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"NATIONAL HELP." We received some weeks ago a printed copy of a "Memorial to Congress," signed by a number of ministers and teachers, among them Dr. Curry, the agent of the Peabody Fund.

The memorialists set forth in tabular form certain figures that illustrate the subject in a way that must impress reflecting people generally. We cannot copy the table because of its length.

They urge upon Congress that as war freed the negroes and Congress gave them the right of voting, that "education alone can convert this mass of ignorance and element of danger into one of enlightened strength and safety."

Representing an educational work in the South chiefly for the negro race, in which not only justifies but demands action on the part of the general government; and it should also suggest the limitations under which the action should be taken.

In this connection we may refer to another memorial sent to Congress from South Carolina. It is signed by the Supreme Court Judges, the State officials, members of the Legislature, the faculties of Wofford College, of Due West College, of Claflin University and of South Carolina College, and the various public bodies of Charleston.

The National Educational Convention recently did not approve of Senator Blair's bill, and appointed a committee to present a bill to Congress. They ask for an annual appropriation of \$15,000,000, by which this State would receive over \$1,000,000.

The position of the STAR, as we tried to indicate in an editorial of some weeks since, was to accept Government aid, but not to allow Federal intervention or interference in the distribution or management of the fund. It would be a very dangerous step to allow the Federal authorities to get control of our public schools under any plea or necessity however great.

Illiteracy is better than centralization. We would never favor any "National aid" that came clothed with power to regulate State schools. We fear a "strong government" far more than we do ignorant voters.

While there is genuine danger in having public affairs controlled by a million of ignorant sovereigns there is far greater danger to civil liberty and republican institutions in the steady growth of Federal power and a constant inroad upon those sovereign rights that are guaranteed in the Constitution of the United States to the several States.

Our objection to Senator Blair's bill is that it adds to Federal authority whilst invading the rights of the States. The late President Garfield advocated strongly Government aid, and he did so because he thought the North responsible for the extension of suffrage to the negroes. He said:

"For the North and South alike there is but one remedy. All the constitutional power of the Nation and of the State, and all the volunteer forces of the people should be summoned to meet the danger by the strong influence of universal education."

This is right enough, if we limit "the constitutional power of the Nation" to furnishing the money with which to educate the illiterates whilst giving the States the exclusive control of its disbursing. Our motto is—All the Government aid possible but no Federal intervention or control in its distribution.

"A CONTESTED SEAT." The House committee on Elections have reported in favor of seating Mackey in the Second District of South Carolina. Mr. O'Connor was seated, and after his death, which occurred April 26, 1881, Mr. Dibble was elected, the Republicans failing to vote because they said there was no vacancy, as Mackey was elected in the first election and he was entitled to his seat.

After a long delay the committee reported favorably for Mackey. The Republicans in this case are attempting to make it appear that the most outrageous swindles were perpetrated, and that Mackey was elected really by 870 majority, whereas O'Connor was returned as elected by over 5,000.

It is charged in the report of the committee that the Republicans were cheated out of some 10,000 votes. They claim that the majority for O'Connor was obtained by reversing the vote of one district in Charleston county and by omitting the vote of seven precincts in the same county and of four precincts in Orangeburg county.

The statement of frauds as made in the report of the committee is specific and shows immense frauds, if the charge is true. Of this we cannot know any thing. We hope the frauds were not committed and that the report is partisan, unfair and false.

We shall be glad to see the statement contradicted flatly and by clear evidence, for the whole North will believe that the charge of fraud is sustained unless emphatic rebutting testimony of a trustworthy kind is offered.

The committee state that in a number of precincts where Mackey had large majorities the vote was thrown out by the County Boards. We copy a few samples of the evidence offered by the committee to sustain its report favoring Mackey's claims:

"In the Haut Gap district, the County Canvassers gave O'Connor 1,032 and Mackey 19. In fact there were actually cast and counted by the precinct managers only 46 for O'Connor and 1,037 for Mackey. The managers made this return, but after the County Canvassers had received the box the seals were broken, the returns taken out, and other ballots substituted for those cast, so that the vote was reversed as above stated. The return had disappeared. Although positive proof of the correct vote and of the opening of the box was furnished to the County Canvassers, they counted the fraudulent ballots, returned them in their statement, and made no effort to find the return."

"The Black Oak vote, 893 for Mackey and 11 for O'Connor, although established by an Election Supervisor's evidence and the sworn return of the managers, was thrown out. The facts were nearly the same in relation to the Strawberry precinct, where 878 votes were cast for Mackey and 90 for O'Connor."

"As Calamus Pond, Mackey had 511 and O'Connor 119. The managers say that this vote was attested by two Supervisors, one of them a Democrat, and that its correctness was not denied by one of the managers when examined by O'Connor."

These are mere samples of many like statements. If they are true then they show that voting in that part of South Carolina is a farce. If untrue, and we must hope that it will so turn out, then the friends of O'Connor ought to make it appear so. The ballot ought to be protected from frauds. No free people can afford to abuse it or allow it to be abused. Let the ballot become corrupt and there will be no safety for free, constitutional government.

Dr. John J. Mott, Chairman of the State Republican Committee, writes a communication to the Washington Republican, in which he says that not more than 5,000 Republicans, white and colored, voted for prohibition last year. Mr. Mott may be a good guesser, but we doubt it. The Asheville News, Republican, places the Republican vote for prohibition at 20,000.

HORSFORD'S ACID PHOSPHATE IS CONVALESCENCE.—I have prescribed Horsford's Acid Phosphate in the convalescing stage of typho-malarial fever, and whenever an acid is indicated, nothing has been found equal to it. J. H. WILSON, M. D., Plymouth, Ind.

The Mormons are smart in their day and generation. They think the pocket-nerve is the way to reach a Gentile's principles, so they propose to hereafter trade only among themselves. But they will not hold out at this, for they would soon weary of cheating each other, and the Gentiles are such good game. The pocket-nerve will prevent a full success, we apprehend, in the working of the plan, and just because both Mormon and Gentile have such nerves.

On Friday evening a big Fair Trade meeting is to be held in New York. Abram S. Hewitt, David S. Wells and E. S. Jaffrey are among the callers. In their circular they say:

"And, believing that a judicious but thorough reform of the tariff, in the direction of commercial liberty, cannot be delayed without disastrous effects to the prosperity of the country, we invite our fellow citizens to attend this meeting, and to give their reform their hearty support."

When the House met there were twenty-two contested cases to be considered. The following shows what has been done to this term:

"Reports have been made in the cases of Lynch against Chalmers and Campbell against Cannon, and five others, those of Mabson against Oates; Alabama: Lanier against King and Smith against Robertson; Louisiana: Stotard against Alken; of South Carolina, and McDowell against George, of Oregon, have been dismissed. Four or five other cases have been argued."

What hope of a fair trial can any one have for the politically persecuted in South Carolina when he learns that the jury to try white Democrats under bitter Federal Judges, of the true Stalwart type, is composed of nine negroes and three whites. A drum-head court-martial would be preferable.

Jumbo took a big drink soon after his arrival. He swallowed a quart of whiskey without blinking or saying "thanks" after the true English style. Barnum was shocked—at the size of the drink. Jumbo showed him what the English size was.

All along the Republicans have been swearing that Lynch was elected over Chalmers in the Shoe-String District of Mississippi by 17,000 majority. Now the majority report in the House claims but 885. So it may turn out in the alleged fraud in South Carolina.

Patti made over \$175,000, but Abbey, Haines and Dam, the managers, lost over \$11,000. Abbey and Haines are heard, probably, using the other partner's name a few times too often. In the meantime Patti has no pity.

Billie Chandler is said to be the mortal foe of Jim Blaine of Maine. Up to 1881 they were very devoted friends. Billie has become a Stalwart to enjoy a part of the spoils. He is a sort of latter-day saint.

A great event has happened. Jumbo has landed safely, and Barnum is happy. A paragraphist suggests that as Barnum calls his show the "London Circus" Jumbo will be satisfied and will prance to the music.

It is very doubtful if Parnell is again returned to prison; where he ought to have never been sent. Probably the government will be glad to get rid of a serious business in this way.

A Chinese giant eight feet high and weighing 500 pounds is the latest sensation in New York. He is 35 years of age.

The Proposed New Hotel at Smithville. The new and commodious Hotel to be erected at Smithville and leased to Mr. B. L. Perry, of the Purcell House of this city, mention of which was made in the STAR a week or so ago, is now being framed at Mr. J. W. Taylor's mill, under the direction of the contractor, Mr. Joseph Silvy. In dimensions it will be 72x36 feet. The first floor will contain fifteen rooms, with three passages, seventeen windows and fourteen doors; the second floor will contain fifteen rooms, three passages, eighteen windows and twelve doors. There will be a long piazza in front, the entire length of the building, and a long L veranda on the south side 80x25 feet. The dining room will be 60x20 feet, containing twelve windows and two doors. There is a large force engaged upon the work, and the hotel, unless some unforeseen accident happens to prevent, will be in readiness for the reception of guests by the first of June, the commencement of the heated term.

—Marion Lamp Post: Capt. E. J. Kirksey, superintendent of the Carolina Queen Mining Company, showed us an assay of some of the ore from the Companies mine, made by George B. Hanna, at Charlotte, with the following results: Three different assays showed an average yield of 3,500 pounds of ore, \$232.45 per ton of \$5.00 silver; total yield \$232.45. One of the assays showed a yield of over \$1,800 per ton.

PRODUCE EXCHANGE. REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT.

Annual Meeting—Demand for Receipt of Certain Tariffs—Statement of Tax on Manufactures in the City—Report of President Calder—Election of Officers, &c.

The annual meeting of the Produce Exchange was held at the rooms of that body yesterday morning.

The meeting was called to order by the President.

The minutes of the last annual meeting were read and approved.

The Secretary and Treasurer's annual report, properly audited, was read and received and ordered spread upon the minutes. It gives evidence of increased prosperity on the part of the Exchange.

The President read his annual report, as follows: GENTLEMEN:—I would take the occasion of the expiration of my term of service, and of that of your present Board of Managers, to present a brief summary of what has been done during our term, and of the manner in which we have discharged your trust.

I must congratulate you on the greatly improved condition of the freight of the Exchange as compared with the report of your Treasurer. We are now out of debt, and with sufficient income to meet current expenses. The Exchange is no longer an empty shell, but has become an active and profitable concern, and we may hope soon to number among its members all who are in any way interested in the trade in the products of this section.

During the past two years we have gained seven hundred dollars. The surplus fund has been increased in this time \$123.12, and now amounts to \$605.50.

We have secured the repeal of the order requiring the prepayment of freight on all shippers of goods over the W. C. & A. R. R., thereby avoiding the unnecessary expense and risk of a large amount of money to all the trade of the city.

While I present no statistics as to timber, lumber and rice, it is well known that the trade in each of these has largely increased in the past year. The crop of peanuts was cut short by bad seasons, and possibly not so much of this article has been received as formerly. The trade in all these branches of our produce should be represented on our boards, and we hope to have them all with us.

Statistics of all these articles can be readily kept here, to any extent that might be deemed desirable by those particularly interested in them.

The increase in receipts at this port is particularly noteworthy, as it occurs in a year when all the great crops of the country have been cut short by bad seasons. The effect of unseasonable weather on the crop of cotton is well known to every one, whether in or out of the trade, as statistics respecting this article have been more thoroughly disseminated than for any other; but it is not generally borne in mind that bad seasons cut short the yield of the pine tree to as great an extent as that of any agricultural product.

The increase in receipts in the article of cotton is peculiarly encouraging under all the circumstances, as it has been gained without any new combination of railroad lines working directly to this end, all the railroads centering here having connections which give them a longer haul by carrying cotton past us, and railroad managers naturally work for the longest haul, under the present system of railroading.

The increase in cotton receipts at our port is the more striking when we compare ours with other cotton ports, and find that Wilmington is the only port which has gained during the past year. By an examination of the tables of receipts at the ports in the last issue of the Commercial and Mercantile Chronicle, the following percentages of losses and gains will be found to have occurred in the past year: At New Orleans receipts decrease 17 per cent; at Savannah 10 per cent; at Norfolk 14 per cent; at Galveston 34 per cent; at Charleston 18 per cent; at Mobile 31 per cent; at City Point 9 per cent; at Port Royal 53 per cent. At the 17 reported ports, North and South, the decrease is 15 per cent, while at Wilmington receipts increase 17 per cent.

Table with 2 columns: Domestic exports of spirits turpentine from April 1, 1881, to April 1, 1882. Values range from 29,762 casks to 38,121.

Table with 2 columns: Domestic exports of rosin from April 1, 1881, to April 1, 1882. Values range from 8,469 to 46,645 bbis.

Table with 2 columns: Domestic exports of tar from April 1, 1881, to April 1, 1882. Values range from 43,856 to 38,517.

Table with 2 columns: Total exports of cotton from April 1, 1881, to April 1, 1882. Values range from 135,327 bales to 118,453.

Table with 2 columns: Total exports of spirits turpentine from April 1, 1881, to April 1, 1882. Values range from 88,367 casks to 96,320.

Table with 2 columns: Total exports of rosin from April 1, 1881, to April 1, 1882. Values range from 425,993 bbis to 445,110.

Table with 2 columns: Total exports of tar from April 1, 1881, to April 1, 1882. Values range from 49,367 to 5,746.

Given by percentages the receipts of cotton increased during the past year 17 per cent, spirits turpentine 2 per cent, rosin 2 per cent, tar 21 per cent.

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which have lent no little to the intelligent conduct of operations in the markets. I have reason to believe that the careful and full reports that he issues on cotton and naval stores have done much to attract attention to our port, and increase its foreign trade.

Beginning pardon for having detained you to this length, and thanking you on behalf of the Board of Managers, as well as on my own, for your uniform courtesy and forbearance, I would now relinquish the baton of office to my successor, for whom I would only ask the same consideration you have so kindly extended to me.

ROBT. E. CALDER, Pres't.

The report was referred to a committee of three, consisting of Messrs. C. H. Robinson, John T. Rankin and Wm. Calder, to make arrangements for having it printed.

On motion of Mr. C. H. Robinson the thanks of the Exchange were tendered to the retiring officers.

The following resolutions were, on motion, unanimously adopted, and the Board of Managers requested to secure the joint action of the Chamber of Commerce in carrying out the views of the Exchange:

Resolved, That this Exchange respectfully petitions Congress to repeal the laws levying—

First—The 2 cents stamp duty on bank checks.

Second—The payment of the tax of 1 per cent on bank circulation.

Third—The payment of the tax of one-half of one per cent upon all deposits in banking institutions.

Resolved, That our Senators and members of the House of Representatives be requested to vote for the bill to recharter the national banks, whose charters are about to expire.

Resolved, That the Secretary be instructed to send a copy of these resolutions to our Senators and members of Congress, with the request that they use their influence and give their votes in favor of the repeal of these burdensome taxes upon the commerce of the country.

On motion, the Board of Managers was instructed to take some action looking to the abatement of the tax on manufactures of this city, and ask for a suitable Custom House and Postoffice in Wilmington.

The meeting then adjourned.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS. The following officers were elected to serve during the ensuing year: President—James Sprunt.

Spirits Turpentine. —Rev. Dr. Cross, who has been ill, is improving.

—Pole-punchings seem to be in order among the lay people of some sections.

—Rutherfordton Banner: We regret to learn that a Mr. Waters, engaged at a steam saw mill, had his foot cut off by the saw one day last week.

—Shelby Aurora: The cotton weigher in this place reports 247 bales during the month of March. The fruit in Rutherford county has withstood the cold weather.

—Shelby Aurora: It is rumored that the authorities of the Carolina Central Railroad will visit this place at an early day for the purpose of locating a route from Shelby to Spartanburg, S. C.

—Milton Chronicle: A lad of fifteen or sixteen years old, residing in this town, accidentally swallowed a six-penny nail on Friday last. He says it hurt him little at first, but he seems not to be inconvenienced from it now.

—Rockingham Spirit: A young man, by the name of W. K. Tukesberry, was brought to town a few days ago from the lower part of the county and lodged in jail on a charge of larceny. He is a son of Dr. Tukesberry, of New York.

—Goldboro Messenger: We learn that Mr. Jacob Braswell, of Johnston county, was painfully, and it is feared seriously injured on Saturday last, near Princeton, in being dragged from a cart and dragged some distance by runaway mules.

—New Berne Journal: Herrings in abundance; only 10 cents per bunch. On yesterday we paid our first visit to the rice mill of Mr. Elijah Ellis and found it in operation. The capacity of this mill is about four hundred bushels per day.

—Roanoke News: Prominent gentlemen interested in the reunion of the old confederates, from the counties of Johnston, appointed Wednesday, May 17th, as a time for the preliminary meeting at Roanoke to complete arrangements for a Grand Reunion later in the year, say about the first of July.

—Winston Sentinel: The Davie county poor house has but ten inmates. Forsyth county has triple the number. Col. Tom Cooper passed through here on last Saturday on his way home from Washington, D. C., at present, a candidate that he would yet be confirmed as collector of his district.

—Warrenton Gazette: Wheat, oats and rye are looking splendid. There will be more grain raised in Warren county this year than for several, from the appearance of it at present. Mr. John W. Hicks, of Haw Tree, has bought the Warren News, and has assumed control. We extend him our best wishes.

—Reidsville Times: We hear that Mr. Jno. H. Nunnally, of this county, made more on the cotton he raised last year than he did on his home crop of tobacco. He made it at present, a candidate for cotton last year and it was a dry bad time for it, and sold it to the Morehead factory at Leaksville. He will make more cotton this year.

—Charlotte Observer: Five dogs killed on the streets yesterday. We have been informed that Rev. E. J. Drinkard, D. D., LL. D., of Baltimore, will preach the annual sermon, and Hon. J. M. Leach, of Lexington, N. C., will deliver the address before the Literary Societies on the occasion of the annual commencement of Yadkin College, May 25th, proximo.

—Rockingham Bee: Wm. Richmond Lovin, of Gibson Mill neighborhood, died suddenly on April 13, about 2 o'clock. He was a native of North Carolina, and was 68 years of age. He was a member of the Literary Societies on the occasion of the annual commencement of Yadkin College, May 25th, proximo.

Wilmington Star, of Monday evening, bestows a very handsome compliment upon Hon. Matt. W. Ransom, and we most heartily concur in the opinion expressed. North Carolina cannot find an abler nor more worthy champion of her interests in the Senate of the United States, and though he may have erred in some respects, he has made for himself a record worthy of the emulation of all future successors.