

THE SENTINEL.

WEDNESDAY APRIL 24, 1867.

Death of Hon. R. M. Saunders.

We regret to have to announce the death of this distinguished gentleman. He departed this life, at his residence in this City, on yesterday afternoon, after a protracted illness. He had attained the advanced age of 76 years, and few men in the country have filled a longer measure of usefulness, or occupied more or higher positions of prominence and trust.

Judge Saunders was born in Caswell County, in March, 1791. In his early manhood, he removed to Tennessee, where he studied law under the Hon. Hugh Lawson White, and was licensed to practice in 1812. He then returned to North Carolina and was elected to the House of Commons in 1815, serving until 1820—and was speaker of the House in 1818 and 1820. In the latter year, he was elected a member of Congress and served until 1827. In 1828, he was elected Attorney General of the State. In 1833, he was appointed by the President one of the Board of Commissioners to decide and allot the amounts due citizens of the United States for injuries by France, as settled by treaty of July 4, 1831. In 1833, he was elected by the Legislature a judge of the Supreme Court, but resigned in 1840, on being nominated as the Democratic candidate for Governor, in opposition to the Hon. Jim. M. Morehead. Many of our readers will remember the memorable crisis of the State by these two gentlemen, being perhaps the ablest and most excited ever conducted in North Carolina. In this contest Judge Saunders was defeated by about 8,000 votes.

In 1841, he was again elected to Congress and served until 1845. In 1846, he was appointed, by President Polk, Minister Plenipotentiary from the United States to Spain, where he remained until the latter part of 1849. In his official capacity at this Court, he made the well-known overtures to Spain for the purchase of Cuba, which excited so much comment at the time.

In 1850, he was again elected a member of the House of Commons from the county of Wake. Subsequently, he was again elected to the bench of the Superior Court, which position he held up to the close of the war, since which time he has been entirely withdrawn from public life, and has been gradually sinking under the weight of years.

Gen. Saunders was, in his palmy days, one of the ablest political speakers as well as one of best criminal lawyers that the State has produced. He was a gentleman of great force of character and much native kindness of heart. In private life, he was exemplary and above reproach. In his death, the State has lost another of those distinguished sons, the loss of so many of whom, within a few years past, she has been called upon to mourn.

THE COLORED MEETING.

A large concourse of the colored citizens of Wake assembled on the Capitol Square, to-day, at 11 o'clock, in pursuance of notice heretofore given. We were gratified to see so large a number in attendance, notwithstanding the extraordinary efforts that were made to prevent a good attendance. We have rarely seen, in the City of Raleigh, so quiet, orderly and attentive a crowd.

The hour at which we go to press precludes any extended notice of the meeting, to-day, or of the speeches of Gov. Worth and Messrs. Battle and Gates, all of which were received with decided favor and exhibitions of approval. We engaged, for the occasion, the services of a competent stereographer, and will be able tomorrow to present a full abstract of the speeches of the ablest and most eloquent orators.

We may simply say, for to-day, that we trust that this movement is but the beginning—and that our colored people will be frequently addressed by our leading citizens, at every point in the State.

Before Gov. Worth closed his remarks, we were compelled to leave. We learn, that, when the Governor closed, James H. Harris, Jas. F. Taylor and James Jones were called up, all of whom addressed the crowd.

THE COLORED MEETING.

The meeting held on yesterday, on the Capitol Square, called by our colored citizens, was in all respects a success. The severe wind and the place of speaking were unfavorable to the speakers, yet we have heard but one opinion expressed, both by white and colored, as to the satisfactory character of the speeches and the general deportment of the audience, except the one expressed by the Standard. That was expected. The chagrin of that paper at its want of influence over the colored people, is manifest, after the attempt made to prevent an audience.

We are glad to know, that our colored people feel, and that they are determined to exhibit, that they are *freemen*; that they do not belong to Mr. Holden, or any other man, or set of men—that they will hear whom they please. Before 1835, in this State, when colored persons were allowed to vote, it was universally admitted that they always voted for gentlemen, and generally for those whom they had known to be kind and considerate to the claims of colored people. We believe they will do so now, unless they are misled by demagogues and tricksters.

We hope that this is a beginning. Gentlemen everywhere in the State will, no doubt, readily address the people, white or colored, whenever called upon. It is important that the people should be interested that all, if possible, should hear both sides; if there are two sides to this question, and we hope the colored people will assert their right to hear all sides and make up an honest judgment as to the course they will take.

The news of the gallant Capt. N. Col. Hughes, who was killed in Virginia, in 1861, reached Newbern on Saturday evening last, and were met by a large concourse of citizens friends and acquaintances, and were interred in Cedar Grove Cemetery, where the last dirges were performed by the Rev. E. M. Fortune.

PRESIDENT JOHNSON'S VISIT.

The Washington Star, of Saturday last, announces that President Johnson, it is expected, will accept the invitation of this city, made some time since, to visit his native home during the month of May. This announcement, entirely apart from all political considerations, will be received by all classes of our citizens with the sincerest gratification. Many years have elapsed since Mr. Johnson visited this place—the scene of his youth, where sleep the bones of his parents. Then he was only on the road to fame. Now that he has reached the highest position in political elevation and grown gray in the public service, it is fit that once more, before he gathered to his fathers, he should visit the home of his early childhood. While our people may not be prepared for an entire endorsement of Mr. Johnson's policies and party, nor all his acts and sayings since his elevation to the Presidency, and we call but reluctantly attempt to reconstruct States, which, according to his own principles, are not fit for instruction, and which are temporal and failure evidently justified the Congress, as the law-making power in the government, to undertake that task, yet most heartily accord to him honesty and integrity, in his purposes to restore the ancient landmarks of the government, and to promote the earliest restoration of the country to law and peace and prosperity.

It is highly proper, as given by his intended visit, to our people, that we will give the best demonstration of respect and esteem, due to the high office of our Master, of which they are capable. We beseech you, my countrymen, to prevent him from leaving.

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA.

CHARLOTTE, April 21.

The Sentiment of a Freedman.
(From the *Macon Journal and Messenger*, April 15.)

TO THE PUBLIC.

At a freedman's meeting held in Valdosta, Georgia, on the 23d ultimo, the assembly was addressed by several colored men, one of whom, Moses Lodge, is reported as having given utterance to the following sentiments, which are as creditable to his intelligence as they are honorable to his heart:

"In response to call Moses Lodge took the floor. He spoke in a manner earnest, sincere and impressive. He said, I am an unlearned man, not used to speaking, but I know what I feel and think. I was born in Georgia. I am a Southern born man and expect to die here. I was once a slave and had to obey a master. I am a free man now and must obey the laws of this country. I have no ill feeling against the white man because I was once a slave. I hope the white man has no ill feelings toward me because I am free. So far as I know I have seen, I find no bad feeling between us. When I was a slave I was not abused. Since I have been free no one has tried to wrong me in any way. I have lived in this town six years, and never had cause to complain of any one. I find that my straightforward steps are my best ones. I know that a man that acts right will have respect."

The colored man then behaved politely and meet politeness, and always behaved. I am willing to live among my white friends, and I believe they are willing to let me stay here. I am willing to trust my white friends. I know them. I am a Georgian from the bottom of my foot to the crown of my head. I wish to see this town prosper and this country prosper. I wish the welfare of my white friends and colored friends. We all live here and expect to live here. I know we can get along in a kind and friendly manner, and help to one another, and believe we will. When I live among people and know them, and find them kind, I am willing to trust them. I trust people I know."

PRESENTMENT.

The following presentment was made by the Grand Jury, at the late day, to the Clerk of Pleas and Quarter Sessions for the County of Wake:

"We, the Grand Jury, do present to the County of Wake, that we, the members of the

State of North Carolina,

do hereby certify, that we have

seen and examined the following documents:

"A copy of the *Standard*, of Newbern, dated

March 21, 1867.

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