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GRUBS FOR DEMOCRATS.

Our highly esteemed contemporary, the Durham *Patriot*, takes issue, with us as to Southern Democrats taking office under Harrison, and our calling tender a bribe. Well, it looks to us thus:

For a Republican President to tender office to a Southern Democrat does look to us to be in the nature of a bribe, pure and positive.

For a Democrat, who is honest, decided, intelligent, to take office under an Administration he antagonizes, does not look fair and consistent to us.

For a Democrat to help pull the Republican Administration through in order to give it influence and respect, does not look to us as exactly the thing for a Democrat to do.

For a Democrat who believes in the cardinal principles of his party, to serve an Administration for a consideration that holds to principles the very opposite of his own does not seem to us as either consistent or commendable.

If a Democrat is so little a Democrat, that he is willing to take office under a Republican Administration then he ought to change his name as he changes service. That is the way we look at it. If wrong, we are in good company for we feel sure that nineteen-twentieths of North Carolina genuine Democrats will agree with us.

If a Democrat may take office under Harrison where was the wrong in 1860 and 1870 when so many men went over to the Republican party in North Carolina and got fat places? Were Holden, Reade, Pearson, Rodman, Dick, Buxton, Settle, Bynum, Barringer and a hundred others guilty of an offence and a grievous wrong when they deserted their race when in perilous, troublous times and identified themselves with the foreign oppressors and the native "savages"? If it is all right and proper now, when our institutions are still in danger, to take office from the enemy how was it wrong in 1860 and after?

Democrats should stand by their colors. Men voting with the Democrats, but who at heart are Republicans, have not got far to go when they accept the bribe and unite in full with the reactionary party that is held together by seven principles—"the cohesive power of public plunder—the five loaves and two fishes."

If after leaving the Democratic party so long and so earnestly and so sincerely we were to be persuaded by the offer of any office at Gen. Harrison's disposal to identify ourselves with his Administration we would expect to be attacked by every sound Democratic paper in North Carolina, and to be branded as traitor from Elizabeth City to Murphy. And we would deserve every word we got.

President Cleveland has set his party the example to emulate. He nails his colors to the mast in the very midst of a howling tempest. Stand by the grand old Democratic party. Stand by the Constitution. Stand by principles to the last, though the heavens fall. Macbeth's declaration might be well used by a man tempted with office to desert his party—

"I dare do all that may become a man,
Who dare do more is none."

THE BUSINESS OUTLOOK.

The cost of a Presidential election to the United States is a great sum. Usually Presidential years have not been favorable to commercial prosperity. This year is no exception. Railroad receipts are less than in 1887. The number of failures is great, and alarmingly on the increase. There seems to be a good deal that is very "rotten in Denmark." The outlook is not all that could be desired. There has been too much over-trading. Too many people have quit farming to go into merchandizing and trading, and without either business capacity or training. There is a continued advance in Southern manufactures, but the great farming interest in the South is not satisfactory. In North Carolina there is depression in trade, and because of

the condition of the farmers, the true basis of all substantial prosperity. There are sections—whole counties, in which bread is scarce and in which the tobacco crop was almost a failure. This too in sections where in past years money has been abundant because crops were remunerative. We look for more failures and shall be very thankful if a financial crisis does not occur within the next two years.

In the country at large the signs are not as flattering as one would desire. The outlook is not one of unmingled cheerfulness. The Louisville *Courier-Journal* says:

"But taking railroad stocks and farm produce together, the phenomenal shrinkage is certainly a stunning negative of the boom," and we are sorry to say it. Buoyancy is a missing element in all departments. "The section of trade in the speculative form which bets on gains or losses of value has been better all around on decline. The fall in produce is attributed correctly to a lack of demand for the same, while the logical accompaniment of a fall in the corn and cotton exchanges would be a rise in the stock exchange. But the shrinkage of values has protruded fully with all produce except corn and its porcine products alone."

"All we are pointing at is the business temper, assiduously by investments prevailing, which is bearish out of time."

Prices for food products are weaker than they were a month ago. Corn has declined 8 cents a bushel; wheat has declined 12 cents a bushel; hogs have dropped from \$2 to \$3 a head, and other things have fallen. Securities have also shrunk. The coming year 1889, promises to be one of trial and, to many, of scarcity.

NORTHERN FARMERS RESPONSIBLE.

There is no doubt that the farmers in the Northern States are mainly responsible for the defeat of Mr. Cleveland. Of course the Money Kings who furnished the boodle with which to debauch and purchase voters, have a great sin to answer for, and yet it was quite like fallen human nature to resort to the most despicable means to perpetuate the reign of Plutocracy and to keep up by bribery the Republican party of obtaining spoils from the people. It was a sort of life struggle with the Carnegie-Kelly crowd. But not so with the farmers. They were the plucked and fleeced and victims. It was the farming class that had been grinding through the decades in the mills of the Philistines, and yet knew it not. The consequence was that in blindness and ignorance, they marched to the polls and voted for Higher Protection and more grinding. It may be that by 1892, Northern farmers will gain some intelligence and learn something valuable concerning the Republican methods by which the boodle party is made every day to toil and moil to pay the Monopolistic Paul to whom he is not indebted a cent. He may under much and long tutelage learn that Protection means oppression and depopulating and wrong. When he learns better, he will vote wiser.

THE SURPLUS.

The country is still cursed with a great surplus. The danger lurking in it is very real. You can see something of it in the public prints that favor the infamous Blair bill because of the necessity of spending this surplus. That is precisely the plea of the most extreme advocates of comet-like appropriations for all sort of wild and foolish schemes. It is estimated that on Sept. 1st, 1888, there was a surplus in the Treasury of not less than \$90,000,000. It is thought that by Jan. 1st, 1889, there will be at least \$125,000,000 in surplus in the Treasury vaults. In one more year another hundred millions will have accumulated, making the surplus at Jan. 1st, 1890, \$225,000,000. This vast sum is taken from the people by taxation. There is no need of it for legitimate, constitutional expenditures. That great sum is withdrawn from circulation, and so much capital taken from the people who hourly need it.

One dollar in excess of the positively necessary expenses of the Government constitutionally administered, is robbery in essence. It oppresses and wrongs the patient tax-bearers. Shall this continue? Suppose the present willfully absurd and ruinous system of taxation shall continue for twenty years longer, what would be the result? Such a sum would be wantonly, rascally seized from the people under the forms of a bad law so as to make them poor and create such a mass of money as no Government on earth ever owned. It would take the circulation of all nations to furnish the money. The New York *Times* of the 5th inst. says:

"At this rate the surplus will be sufficient by July, 1890, to pay principal and interest, the 4 per cent. bonds not due till September, 1891. By 1890 it will be sufficient to pay principal and interest, the 4 per cent. bonds not due till 1897. In the meantime the stupid process of buying bonds to get rid of the fruit of needless taxation must become more and more difficult."

The United States steel cruiser Atlanta is to circumnavigate the world. It is fitting out for the long voyage at the New York navy yard.

That is a delightful picture of widely devotion, sympathy and appreciation given by Pliny the Younger in his description of his wife Calpurnia. He says she showed the greatest ability, frugality and knowledge of literature. He says:

"She has my books; she reads them again and again; she even commits them to memory. What anxiety she feels when I am going to make a speech before the judges, what joy when I have finished it. She places people here and there in the audience to bring her word what applause have been accorded my speech, what has been the issue of the trial. All give readings of my works anywhere, she sits close by, separated by a screen, and drinks in my praises with most greedy ears. My verses she also sings, and to the music of the lyre she artist guiding her but only love, who is the best master."

That is truly charming, most exquisite. It reads very modern. Written more than eighteen hundred years ago it reads like a leaf from some nineteenth century letter. From some man of genius who loved a wife that adored him. It gives a charming glimpse of the manners and customs of the Romans in St. Paul's day. We learn that men of letters gave readings then from their writings, as Dickens gave thirty years ago, and others have followed his successful example. We see, too, a loving wife placing her couriers in the hall to bring her the news from time to time of the success of her gifted husband. It is not said that she placed them there to start the applause, as has been done in modern times. Pliny the Younger is better known than most Romans because of his description of the destruction of Pompeii. We have met with nothing ancient so absolutely modern in tone as the above sketch of his wife, except Cicero's letters to his friend Atticus. They read as if they had been written by some Burke or Fox in the last part of the last century, or by some Macaulay or De Quincey in the first of the present century. We refer to the latter-day flavor and not to the style of course, as these four writers had very different styles.

In the *National (British) Review* there is a capital paper on "Some Literary Identities," by William Watson, a writer hitherto unknown to us but decidedly clever. He pricks the bladder that Charles Lamb blew up as to the magnificent genius of certain of the Elizabethan Dramatists. Ford and Webster are especially handled and with marked ability, and others are referred to in a manner quite in keeping with their true place in dramatic literature. He concludes his acute discussion with this suggestion:

"If we live under the shadow of the Andes, a time comes when their immensity comes to be a perpetual astonishment to us. But if Skidaw and Helvellyn could suddenly be placed in the foreground, we should experience a renewed sensation of the vastness of Chimborazo and Cotopaxi. If any reader is so unfortunate as to find that a prolonged familiarity with Shakespeare begets at last a somewhat blunted sensibility to the master's supreme power, a remedy is at hand. Let him turn to the works of Webster and Dekker, Randolph and Trenchard, Middleton and Heywood and Ford."

There is no American publication that comes to this office that contains as well written criticisms on books as the *Eclectic Magazine*. They are ordinarily just and penetrating, and are the work of no "pretentious hand" in letters, we may well believe. In some of our notes in these columns in the past, we have tried to impress the reader with the excellence of Walter Savage Landor as a writer of English prose. He was beyond all fair questioning one of the supreme stylists of his country. In English literature there is nothing comes so near the Greek severity and repose as Landor. Read his "Imaginary Conversations" and you will find a style of rare purity, limpidity and virility. We would be glad to know that people read the great authors more and talked of them less. The man who is not really familiar with Addison, Goldsmith, Burke, Carlyle, Macaulay, Ruskin and Froude knows but little of those writers who are eminently great as to style. Others might be added. But none is more pungent, more lucid, more imposing in high and stately eloquence than the mastery Landor. We find in the *Eclectic* for December a passage from Landor we will copy. It is as true as felicitous. The immediate cause of the passage is a minor work of Landor's called "The Pentameron," which among other things contains "Citation and Examination of William Shakespeare," as well as other examples of criticism. Here is the passage we would reproduce:

Landor's name is much more talked about than his books are read. The lofty, austere, the studied exultation of everything that is extra, extravagant or fanciful, the play of an imagination, great as it is, which is always under the control of the most fastidious intellect, a Greek style as skillful as the outlines of a Greek statue, ideals of thought and expression so purely classical that they mostly seem to come out of sympathy with the things they mod-

ern man thinks and does—all these put Walter Savage Landor outside of the current track of human interest. Yet so thinking and cultivated man ever finds anything but keen pleasure and much profit in reading even the lesser things written

by this great genius. Beautiful and fresh as his poems are, Landor is more known to readers by the "Imaginary Conversations," which ranks among the classics of modern literature.

His "Pericles and Aesopias" is one of the most fascinating works in all literature. It is not a novel, mind you.

It is almost depressing to look over the list of new books published as received in the great dailies. The multiplication of books of all kinds is so great that the task of winnowing grows apace, and the necessity of careful selection becomes more positive yearly. Never waste time over poor books. It takes as much time to read a third or fourth rate work as it does to read a first or second rate book. Life is short and books are very many. Never read a book unless you have informed yourself as to its genuine value. Do not read a book merely because some one offers to lend you a copy. Husband your spare hours. You have no idea how much can be accomplished by only two or three hours a day. We are a somewhat busy editor, and yet we find time to read 15,000 or more pages of literature and theology in a year. We read history, science, biography, poetry, essays, &c. Now and then we read a novel. We have about given up the new writers of stories, and now the great masters deserve our attention almost exclusively—Fielding, Scott, Thackeray, Dickens, George Eliot, a few of Balzac's, a few of Meredith's, and not many others.

This is personal, egotistical, if you please, but it may serve as a hint to some young man or woman too prone to waste precious hours and wander into forbidden paths or glean in poverty-stricken fields. Now in this connection bear with us a little longer. Mr. Higgins, a well known man of letters in Massachusetts, publishes in *Harper's Bazar* what he considers to be the best ten novels published in the last ten years. They are Tolstoy's "War and Peace," and his "Anna Karenina," Tourgenieff's "Virgin Soil," Daudet's "Les Rois en Exil," Howells's "The Rise of Silas Lapham," James's "The Princess Casanovissa," Hardy's "Mayor of Casterbridge," Stevenson's "Kidnapped," "John Inglesant," "Ramona" and "In the Clouds."

We cannot enter an opinion, because of those named we have read, but "Kidnapped" and "John Inglesant." The judgment may be correct, but we suspect that a critical mind that was familiar with the best of this kind of literature would perhaps select some one or more other novels to make up the ten and omit some included above. It would be interesting to see the opinions of a dozen or two men of cultured taste and superior critical judgment as to the ten best novels within the last decade. We suspect that Norris would have a hearing, and Meredith would have a hearing, and perhaps Black, and Besant, and others might stand a chance.

THE PUBLIC BUILDING.

Bids for Construction Opened—A Charleston Man the Lowest Bidder. The Plan and Size of the Building, Etc.

Bids for the construction of the Government building to be erected on the corner of Front and Chesnut streets in this city, were opened at the office of the Chief Architect, Washington, D. C., last Thursday, Mr. Post, the superintendent here, has not yet been advised as to who is the successful bidder. It is said, however, that there were fourteen bidders, and that the bid of Mr. D. A. J. Sullivan, of Charleston, S. C., was the lowest, and it is probable that he will be awarded the contract, although the Government is not bound to accept the lowest bid. There were no bids from this city.

The plans and specifications provide for a building fifty by one hundred and twenty feet, to be of brick, sandstone, limestone or marble, as may be determined upon for the superstructure. It will consist of three stories and a basement. The main front will be on Front street, thirty-two feet from the line of the sidewalk, and the projection of the tower will be ten feet from the line of the sidewalk on Front street. The height, from the ground to the cornice of the main building, will be forty-one feet, and to the cornice of the roof seventy-two feet. The height from the ground to the top cornice of the tower will be seventy feet. The Customs offices will be in the basement of the building, the Postoffice on the first floor, the U. S. Court room on the second floor, and the Signal Service office on the third floor.

The contractor is required to state the date upon which he will begin work and the date upon which the building will be finished, and will forfeit fifty dollars for every day's delay.

The receipts of cotton at this port for the week closed yesterday are 7,455 bales, against 10,159 bales the corresponding week last year. Receipts for the crop year, from September 1st to December 7th, are 105,484 bales, against 124,589 to same date last year—a decrease of 19,105 bales. The stock at this port is 14,780 bales, against 24,422 bales at same date last year.

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WASHINGTON.

Another Intriguingly Discovered at the Treasury—The Republican National Executive Committee.

By Telegram to the Morning Star. Washington, Dec. 8.—Another irregularity has been discovered in the Treasury Department, arising out of the mysterious disappearance of ten sheets of paper, each containing a copy of the nomination of \$5, and representing \$200 in all. These sheets were included in the regular delivery from the Bureau of the Treasury and Printing to the United States Treasurer last Tuesday morning. The proper officials had been notified to correct in every particular before leaving the Bureau. On reaching the Treasurer's office they were again ordered and reported.

The notes were all completed, with the exception of being stamped with the Treasury seal, and they were turned over to the division for completion. They were found to be short ten sheets. These were numbered in regular order, and were in the hands of the division. The officer in charge of the division refused to receipt for these sheets, and word was sent to the Bureau for an explanation. A thorough investigation was instituted, and although two days have passed, no trace whatever of the missing sheets has been discovered. While it is possible that the sheets were mislaid and may be recovered, it is more than probable that they were stolen, and the Treasury will be ready to pass for money, for they lack only the Treasury seal to be legal tenders.

The Pension Appropriation bill was completed by the sub-committee, and will be reported to the full committee tomorrow. It appropriates \$81,707,000, and will be with this year's appropriation of \$1,900 less is appropriated this year than last year for the rent of office buildings.

The District of Columbia Appropriation bill, reported to the House to-day, appropriates \$4,997,198, being \$143,017 less than the appropriation for the corresponding year, and \$1,092,943 less than the estimate of the District Commissioners. For street improvements \$517,000 is appropriated, or \$2,800 more than the appropriation for the current fiscal year, and \$488,894 less than estimate. For public schools \$948,061 is appropriated, or \$10,000 less than the appropriation for the current year.

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Who Will be Adjutant-General.

There are several candidates for the position of Adjutant General of the State Guard. The appointment will be made by Gov. Fowle. It is said that besides Gen. Johnston Jones of Asheville, who is a candidate for re-election, Col. Cotten, of Tarboro, of the First Regiment, and Col. Glenn, of Greensboro, of the Third Regiment, are also in the field. The two latter are strong, and the present likelihood is that they will be elected, each other, and that either the present Adjutant will be re-elected, or the honor will go to Major Campbell, of Fayetteville, of the Second Regiment, who is also a candidate, but who is not making any particular fight for the office.

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MARINE DISASTER.

Terrible Sufferings of the Shipwrecked Crew of the Schooner A. H. Cross.

By Telegram to the Morning Star. Baltimore, Dec. 8.—The schooner James A. Garfield, Captain Holte, arrived from Havana to-day with a cargo of phosphoric rock. On board the Garfield were the crew of the schooner Albert H. Cross, abandoned November 30, in a sinking condition, in latitude 38 45, longitude 75 40. The wrecked schooner with a crew of five seamen and the cook, left Charleston, November 5, for Petersburg, Va. On the 15th the wind blew a gale from the northeast, and split foremast, on the 25th heavy waves swept away her boats, and to add to the terrible situation the vessel sprung a leak. The men were lashed to the pumps and for nine days battled with the sea for their lives. The seamen were covered with salt water, some, and every movement of their body gave them pain. The schooner was settling rapidly, and hope was fast fading away. On November 30 the captain saw the schooner could float but a few hours longer, when shortly before midnight the vessel went down. The captain and his crew were saved, and although the sea was very rough the shipwrecked crew, who were in a sinking condition, were rescued by the schooner A. H. Cross, which was on the spot.

HAYTI.

The Release of the Steamer Haytian Republic to be Demanded and Enforced.

By Telegram to the Morning Star. Washington, Dec. 7.—Action has been taken by Secretary Whitney which leaves no doubt as to the policy of the government in regard to the Haytian Republic. The Haytian Republic, recently seized at Port au Prince, Hayti. The release of the vessel has been demanded through the proper diplomatic channels. Secretary Whitney, "the seizure of the vessel was justified, and are therefore determined that the vessel must be delivered up to us." Orders were issued to the Commandant of the Norfolk Navy Yard, to prepare the United States steamer Oceanic to receive the vessel. The