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## THE SENTINEL.

WM. E. PELL, | SEATON GALES,  
EDITORS.

SATURDAY, JULY 20, 1867.

### REGISTER! REGISTER! REGISTER!

Gen. Sickles will no doubt, in a short time, issue his order for Registration, and will specify, we trust, definitely, so as to be fully understood by every one, who are entitled to register and vote. So soon as the day arrives for the registration, we beg and implore every man, thus entitled, to go and register. Let nothing but severe sickness, or disqualification under the law, prevent you from registering.

### THE RAILROADS.

When a body of men unite in an association to build a Railroad, or in any other money-making enterprise, and ask the Legislature for a charter, with certain franchises, privileges and monopolies, it seems to be generally understood that the Legislature grants the charter with two distinct ideas. First, that the public good is to be promoted by it, and is not to be sacrificed to the personal benefit of the stockholders or to partisan ends; and, secondly, that the terms should be favorable, that in promoting the public good, the pecuniary interests of the stockholders should not be overlooked or compromised. When the State becomes a joint-stockholder, it is understood that its interests are identical only with the other stockholders, and that she cannot use her influence in any way to their detriment.

Holding these views, we, twelve months ago, urged that the policy of a State, in regard to her Railroads and other works of improvement, was bad and prejudicial to the interests of all parties, whenever she claimed, as a consideration for the aid rendered, the right to control the general and specific management of the Roads by agents of her own appointment. In consideration of the franchises and exclusive privileges granted to any Company, and the aid rendered in subscription or otherwise, we would always give the State a power of supervision and investigation into the affairs of the Corporation, but the general and specific management of the Company should be committed to those individual stockholders, whose interests and intelligence authorize the expectation that all the interests of the Company, and the public, will be well guarded and cared for. Hence we intimated that the course of other States, in refusing to claim the right to control the management of the Roads and other works, in which the State was interested with individuals, was wiser and had been more successful than ours.

We based this conclusion, upon two well established facts. First, that individual and personal interest, in building and managing any enterprise, had always cost less and was more economical than when committed to the control and conduct of the State. The purse of the State, because owned by the whole people, has always been understood to be more easy of access and more lavish, than the purse of individuals or of a close corporation. Secondly, that all State management, however cautiously, wisely and economically administered, was liable to the charge of extravagance or partizanship. For these reasons, and to further the reduction of the State debt, and thereby improve its credit, we have sustained the action of the State Convention, in directing the sale of the State's interest in the Rail Roads, which, though liable to objection, nevertheless, to our mind, promised the greater good to the people of the State.

These remarks, perhaps, are in place now, in view of complaints which have been made against the Board of Internal Improvement, and Gov. Worth, touching the State management of the Railroads. This has been an annual complaint, we believe, ever since the Railroads have been built. If people will consider, they will see that these complaints are unavoidable, and that they will necessarily exist, whether well or ill-founded, so long as the State claims the right to have any direct controlling influence over the Railroads, in which she is peculiarly interested. Gentlemen, with the purest intentions and best motives, will differ in opinion about men and measures, even though there may be a general unity of sentiment on general politics. But nothing hurts so much, as a difference of opinion in regard to friends, personal or political, especially where pecuniary interests are involved. But why attribute bad motives to any one, when it is so easy to account for its occurrence in so many other ways? Errors in judgment all men are liable to, and there are controlling reasons which frequently influence the actions of men, in public office, which the public cannot understand.

In the administration of public affairs in North Carolina, we have always contended, that in those matters where every class of persons and parties were equally interested, partisan偏見should never influence our public action. Hence, old party differences have never influenced our action as a nation, where the *individuals were all right now*, and we have a cordial and assiduously recommended and urged the appointment of those who formerly differed with us, all things being equal, as of those with whom we have been in political accord the best portion of our lives. With us the past has been truly and fully forgotten, and our only test has been, "is the man right now?" These are our only conditions for all men, to secure our confidence and support. Hence, while we have not approved, in either the present or the past, all that has been done in making appointments, yet we have not felt called upon

to express our dissent, from mere *pique* or disappointment, and charge the authors with bad motives, when we have had, in so many instances, the proof of their high integrity and anxiety always to do justice to all. Moreover, is it not unjust and unfair to charge improper motives and incompetency to appointees, until they have had a chance to prove whether they are competent or not? We think so. In these respects we have not intended any personal reference to any individual, but only to the general subject of Railroad management in the State.

### ANOTHER RECONSTRUCTION BILL.

Mr. Stevens has introduced another reconstruction bill into the House, which has been referred to the Reconstruction Committee, which materially differs from the bill already passed. The main features of this bill are, the declaring null and void all governments now in existence in the "rebel" territory, claiming for Congress the sole control of said territory, reducing the present military authority to a police department, and conferring the entire government upon three civil Commissioners in each District, who are subject to Congress alone.

We presume that this is designed as an intimation to the country of what may be expected in future. His object is some what similar to that embodied in his confiscation scheme. The bill is sent out to feel the pulse of the North, and we judge it is not designed to be pressed at an early day. It is another chapter in the *covert* designs of Mr. Stevens, and those who act with him, to subjugate the entire country to the control of Congress alone, as the representative of the Radical party.

We have never believed that it was the design of Mr. Stevens, and those who support him, under any circumstances, to restore the Southern States. Having, by persistent effort and by piecemeal, secured the acquiescence of the North in the doctrine that to Congress alone belongs the entire question of reconstruction, ignoring the Constitution altogether, his purpose is to keep the Southern States out forever, and it requires but little foresight to see, that this last bill of his is an entombed wedge to this result, viz., the destruction of the State.

The DeKalb (Miss.) *Ensign* contains the obituary of Richard Odum, who died near Kemper Springs, Miss., on the 26th day of April, at the age of 112 years. He was born in August, 1755, in the State of North Carolina, married at the age of 19, and moved to South Alabama, and lived there until he was 90 years old. At the age of 30 he was converted and joined the Methodist Church. It does not appear that he accumulated much property. His wife, surviving, and is 107 years old. His descendants, including children, grand, and great grand children, are supposed to number 75.

— Luke Blackmer, Esq., of Salisbury, addressed a large number of the citizens of Rowan, at Gheen's Bridge, on yesterday.—The *Old North State* says that he urged all men, not disfranchise him by the act of Congress, to register themselves as voters. He further advised in favor of voting for the call of the Convention, and the election of men to represent us in who would stand up squarely against the proscriptive policy of the Radicals. He made a very fine impression.

— We are indebted to Levi M. Scott, Esq., Grand Master I. O. O. F., in this State, for a copy of his report to the R. W. Grand Lodge, at its late session. There are now twenty Lodges at work in the State, some of them being in a flourishing condition, and the Grand Master expresses the hope that the work of resuscitation which has begun so favorably may continue until all delinquent Lodges are again brought into the communion and Odd Fellowship restored to its former high position in point of numbers, influence and usefulness."

— The Salisbury *Old North State*, speaking of "Dixie Cookery," by Mrs. V. C. Barringer, of Concord, says that "a lady friend, in every way competent to judge, pronounces my of her receipts excellent."

— The same paper, referring to its recent notice of a gap in the Public Laws, says: "The copy seen by us was furnished by a legal friend, who has himself since taken the trouble to examine other copies, and he finds no error except in the particular one to which we referred, showing conclusively that it was an exceptional copy. The copy referred to by us was well printed, and nothing was wanting to make it perfect except the chapters which were accidentally omitted."

— The Newbern *Journal of Commerce*, speaking of the new labor-saving Pump, says: "We have made inquiries, regarding the practical working and success of the Patent Economic Labor Saving Pump & Well, recently introduced by Messrs. Mitchell, Allen & Co., of our City, and find that a large number have been put down, and are in successful operation in this City and Europe. It embodies such an array of striking facts as cannot fail to excite the notice of emigrants and capitalists, we should think. If any considerable body of these lands can be disposed of, it will have the double advantage of promoting the education of the masses and bringing the State money and immigration."

— The *National Intelligencer*, speaking of the cost of reconstruction, says: "We have seen an estimate which appears rather below than above the mark, according to which the sum is put down at \$15,000,000 per annum—rather an expensive way of bringing into the Union States confessingly anxious to resume their positions, and not only to pay the cost of their own government, but to bear a proportionate share of the public burdens."

— We think that, in this estimate, there must be included many expenses not immediately connected with reconstruction proper. Gen. Sickles' estimate is only \$600,000 for his District, which approximates the probable expense, leaving out those expenses which are properly provided for by the War Department and Freedmen's Bureau.

— An important treaty is said to be in progress between the United States and Great Britain, looking to the settlement of all differences between the two countries, by ceding to the United States the British provinces which lie between the U. S. and the possessions recently acquired by us by treaty from Russia.

— The fall of Vera Cruz has been officially communicated to the State Department. It is in the possession of the Liberals.

— Hon. Montgomery Blair will address the people, by invitation, "on the situation," at the Rockbridge Alum Springs, Va., on to-day, the 20th inst.

— The Cotton crop of Louisiana has been greatly injured by the late rains, and it is feared that the appearance of the armyworm will partially or wholly destroy it.

### STATE ITEMS.

— A destructive fire occurred in Tarboro, on Tuesday night last, by which one of the most closely built business squares of that beautiful town was destroyed. It is estimated that the loss will reach \$100,000.

— The "Cape Fear Grano Company" has been organized. The following gentlemen have been elected Directors, viz. J. Eli Gregg, of South Carolina; R. R. Bridges, President, Wilmington & Weldon Railroad; W. A. Wright, of Wilmington, N. C.; G. W. Griffin, of Baltimore, Md.; Ed Kidder, of Wilmington, N. C.; W. J. Hawkins, President, Raleigh & Gaston Railroad; W. Evans, of South Carolina; Jesse H. Powell, of Edgecombe County, N. C.; Hon. R. R. Bridges was subsequently elected, by the Board, President, Edward Kidder, Vice President, and Donald McRae, Secretary and Treasurer.

— E. A. Robbins, Commissioner of Internal Revenue, Treasury Department, orders the Collector for the 2nd District of this State, at Wilmington, to suspend the collection of the tax imposed upon retail dealers of liquor, wherever they have been compelled to discontinue their business by the recent order of Gen. Sickles, until further instructions are given concerning the same.

— Col. Fremont, Superintendent of the Wilmington and Weldon Railroad, and Hon. Josiah Turner, President of the N. C. Railroad, had a conference in Goldsboro, on Thursday, for the purpose of arranging a tariff of through freights.

— We learn from the Newbern *Journal of Commerce*, that Charles Sturgis, a native of Connecticut, who is supposed to be the leader of the gang of murderers and robbers, who infested that section of country for some months, was arrested on Thursday morning on the Trent road, while trying to make his way out of the city, by Mr. Kinsey and two negroes.

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### From the Wilmington Journal.

#### THE STATE DEBT.

A correspondent of the Raleigh *Standard*, writing from Petersburg, who has been two years in Europe, inquires of that paper to know why it is that Virginia and Tennessee are paying their coupons regularly, while North Carolina pays nothing, and desires to know what the prospect is. To which that paper replies as follows:

"We regret we cannot satisfactorily answer our correspondence. Our rulers in this State are faithful followers of the principles of the Southern Confederacy. They are paying their debts punctually, but we hear of no arrangements to pay even the interest on the old bonds."

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