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# THE WEEKLY STAR.

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The New York *Times* is trying to make some cheap capital at the expense of the South, because of the alleged wantonness of Mrs. Helen Campbell removes. It perverts the facts. The case is a simple one. Toussaint has most shamefully slandered our people and the whole people of the South. Mrs. Campbell, a Northern woman earning her butter and bread by teaching the art of cooking in the Peace Institute and the Deaf and Dumb and Blind Asylum at Raleigh, chose to write a letter of approval and endorsement to a Northern paper of Toussaint's slander, declaring that it was "a true picture of Southern life." It will be remembered that Toussaint holds up the religious people of North Carolina as plotting murder and leaving the communion table to go out on the highways to kill and commit other horrible outrages. The press treated Mrs. Campbell with proper courtesy, but suggested that it would be fit and proper for her to leave a land of assassins and go back to her own highly civilized people. The Raleigh *News-Observer* says:

"Nor are we aware that she was required to abandon the position, our understanding of the matter being that she acted on her own suggestion. In other words, Mrs. Campbell, being a lady of business as well as of intelligence and culture, realized at the outset that she had made a business mistake in ascertaining that Toussaint's book contained a true picture of Southern life, and that it would not be pleasant either to herself or her friends to return to her old surroundings here. And so the *Times* does Mrs. Campbell an injustice in suggesting that she desired to return and was obliged to relinquish her position. Our notion of the matter is that under the circumstances she did not prefer to return. We are free to say, however, that if a Northern lady really thinks that the Southern people are in truth the abandoned and depraved wretches that Toussaint paints them, she would not be well suited among us as a guest, nor employed by us as a teacher."

Mr. Edward T. Steel is President of the Board of Education of Philadelphia. He was also a member of the Committee of Finance during the Centennial Exposition, and was the head of the late census department of Philadelphia. He is a leading Republican of that city, and a man of high character. He had been spoken of as a probable nominee of the Reform party of that city for the office of Mayor. This drew from him a letter in which he stated plainly the precise conditions upon which he would agree to become a candidate. He gives the world a true insight into the condition of affairs in the great Republican city, and we propose to copy a part of his letter to the readers of the *Star* may learn from a high Republican authority how very corrupt and rotten is that party in the city aforesaid. Mr. Steel says:

"The reform movement demands the overthrow of a clique of men who have usurped the government of the city. They have accomplished this by quartering an army of men upon the people, who are paid as employees, from the municipal treasury for the nominal service they render the city. These appointees depend upon their power for their places, are ruled with inexorable severity, and are forced to render services often against their honest convictions; their rulers being only hardened to their task by the fact that no department is immune from their power. Whether it be established for the purpose of educating children, for the reform of the State, and provide a liberal salary for their services."

**HOME ABOUT RAILROADS.**  
Gov. Hoyt, of Pennsylvania, has gone beyond Gov. Cornell, of New York, in his views concerning the railroad question and freight discriminations. He urges Congressional action to rectify abuses as they have gone beyond the control of State legislatures. Gov. Hoyt's opinions are being circulated among commercial bodies. The object is to create and foster a public sentiment that will be eventually too strong for the "railroad monopoly." The intelligent New York correspondent of the *Philadelphia Ledger* says in his letter of the 5th inst.:

"It is the State Governors can be brought to take the same position thus occupied by the great States of New York and Pennsylvania, it is believed that the National Legislature would no longer hesitate to place itself in accord with it. Recently the State news papers, Black, deciding that the State news letter, a weekly publication, has been printed in pamphlet form and scattered all over the country."

**THE GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE.**  
According to the brief synopsis of the message of Gov. Jarvis he makes some important recommendations. The *Star* would emphasize its hearty approval of his views concerning an increase of the school fund. It is absurd to expect greater school privileges without a larger appropriation. Money is lacking, and it is the duty of the Legislature to raise it. The more intelligent people will endorse any judicious action that looks to giving the children of the State the very best school advantages possible. Public sentiment has made great strides within a year or two towards a larger provision for the education of the two races, and a bold, wise policy will meet with the response that is desirable, we have no doubt. We are gratified that the Governor, recognizing the importance of making more liberal provisions, recommends an increase of the school tax. Now let the Legislature do its duty.

The Governor's reference to the colored people strikes us as eminently

just and timely. The true people of the State—the law-abiding, reflecting people—should none but kindly feelings for the lately liberated race, and they will be glad to cooperate in all efforts that tend to their elevation and prosperity. Equal rights and equal justice under the law is what all intelligent men are ready to concede, and they will endorse any legislative action that will promote the real interests of the negro intellectually, morally and pecuniarily. The better class of negroes throughout the South are becoming more thrifty and enterprising. In every State there are hundreds of worthy, industrious, frugal colored men, who are increasing their possessions and are adding to the material prosperity and power of the State.

We shall have something else to say, no doubt, of the message when we have received the text.

**A LAW REVISION NEEDED.**  
A revision of the State laws is now in order. Any one who remembers what has been done during the last two or three sessions of the Legislature to amend the laws, and the time and money expended over Battle's Revisal, will be ready to believe that the statute laws of North Carolina are in a condition to need overhauling. There is so much for the Legislature to do during the session of a pressing public importance, that we do not know that it will undertake to continue the old and agonizing work of amending Battle's Revisal, but if it does enter upon that expensive business then it will be well to have the statute laws revised by a commission. The *Wilson Advance* has a modest and timely editorial on the revision of the laws. Its editors are lawyers, and are familiar with the difficulties under the unnumbered amendments of the last six of eight years and "repealing clauses and explanatory acts which have been passed at the various sessions of the Legislature," and they testify to the pressing necessity for a speedy revision. We cannot do better than to copy the following. The *Advance* says:

"No more important matter we are interested in than the revision of the laws of a free people, so justly dear to them. For to them they are indebted for the protection of their lives, their liberty and their property. A knowledge of the laws by which he is governed is therefore a matter of paramount importance to every citizen. Any government which withdraws such knowledge or fails to render it easily accessible to the people fails to perform one of the highest functions of government. It is not to be expected that the people, render a more acceptable service to the public than to appoint the Chief Justices of the Supreme Court and two of the ablest lawyers of the State to make a thorough revision of the statute laws now in force in the State, and provide a liberal salary for their services."

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merit between the States. The other day he got an opportunity of explaining its provisions. He says it will prevent to a considerable extent unjust discriminations against the people. It compels railroad companies to produce books and papers. It does not propose to interfere in the least with purely State corporations, but to regulate commerce between the States. It does not fix rates, and does not permit the roads to charge one man more than they charge another. Mr. Roger's time expired before he could explain further. These points will enable our readers to obtain a clearer view of the great question that is looming up.

**FOR AND THE CRITIC.**

Just now certain Northern writers can find nothing specially superior in the prose and poetical writings of Poe. Within a few months we have glanced over several productions of the kind in which Poe was spoken of as a man of clever abilities, but his equal or superior could be found in almost any town or publishing office in the North. In Europe his reputation is quite different. Some years or so ago we copied some of the opinions which placed Mr. Poe at the head of all American men of genius. There are Northern men who have done Poe ample justice, and some have lauded him excessively. A Northern criticism—that by E. C. Stedman in *Scribner*—is the ablest, the most just and satisfactory that we have seen. In the *International Review* for January, Eugene L. Didier, a well-known Northern critic, has a review of two recent biographers, from which we will glean an opinion or two. We remark first that already eight lives of Poe have been written which is more than have been written of any literary man of this century. If Poe is not a man of singular parts how comes this phenomenal interest in him?

Mr. Didier speaks of Poe as "an original genius" and says he was "a writer of peculiar gifts." He quotes the opinion of the late eminent Horace Binney Wallace, of the most fastidious of American scholars. Mr. Wallace, a Northern man, mind you, held that "as an analytical critic, Poe possessed abilities quite unrivaled in this country, and, perhaps, on the other side of the water." He says he had "admiration and respect for the masculine and acute understanding" of our greatest Southern genius. He said that his poems show "inventive genius both brilliant and vigorous" and he "possessed unusual powers of close logical reasoning," and "was gifted with a miraculous power of sarcasm." Mr. Didier speaks of Poe's "unrivaled gifts in original composition."

And yet Northern penny-a-liners of the envious tribe or the whipper-snapper kennel say his was not a strong or original mind. But throughout all literature there have been found people who could not appreciate the really great men of their age or time or race.

Col. McClure, in one of his letters, expresses a conviction that the whites in the South will be certain to divide politically and not long-hence, and that great demoralization to both races will follow. He says:

"There is now nothing to demoralize the black race, and when it comes from their parents and the education of their children. He is rapidly becoming the owner or lessor of lands and is a wise farmer, and is, in many instances accumulating wealth with habits of industry; but when the white man looks with his fellow in the battle of ambition the least ardent demagogues will best control the ignorant freedmen, and the degradation of both races must follow."

Colonel Maclure has said nothing truer than when he declares that a division of the whites would be the signal for prostitution and demoralization.

We have heard gentlemen here and elsewhere indulge such prophecies for years. Whenever the whites disintegrate politically there will be injected an element of contention into the political struggles of the South that can result in nothing else but debauchery and corruption.

In North Carolina, prior to 1838, the free-negroes—"the old lot," as they were called afterwards by the newly liberated slaves—voted, and in communities like Granville and Halifax where there were a hundred or two voters of this class there was shameful demoralization both among white politicians and the negroes. Col. McClure says of the recent Gubernatorial contest in Georgia:

"The division of the whites in Georgia under the Colquitt and Norwood flags, and a hurricane of debauchery among the

people of that State, and all the thriftless apathy of ignorance has been born of future contests. This severe trial of universal suffrage must now come, and it will present the problem in an unexpected phase to the nation."

**WE HOPE THAT THE CONGRESS IN DEALING WITH MORMONISM WILL NOT ENDANGER THE FREE STATE OF CALIFORNIA.**

We hope that the Congress in dealing with Mormonism will not endeavor to give it a party bias. The Democrats are no more in favor of legalizing polygamy than the Republicans are, and any effort to make it a party question will not be sustained. We say this because of the following paragraph in the Washington letter to the Richmond *Star*. The correspondent writes: "The subject of restricting the spread of the polygamy pest and of ultimately eradicating it, has received new interest by the prominence given it in the President's message, and if the present Congress does not attempt to stamp it out by severe laws, the new Republican Congress will have a chance to apply

their 'high moral ideas.' A Republican who is recognized as one of the ablest lawyers on the Republican side says his party would rather let the question go over to the next Congress, so that they may handle the subject to suit themselves; that if pressed now the Democrats might undertake to admit Utah as a State."

We judge from some intimations we have seen that the electoral count will not be pressed by the Democrats.

**FOREIGN SHIPMENTS.**  
The foreign shipments from this port yesterday were as follows: Swedish barque *Carie*, Capt. Westerlund, for Liverpool, by Messrs. Williams & Murdoch, with 1,283 bales of cotton; the German brig *Hermann Freidrich*, Capt. Nejahr, for Liverpool, by Messrs. Alex. Spratt & Son, with 1,081 bales of cotton; the British brig *Adrienne*, Capt. Jones, for Bristol, Eng., by Messrs. Paterson, Dowling & Co., with 2,856 barrels of rosin; the German brig *Ema*, Capt. Gerber, for Bristol, England, by Messrs. Alex. Spratt & Son, with 3,525 barrels of rosin; and the schooner *Hattie A. White*, Capt. Bellatty, for Aus Cays, Hayti, by Messrs. James H. Chabour & Co., with 105,288 feet of lumber.

**BAGGING FROM NATIVE JUTE.**

Mr. W. H. Oliver, of New Berne, sends us by mail a sample of cotton bagging made from native jute. The bagging was made in Charleston, and is claimed to be as good as can be made in the United States. Mr. Oliver promises to furnish soon all the necessary information wanted by our Columbus county correspondent, in regard to culture, preparing, etc. In his opinion it will pay better in land that it does in that it cost.

It was the largest, most devious and imposing funeral we have ever witnessed in Wilmington. All classes and all denominations participated in the ceremony; all anxious to do honor to one who was a great man, and one of the most eminent and popular among us.

Among the clerical gentlemen present we omitted to mention Bishop Lay of Easton. Being a near connection of the late bishop, he took no part in the services.

**THE LATE BISHOP ATKINSON.**

We supplement our necessarily imperfect report in relation to the lamented Bishop Atkinson, who died in this city on Tuesday night last, with the following facts from the *Baltimore Sun*, which were not accessible at the hour at which we wrote, and which will prove interesting to many friends of the venerable prelate throughout the State:

Bishop Atkinson, third Bishop of North Carolina, was born in Dandridge, Tenn., Aug. 6, 1807. He entered Yale College when a young man, and in his senior year was transferred to Princeton College, where he was graduated in 1832. He studied law, and practiced in that profession for nine years, when he abandoned it and entered upon a course of theology. He was ordained deacon in Christ Church, Norfolk, Nov. 18, 1836, by Bishop Wm. Meade, and was ordained priest in St. Paul's Church, in the same city, May 7, 1837, by Richard C. Moore.

He was in the order of the Roanoke Light Infantry when he was invited to attend the inauguration of President Garfield, by H. C. Corbin, Assistant Adjutant General and Corresponding Secretary of the Executive Committee of the inauguration ceremony.—David D. Sledge, white, was shot through his left hand a few days ago, inflicting a wound which will make him unable to use his left hand for some time to come.

He was a member of the 12th U. S. Cavalry, and was in the battle of Bull Run, where he was severely wounded. He was captured by the rebels, and was held in confinement at Libby Prison, where he remained until the close of the war, having been exchanged for a rebel soldier.

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