the charges brought by Republicans against the people of that State.

Then Mr. Hoar spoke with a good manner about a bad cause. It was a hard fight that the afternoon's attack on a man charged with bargaining the seat he stands indicted for buying. Very dexterously, standing among the empty desks on the Republican side of the chamber, Mr. Hoar turned the current of remarks and brought Mr. Ransom to his feet.

"He all but gave the lie to the placid-faced New Englander, who sat twenty feet off. He raised his voice until the sleepers on the lounges roused, and men in the easy disabillie of a night session stood in the shadow of the clock room doors. Still he spoke, his face growing darker, his voice husky, his gesture more wildly violent, and through his vehemence there came a fitness that the return of South Carolina to its old representation in the Senate should be so demanded. His voice had tickled to a hoarse whisper as he dropped to his seat, fainting, flushed and dizzy.

Judging from the telegraphic synopsis of the President's Message it is very much such a document as the country had a right to expect. He is clearly opposed to the Silver Bill, and is strongly in favor of the Resumption Act. We will not comment now upon what he has said. We will await the reception of the text of the Message before we discuss any of its features.

Whist no one section will be satisfied probably with all that he says, we believe the general judgment will be that it is a patriotic and, in the main, a judicious document. The North will no doubt be delighted with his views upon the silver bill and the policy of resumption. The country at large, with the exception of demagogues, office-holders, and bull-dozers, will be gratified at his views upon civil service and a constitutional policy. His views in regard to the Mexican question will possibly provoke adverse criticism in every section and among papers of all parties.

Judge Humphreys has delivered an opinion favorable to John J. Patterson, and he has been discharged. Gov. Hampton, of South Carolina, had made a requisition for the varlet, but the Judge held that South Carolina had no power to vacate the Senator's commission. He was no fugitive from justice, but was in Washington in the discharge of his official duties. The Senate will have to judge for itself. How long would such a fellow be allowed to remain in that body if it were composed of men of a high sense of dignity and honor?

It is now said in Washington that there is but one Radical in the Senate who is able to measure swords with Ben Hill, of Georgia, and that is Apollon Conking. When Ben gets in one good thrust at the New Yorker Washington will come to the conclusion that Roscoe's sword is not of "celestial temper."

— Willodge are said to be quite plentiful in Poe Dee river this season.

EDWARD COLLINGS, ESQ., KILLED.

We have never been called upon to report a sadder occurrence than the accidental killing of Edward Collings, Esq., of Halifax, N. C., on Tuesday afternoon, by a railroad train. He was returning from his plantation to his home, on the outskirts of the town, and was walking upon the railroad track. Being extremely deaf, he neither heard the cars nor the repeated signals of alarm, and was hurried into eternity without any sense of impending danger and death. We knew him well. A noble man has fallen with his mental powers in unabated vigor. We write the simple truth when we say that a brave, chivalrous, honest, just, true man has thus perished under the most saddening circumstances. He was a gentleman of fine abilities, and well read in certain departments, and was a capital lawyer. He was a widower, but leaves several children to mourn over their melancholy bereavement. He was thrice married, was a native of Ireland, and was about sixty-two years of age. No man in Halifax county was held in higher esteem, and no man more deserved the confidence of the people. He was a member of the Roman Catholic Church.

We are pleased to see it stated that Senator Butler, of South Carolina, will soon make a statement in the U. S. Senate, of the Hamburg massacre, and demand an investigation. He has been the object of unmitigated abuse and slander, but now that his voice can be heard he will demand a scrutinizing investigation into the whole matter. Heretofore the investigations have been ex parte, without his knowledge, and in the interests purely of the Radical bulldozers. Day is breaking, and honest men and slandered men can be heard once more.

The leading papers of Tennessee are discussing the proposed settlement of the State debt on a basis of 60 cents in the dollar. The Nashville Banner shows most conclusively that this means 70 cents for the general tax. Then add 10 cents for school purposes, and 80 cents on each \$100 of property will have to be paid. This will add 300 per cent. to the rate fixed by the last Legislature. The settlement of the State's debts is a very knotty question—one that will not be arrived at soon we fear.

Judge Kilpatrick, before whom the Pittsburg rioters have been tried, has sentenced them to imprisonment varying from six months to six years and ten months according to the aggravation of the offense. Such judges will never make human life cheap or give a bribe for the perpetration of crime. We remarked a few days ago upon the action of the grand jury who held the railroads responsible for the murders, arson and destruction of property, and not the mob.

The Norfolk Virginia of Sunday, says: "The fine large steamer Metropolis, chartered from a New York Company, arrived here last night. She is to make connection with the Bay Line steamers from Baltimore, and will transfer all freight for the W. & W. R. R. to Wilmington for shipment to the stations on that railroad. Apropos of this, several of the railroad clerks in this city connected with the Atlantic Coast Line will leave for Washington, N. C., tomorrow morning to conduct the business of the company."

The Weekly Washington Star, an advertisement of which appears in this issue, is undoubtedly the leading paper published in Washington, D. C., and to any one desirous of subscribing to a paper published at the National Capital, we would for general purposes, unhesitatingly recommend it.

— Burke county made a good deal of "Jorgum." The Blade says Mr. A. Johnson made 400 gallons of it in a group, which could be found probably in Louisiana.

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS.

The Board of County Commissioners met yesterday afternoon in regular monthly session; present, J. G. Wagner, Esq., Chairman, and Commissioners T. B. Oringer, B. G. Worth, D. S. Sanders and Duncan Holmes.

The Board being called to order, the minutes of the last regular and special meetings were read, and on motion, the same were ordered approved.

The following county officers came before the Board and renewed their official bonds for the ensuing year, according to the requirements of the law, with good and sufficient sureties, viz: E. Hewlett, County Treasurer; S. H. Manning, Sheriff; J. E. Sampson, Register; John D. Taylor, Clerk of the Superior Court; E. D. Hewlett, Coroner.

A communication of A. Hout, in reference to tax assessment, was ordered referred to the Finance committee.

On application from the following named persons they were granted licenses to retail spirituous liquors in the city of Wilmington for the term of three and six months, respectively: H. C. Dravo, R. J. Scarborough, John Meyer, Wm. Ulrich, L. Vickers, Mrs. A. K. Hoyer, Cobb Bros., D. R. Casaday, J. G. Oldenbary, Henry O'Connell, R. F. Eydin, Marty Davis, E. Byrdson, F. Luhrs.

It was ordered that the Chairman and Commissioner Worth be appointed a committee to cause to be repaired the public bridge over Smith's Creek.

It was ordered that a special committee, consisting of the Chairman and Commissioner Worth, be appointed to consult with His Honor, Judge O. P. Meares, and Solicitor Moore in regard to certain indictments found by the Grand Jury at the last term of the Criminal Court against Commissioner Duncan Holmes.

The annual report of the Sheriff of the county of New Hanover in relation to the school fund was presented, approved and ordered spread on the records of official reports and placed on file.

It was ordered that all the annual reports of Magistrates be referred to the Finance committee for examination before being approved.

Application of Alexander A. Jones, to be discharged as road master of the Nigger Head Road, was granted, and James Hardy Moore appointed in his place.

On application, Duncan Holmes, Superintendent of the County Work House, was granted permission to work the county prisoners (under guard) at any place where he can find employment for them.

It was ordered that the proposition of Cronly & Morris, to list, compute and deliver the tax books of Wilmington township, and compute and deliver those of the other townships for 1878 (the same as prepared by them this year) for \$600, be accepted as final, with the understanding that it cover the returning of the delinquent list.

The petition of Jenny Williams, in reference to tax assessment, was referred back for the want of proper information.

North Carolina Conference.

Friday morning, 9 o'clock, the Conference convened according to adjournment, Bishop D. S. Doggett, D. D., in the chair, Dr. S. Doggett, the religious services, reading 2d chapter 1st Timothy. Singing and prayer.

Bishop Doggett made a statement in regard to his inability to reach here before this time. The cause was on account of the broken line of travel. Bishop Doggett said the reading of the minutes suggested to him a matter upon which he wished to say a word. He then made a statement in reference to the telegram of the Associated Press, announcing the death of Bishop Marvin, and while it lacked confirmation, he was fearful that it was true.

The following telegram from Bishop Keener was read: HOLLY SPRINGS, MISS., November 29, 1877. Thomas S. Campbell is transferred to the North Carolina Conference.

Pending this call, Dr. Craven said there were several communications from the publishing house at Nashville, which the Bishop ordered to be read.

The first was from Dr. Thos. O. Sumner, in relation to the Nashville Christian Advocate, and the literature of the Publishing House.

The second was from Dr. J. B. McFerrin, on the subject of Missions, and which gave the assessments made upon the different Conferences. North Carolina Conference was assessed \$5,850.

The third was from Dr. Redford on the liabilities of the Publishing House, &c. Rev. D. R. Burton moved that the first and third be referred to the committee on Books and Periodicals, and the second to the committee on Missions. The reference was so made.

Rev. J. R. Ball, fraternal messenger from the Methodist Protestant Church, was introduced and invited to a seat in the Conference.

The ministers on Raleigh, Hillsboro, Greensboro and Salisbury Districts then passed an examination of character, and were continued on the effective list.

Rev. J. R. Ball made a few remarks on his mission as fraternal messenger, which were listened to with interest.

Rev. P. J. Caraway, fraternal messenger to the Conference of the Methodist Protestant Church, in North Carolina, made a verbal report of his mission.

Dr. Craven introduced the following resolutions: Resolved, That we receive Rev. J. R. Ball, fraternal messenger from the North Carolina Conference of the Methodist Protestant Church, with great pleasure.

Resolved, That two fraternal messengers be appointed to bear the greetings of this Conference to the North Carolina Conference of the Methodist Protestant Church. The resolutions were unanimously adopted.

Spirits Turpentine.

— Charlotte Observer: A friend at Center on the Charlotte & Statesville Railroad writes us that Dr. W. B. Mot, who lives near that place, yesterday morning, killed a sheep which weighed 588 pounds.

— Raleigh Times: A little girl in Person county was so badly bitten in the arm by a sow that her arm had to be amputated. She was a child of Jefferson Brook.

— Morganton Blade: A one horse farmer of Burke left in our office an ear of corn with 1,370 grains on it. Mr. Vance, of Wake county, presented to the House of Representatives a paper relating to the establishment of a post route from Burnsville to Green Mountain, N. C.

— Raleigh News: In Harnett county, near Lillington, at Murchison's mill, one night last week, a fire broke out, burning two negroes, Albert McLean and Vander Murchison, got into a fight, when the latter bit the little finger of one of the hands of the former.

— Newbern Nut Shell: The cotton gin, gin house and cotton scow were burned on the plantation of Mr. Richard Russell, in the upper part of this county, twenty miles from Newbern, about seven o'clock, P. M., on Saturday last.

— Asheville Pioneer: Thursday there passed through here two immense burr stones, that were quarried out on the premises of Mr. George Hagagan, in Madison county. They were intended for Alex. McBeck, of Greenville, S. C., and are said to be equal to the French burr.

— Charlotte Observer: Z. L. Morris, Esq., a well known citizen of Madison county, died yesterday afternoon, from the effects of a stroke of paralysis which he suffered some time ago.

— Raleigh News: The lecture of Gov. Vance upon the subject of the "Deadly Sin" was delivered at Tucker Hall on Thursday evening before a very cultivated audience, who evinced by their applause their appreciation of the pressure which was afforded them.

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