# The Semi-Weekly Sentinel.

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## THE SENTINEL.

WM. E. PELL, PROPRIETOR.

### *REGISTRATION—THE CONVENTION—THE DUTY.*

We have reason to believe that but few days now will intervene, before General Sickles will issue his instructions to Registrars and direct them to commence their labors. Previous to opening the books of registration, however, ten days' notice thereof must be given, according to the law, for the information of the people. After registration is commenced, it must be completed by the first day of October.

We beg, therefore, to repeat and urge the suggestion, which we presented on yesterday, that duly qualified candidates for the Convention shall announce themselves, or be brought out, forthwith. Of course, all other things being at all equal, we should greatly prefer, in every instance, to have Conservatives in the field; but when such cannot be induced to come out, we trust that our friends, who may be allowed to vote, will unite in support of some moderate Republican, who is known to be opposed to the violent and malignant purposes of ultra-Radicalism. We have several such in the State, whom we would be perfectly willing to trust with the solution of our difficulties and the rehabilitation of the State Government. We could designate some, by name, who are as inimical to the vile and fiendish designs of the Holden wing of the party, as we can possibly be. They are, as an invariable rule, to be found in the ranks of the *bona fide* consistent Unionists, who have never faltered or wavered; while, quite as invariably, the persecuting, malevolent and oppressive men in the State are new converts, "latter day saints," old negro abusers and blatant Yankee haters and secessionists.

We should deplore it, as a great calamity, that any considerable number of our white citizens should fail to register and to vote. We need feel no apprehension on the score of the colored vote. Under the active and secret agencies that are at work, it will be fully brought out. We should regret it, we say, as a terrible evil, that indifference, disgust, despair, or any other reason, should produce the same failure to register, here, which has irretrievably surrendered Virginia, probably, and Alabama and Louisiana, almost certainly, into the hands of the Radicals and the negroes. In the first place, the injury thus done *ourselves* may be irremediable; it may result in our permanent disfranchisement, for no one can doubt that if the Brownlowites in North Carolina obtain an ascendancy in the Convention, they will inaugurate just such a system of proscription as that which has been fastened upon Tennessee by their patron saint and great exemplar. In the second place, *we must no stop*, this time, if it can be with honor avoided. We are for reconstruction, on the basis of the military acts, in the hope, however faint that hope may be, that a literal compliance with the terms will bring us freedom from turmoil, agitation, perplexing doubts and harrassing fears. We want, therefore, all the qualified white voters of the State to be in a position to vote in favor of the ratification of the State Constitution, that may be adopted by the Convention, and thus command the necessary majority therefor, if the extreme Radical managers, dissatisfied with that Constitution, shall seek to defeat it, as, in that event, they certainly would. And we will go farther and say, that if it is such a Constitution as would degrade and ruin us forever by its acceptance, we want to have enough registered voters *to kill it*.

In the present state of the public temper, or rather in the existing *passivity* of the popular mind, there is every reason to fear that our people, like those of the other Southern States in which registration has been progressing, will fail to appreciate the importance of registration, unless urgent, strenuous and practical appeals to the discharge of that duty are constantly made to them. Let us, at once, then, and through out the State, have intelligent, honest, patriotic men in the field, who will impress, day by day, upon all our people, the solemn necessity of registering and voting.

We repeat that our advice in this matter is prompted by the fact that, as matters stand, we see no other prospect, however faint *this* prospect may be, of a speedy settlement of our national troubles, than upon the conditions imposed by Congress. We regard peace and restoration of some sort as essential to the happiness, welfare, even the *lives*, of our people. But while such are our views, we put on record our solemn conviction, that the granting of universal suffrage and the right of holding civil office, irrespective of qualification or merit, is fraught with nothing but danger to the country. Nevertheless, we proclaim ourselves as unflinching friends of real freedom to all, and of everything that is essential to its *proper* maintenance.

HOW THE THING IS WORKING. The Richmond correspondent of the New York *Herald* has the following, which is true of many other localities besides that of Richmond:

"I was lately struck by the disposition the blacks are manifesting to throw off the patronizing leadership of the whites and strike out for themselves under the guidance of men of their own color. I overheard one negro remark to another the other day, as Wardwell, the prospective nominee for Mayor, passed by:—"Dere goes dat ole beat Wardwell. He wants to row in our boat bud, but I tink all such is played out wid us." There are men among the negroes here who are every inch as intelligent and as competent to guide the destiny of their race as any of the whites who associate with them. Aware of the gradually growing feeling of independence on the part of the blacks, I am sanguine it will be impossible for the radicals to appease them unless they share the offices."

### *BUYERS AND SELLERS OF N. C. BONDS.*

At the suggestion of a friend, we give the following hints to the public, who may be interested in N. C. Bonds:

"N. C. Bonds" simply, without any remark, in the language of the Stock Exchange Brokers, means old N. C. Bonds, with coupons attached from July 1st, 1861.

"New bonds" means bonds issued since the war, with coupons attached from 1st, July 1866, inclusive, i. e. three coupons of $30 each.

"Bonds ex coupons" means old bonds, with coupons attached from July 1, 1866, inclusive, i. e. three coupons.

If either coupon is lacking, it is counted worth $30, not its market value.

We caution our readers against buying coupon State bonds, which have been *registered* in the State Treasury, unless those bonds have been properly re-transferred to bearer. Otherwise, they are not negotiable by delivery.

We are informed that, during the war, some State bonds, the property of the late Gen. Branch, of Ulias Bancom, and perhaps others, were stolen, as alleged, by Federal soldiers, and are now in circulation. All bonds of this class are estopped and are not negotiable on delivery, and as the Public Treasurer has been duly notified not to pay them, the purchasers of them will find themselves deceived.

Those bonds on which writing has been erased, should be avoided, unless the Public Treasurer is consulted and pronounces them all right. These suggestions are important, to avoid error and loss.

### *GENERAL SICKLES.*

Whatever may be the opinion of persons as to the legitimacy of the causes which led the Congress to adopt the Reconstruction Acts, and to place the Southern States under the military rule, it is nevertheless the duty of all to respect and obey those to whom has been committed the duty of executing the laws. The District Commander and the Commanders of the several posts are entitled to this, nor should any one feel at liberty to speak disparagingly of them.

For some time, there has been a manifest disposition, in North Carolina Radicals of a certain stamp, to decry and speak lightly of Gen. Sickles. This has been marked, since Gen. Sickles' letter to Mr. Trumbull was published in which he nobly asserted and sustained the necessity for a general amnesty. We learn that those very fellows, (gentlemen we cannot call them,) who denounce many of our best citizens as traitors and disloyal, use language in reference to Gen. Sickles which indicates a disposition to denounce *him*, if they dared to do it, as a traitor and disloyal, also.

TENNESSEE. At the election which occurred in Tennessee, on yesterday, a Governor, eight members of Congress, a State Legislature and a Superintendent of Public Instruction were to be chosen.

Brownlow and Hon. Emerson Etheridge, it is well known, were the Gubernatorial candidates. For Superintendent of Public Instruction the candidates were John Eaton, Jr., Radical, and Charles S. Cameron, Democrat. The Radical candidates for Congress are 1st district, R. R. Butler, 2d, Horace Maynard, (for re-election;) 3d, William Stokes, (for re-election;) 4th, James Mullins; 5th, John Trimble, 6th, Samuel M. Arnell, (for re-election;) 7th, Isaac R. Hawkins, (for re-election;) 8th, David A. Nunn. The Democratic candidates, in numerical order of districts, 1 to 8, are: James White, John Williams, Eli G. Fleming, Edward Cooper, (for re-election,) Bailie Peyton, Dorsey B. Thomas, W. P. Caldwell, John W. Leftwich, (for re-election.) The Legislature chosen will elect a United States Senator in place of Judge Patterson, son in law of President Johnson, whose term expires on the 4th of March next.

WHAT THEY DRINK IN HAWAII—The Sandwich Islands correspondent of the New York *Herald*, writing from Honolulu, under date of June 3, furnishes the following item:

"The Insane Asylum is under the management of Dr. Edward Hoffman, and has at present twenty-eight inmates—four foreigners and twenty-four natives. The Doctor states that the result of his research and experience proves that *awa*, indulged in to excess, is a fruitful cause of insanity among Hawaiians. The *awa* is a pungent, acrid compound, in a liquid form, made from a root of that name, which produces intoxication. It is prepared by girls or women generally, who chew it until the juice is expressed and mixed with the saliva, when it is spit into a bowl or calabash, and the process continued until enough is prepared for a good, big drink. The very general use of *awa* by the natives alarmed the government some years since, and the sale was restricted by issuing a limited number of licences to sell it, and then only to such parties as could bring a certificate from a physician to the effect that it was for medical purposes, for which certificate the physician might charge twenty-five cents. To show what a farce and mockery the law is made by parties who claim to be respectable, I will state that these certificates, prepared and signed by the hundred, are furnished to any one offering the fee. The principal sales are made on Saturdays, when the natives prepare for a drunken Sunday."

The New York *Herald* says: Leading Conservatives in South Carolina, it is said, have proposed to the negroes of the State to assist in electing the latter's candidates for Congress, provided the blacks will give them the control of the State government.

[Reported Specially for the Sentinel.]

## THE MILITARY COMMISSION.

UNITED STATES VS TOLAR, POWERS AND WATKINS.

WEDNESDAY, July 31, 1867.

*Jessie Reynolds, sworn.*—Live in Fayetteville, am 22 years of age; was at the market house the day Archy Bebee was killed. Saw Tolar, John Maltsby, Tom Powers and "Monk;" about a hundred or more persons there; heard Maltsby say "if Archy was not guilty, he (Maltsby) was Archy's friend; but if he was guilty, he was in for it." Saw Bebee come down, and Mis Massie a little while before him; saw Powers catch hold of Bebee, and Wemiss push him off. Saw "Monk" go up to Bebee at the same time. Bebee was shot soon after leaving the arch. Don't know who fired the pistol. Did not see Tolar when the pistol fired.

*Cross-examined:* Never saw Maltsby do anything that day; saw the prisoner, Bebee, brought down stairs. Powers caught hold of the prisoner, but was pushed off; did not see him have a knife. "Monk" had a knife in his right hand; was about ten or twenty feet from Bebee when he was shot; saw Sam Phillips there about five minutes after Bebee was shot, had a pistol in his hand about ten inches long; he was rubbing the pistol; did not see any body else have a pistol; know Capt. Tolar.

*Redirect.*—Maltsby said, "if Archy was not guilty, he (Maltsby) was his friend, but if Archy was guilty, he (Maltsby) was in for it." Phillips seemed to be scrutching the rust off his pistol about five minutes after he was shot.

*Henry Hogan*, (negro,) sworn. Lived in Fayetteville; live now in Raleigh; am shoemaker by trade; was at the market house the day of Bebee's trial. Saw "Monk" in the crowd, when Archy was up stairs; also Mr. Sykes and Mr. Simmons; saw the boy Bebee coming down stairs. Hardie and Wemiss were with him, saw the crowd push towards Bebee; Sykes and "Monk" were in it; heard Tom Powers say "I demand the prisoner," or something to that effect; did not see any weapons then. After Bebee got out on the side walk, heard somebody say "shoot him," "shoot him;" saw Capt. Tolar fire the pistol and Bebee fall. John Armstrong was the nearest man to Tolar when he fired. Heard some one in the crowd ask if Bebee was shot, and, being answered "yes," pulled off his hat and said "hurrah! hurrah!"

*Cross-examined.*—Have had some conversation with Phillips about this matter since I have been here. Phillips and Nixon came round to my shop and asked me about the matter. I told them I saw Capt. Tolar fire the pistol, and that was about all. Phillips came after me and told me to go before Gen. Avery. Was about three or four feet from the sidewalk when the pistol fired; was about seven feet from Bebee at the same time; did not see Bebee fall down before he was shot. Did not see Tolar before I saw him in the act of shooting. I saw him fire the pistol and either put it under his left arm or in his left pocket; saw him throw back his shawl and it struck Armstrong in the face or on his shoulder. I was about four feet from Tolar, Armstrong was nearer.

*Re direct:* Had a conversation with Phillips last Saturday. Mr. Nixon was present.

Court adjourned until this (Thursday) morning, 11 A. M.

THURSDAY MORNING, August 1.

*James Kendrick*, sworn: Was at Market the day of Archy Bebee's trial and tried to go up and hear it but was prevented. Stayed down below. Saw Tolar, Tom Powers, "Monk" and John Maltsby there, while Bebee was up stairs. There was considerable excitement in the crowd below. Miss Massie and mother came down stairs first, accompanied by Mr. Bond. He and Powers went with them to the carriage that was waiting on the outside for them.—When Bebee was coming down, I heard Tolar remark "he hoped he would not have to shoot, but if he did, it would be a good shot." Just as Bebee was going out of the arch, I heard Tom Powers demand him of the Sheriff,—at the same time laying his hands on Bebee, which demand was refused by the Sheriff. Saw the man who fired the pistol that killed Bebee; it was Capt. Tolar; know him well; was standing near enough to him at the time to lay my hand on him. Witness was not standing on the side walk at the time. Saw Tolar a few moments after, standing against the wall of the market house. Saw "Monk" soon afterwards charging around. Mr. Nixon caught hold of him and told him to behave himself. At the time Bebee was shot, heard George Hollingsworth cry out, "Capt. Tolar shot him," "Capt. Tolar shot him."

*Cross Examined:* Received my subpena last Saturday. Sam Phillips is a relation of mine, an uncle; my father married his sister. Have talked with him about it.

Know that Capt. Tolar, being a butcher, is frequently about the market house and transacts his business there. When Tolar made the remark about shooting, there was quite a crowd around him; don't recollect the name of any other person there at that time. Did not see anything in Tom Powers' hand, when he caught hold of Bebee. When Bebee was shot, Sheriff Hardie had his hand in Bebee's collar, and was standing in his rear and right; there were several persons between Tolar and Bebee, when the pistol fired. Tolar was on my left and front, and was about three steps off from the pavement, four or five feet, and perhaps more. Can't say who was near him at that time. Saw Sam Phillips have a pistol there that day; he just had it in his hand. After we walked down to the store, about seventy five yards from them, uncle Sam showed me his pistol and told me "there was going to be trouble about this matter and there was his pistol;" it was a large size Remington pistol; he showed me no other "four barrelled" or "smaller pistol."

I can't swear I ever saw Tolar before that day.

*Redirect:* The reason I have not talked with Sam Phillips, since I have been here, about what I was going to swear, is because you (prosecuting Counsel) told me not to.

The pistol Phillips had in the crowd, at the market house, was the same that he showed me at his store. Am certain that Tolar fired the pistol; could not be mistaken; am positive.

*William Carpenter*, sworn: Happened to pass through the market house about the time Bebee was brought down stairs, and, soon after passing through, heard a pistol shot and turned round and saw Capt. Tolar come out of the crowd and have a pistol in his hand, which he was holding under his coat behind, or trying to put in his belt; saw him go up to the side of the market house and stop; saw him no more.

*Cross examined:* Saw the crowd, but my attention was not called until the pistol fired. I looked around and saw Tolar; he was coming out of the crowd and he seemed to be in the act of putting up a pistol. I did not see who fired the pistol. There was a large crowd there, white and black. The pistol I saw Tolar have was a repeater.

*Duncan N. McLean, sworn:* Am a school teacher and live in Fayetteville. Am not a licensed preacher; was in Fayetteville when a negro was killed at the market house. Was in Newberry's store; it is on Person Street, the second store from the market house. Was looking out of the window when the pistol fired; saw the flash and smoke, but did not see the pistol. Can't say who fired it; was in the crowd before the pistol fired, but don't recollect a single person who was there. Went after the shot was fired and looked at the dead negro, saw Hardie and one or two others there.

No cross examination.

Court adjourned until to day (Friday) 11 o'clock.

### *STATE ITEMS.*

Jame Brinkley, confined in Lenoir jail under sentence of death, and who was to have been hung on the 19th ult. but was respited to the 9th of August by Gen. Sickles, has been granted by his Excellency, Gov. Worth, an extension to the 13th Sept. next.

Dr. G. W. Blackwell, designated by Gen. Sickles as one of the Granville county registrars, declines to serve in that capacity. He does so himself disqualified.

—The company of Northerners who have purchased the Wilmington *Dispatch*, have elected Capt. E. A. Pool, formerly of the New York *Times*, and lately of the Washington *Chronicle*, as its editor.

The Goldsboro' *Messenger* learns from a farmer in Carteret, that, on going into his corn field early a few mornings since, he was greeted by five black bears, helping themselves to the young corn. Being alone, with no gun, he concluded that a quiet retreat was prudent.

—The venerable Dr. Samuel Wait died at Wake Forest College, on the 29th ult.—His long and useful life was intimately connected with the history of the Baptists in North Carolina, and with Wake Forest College, of which he was for many years the President.

The Convention of farmers and others, from the border counties of Virginia and North Carolina, met at Danville on Saturday last. The Richmond papers give us the first day's proceedings. There was a large number of persons present, representing the counties of Pittsylvania and Henry, in Virginia, and Caswell, Rockingham and Person, in North Carolina. Much interest was manifested. The society was organized by electing Major Wm. T. Sutherlin, of Danville, President, and Messrs. Wm. Long, of Caswell county, Wm. D. Bethel, of Rockingham county, and John W. Cunningham, of Person county, North Carolina, and T. H. Stamps, of Pittsylvania county, Wm. Martin, of Henry county, Thomas Barksdale, of Halifax county, and W. W. Keen, of Pittsylvania county, Virginia, Vice Presidents. Several addresses were made.

A writer in the *Old North State* gives the following account of the evidences of growth about Salem. After speaking of Mr. Vogler's new building, of which our correspondent "Itinerant" gave a recent account, he says:—

"Mr. Henry Fries, the very accomplished and gentlemanly proprietor of the Wool and Cotton Mills, is still driving ahead his manufacturing business with renewed energy and spirit, notwithstanding the depressing tendency of the times. This establishment is turning out a better article and a greater variety of fabrics than it did before the war.

There are few men perhaps in the State possessing, in an eminent degree, the spirit, energy and business tact, that characterize this gentleman; and he justly deserves the patronage and support of our merchants, who should buy his fabrics in preference to the "shoddy goods" from Northern manufacturers.

Among all the merchants, and in every branch of business, we witness the same industry and thrift."

The Convention of North Carolina and Virginia farmers, just held at Danville, was a successful and pleasant affair. We gave the first day's proceedings on yesterday. Under the constitution adopted, two fairs are to be held each year, a tobacco fair in June and a general fair in October. The Executive Committee have already taken steps preparatory to a fair in October next.

The Weldon *News* says that, on Saturday last, a Court of enquiry, Lieut. Cutler, U. S. A. presiding, was held in the town of Halifax, to investigate the conduct of Mr. Charles Webb, a magistrate of that county, in refusing to bail a negro, who was brought before him on a charge of larceny. The decision has not been made public. The negro was released from jail, however, upon his giving bail, of which Mr. Webb approved.

Mr. Webb committed the negro, in the first instance, because the parties offered as bail were not, in his opinion, responsible.

—Capt. Latham, of Craven, has sent to the Editor of the *Journal of Commerce* a lot of splendid peaches, two of which weighed 11½ ounces. The peach crop, generally, in this state, was never finer than it is this year.

—The New York *Christian Advocate*, of the 18th., says that Rev. R. S. Moran, Presiding Elder of the Roanoke district, N. C. Conference of the M. E. Church, South, and Professor Southgate, President of Olin College, N. C., are spending a few days in that city. Mr. Moran is on a visit to his father, at Johnsonville, Ohio.

### *POLITICAL SENTIMENT IN GEORGIA.*

The telegraph a few days since stated that the recent letters of Messrs. Johnson, Hill and Perry "have shaken the faith of many heretofore in favor of organization under the military bill," and that "it is said that the anti convention idea is becoming more popular with the people of Georgia."

We reprint the following extracts from a speech of Hon. B. H. Hill, at Atlanta, a few days since, as having, to some extent, the ideas which have effected the change referred to:

"How many people in Atlanta belong to the "Loyal League?" [Laughter.] I warn all decent men to abandon such clans. I know the times have been such that many good men have naturally gone astray. Save yourselves before it is too late! Destroy all the evidences of your membership and all your comrades by mutual consent and let the fact that you were members end come out. You are pardonable for the past; but if you continue you will be covered with shame, and your very children will disown you. [Applause.] Come, join the Patriot's League. Our only pledge is to support the Constitution, love its friends and hate its enemies, and proclaim our love and hatred at noonday and from the house tops. Save yourselves now, or be forever lost to decent society and your own self respect. All the brave and true men, even at the North, respect us the day more than they do you. The Rebels will use, but even they will despise, the Southern man who becomes their accomplice.

My colored friends, will you receive a word of admonition? On all the people, you will most need the protection of the law. You will most suffer by anarchy and usurpation. Do you believe that the men who is faithless to the Constitution of the country will be faithful to you? If a man will take an oath to support the Constitution and then violate it, can you rely upon his keeping any promise to you? No; I tell you such people are friends to nothing but their own interest. They are betrayers of the Constitution to keep themselves in office; they desire to use you to help them get office, (applause,) and they will betray you whenever they find it to their interest to do so.

They tell you they are your friends. It is false; they are your very worst enemies. They tell you they set you free. It is false. These vile creatures, who come among you and put themselves on a level with you, never went with the army except to steal spoons, jewelry and gold watches. (Great applause.) They are too low to be brave. They are dirty spawn, cast out from decent society, who come down here and seek to use you to further their own base purposes.

They promise you lands, and teach you to hate the Southern people, whom you have known always, and who never deceived you. Are you foolish enough to believe that you can get another man's land for nothing, and that the white people will give up their land without resistance?

If you get up strife between your race and the white race, do you not know you must perish? You are now ten to one the weaker race. You will grow weaker every day. You can have no safety but in the Constitution, and no peace except by cultivating relations of kindness with those who are fixed here, who used your services, and who are willing to protect you.

The same experiment which is now being attempted with you by those Northern knaves who seek your votes was attempted by similar people in France for the negroes in Hayti. They passed laws to give the negroes political equality—abolish all distinctions of color—and what is the result? There was first a war of classes; then a war between the blacks and mulattoes on the other. Then there was a war between the blacks and mulattoes, and neither white, black nor mulatto have ever seen peace or prosperity in Hayti since.

These men intend your extermination. Some of them are writing books in favor of your extermination, and I have myself heard some of them avow that you ought to be exterminated or driven from the country. These are the same people whose fathers found the Indians here. They declared the earth was the Lord's and belonged to his saints, and that they were his saints. Then they killed and drove off the poor Indian and took his lands. If you do not make and keep friends of the Southern people your fate is that of the Indians. Woe to your race! You well know your race is not prepared to vote. Why do you care to do what you do not understand? Improve yourselves. Learn to read and write; be industrious; lay up your means; acquire homes; live in peace with your neighbors, and drive off, as you would a serpent, the miserable, dirty adventurers who come among you, and who, being too low to be received into white society, seek to lord it among you hatred for the decent portion of the white race. You can always know a gentleman, whether from the North or South, and all such respect and esteem for such will not deceive you. Do not think to vote until you are qualified to vote, and then look for the right to be given, not in a manner that violates the Constitution but in accordance with it, and through your own State Governments. I feel more deeply for you than I do for the white race. White people ought to know better than to disregard the laws and expect mercy. But you do not know the laws, and do not understand deceivers.

I am willing, anxious to welcome among us good and true men from the North who come to help build up our country, and add to its prosperity. I wish they would come on and come in multitudes. They will find us friends. But when I see the low dog creatures hatched from the venomous egg of treason coming here as native born citizens to get offices through to use votes to ride into power on the deluded negroes shoulders, and creeping into social intercourse with negroes and a few renegade Southern whites, and talking flippantly about enfranchising the wisest and best men of the land, because they know it is the easiest possible chance for knaves and fools like themselves to get place, I can but feel ashamed that such monsters are to be considered as belonging to the human species. I warn you, my colored friends, if you would be respectable in society, or prosperous in your purse, or decent in your own feelings, to avoid all such people. They will hug you and call you friend, and talk about your friends, but they will pull you down to degradation, to sorrow, to poverty and to shame. They have white skins but black hearts, and will ruin your characters if you associate with them. They are creatures born of political accidency and treasonable conspiracy, and are the enemies of all good governments and of all decent people.—[Applause.]

And now, my friends of all races, of all colors, of all nations, of all sexes, of all ages let us resolve to stand by our Constitution, and surrender it to no enemy. This is our country. Let us resolve that we will never be driven from it nor ostracised in it.

### Wilkes County Correspondence.

WILKESBORO', July 28th, 1867.

EDITORS SENTINEL:—I notice in the Raleigh *Standard*, of the 17th inst., a base and unmanly attempt, by two anonymous writers of this vicinity and an editorial of Mr. Holden's, to prejudice the minds of the people and especially the military authorities against me and the citizens of Wilkes here, by giving an account, which has no foundation in truth, of an affair which occurred here on the 4th inst. To counteract the evil that sought to be done, I ask space in your paper to give a plain and truthful account of this whole matter; as I have already done to Col. Edie, whom I met at Yadkin Court, "extenuating naught, and setting down naught in malice."

About two weeks previous to the 4th, some of my friends, feeling a deep anxiety that all persons entitled to vote under the Reconstruction Acts should understand their rights, before the time for registration commenced, requested me to address the people of Wilkes, of all colors, in explanation of the opinion of the Attorney General, then just issued. I consented, and the people were called together. Strenuous efforts were made by the leaders of the black Republicans to keep the negroes away from the meeting, for, as they told their white slaves in the South only by the base motives of cupidity and fear, so they know that they hold the negroes only by their ignorance. But a large crowd of both colors attended, and after I was through speaking, C. J. Cowles and Rev. Alfred Stokes (one white and the other colored, but both Republicans) were called for and came forward to address the meeting. To this nobody objected, and they were heard to the end, respectfully and attentively.

At the close of the meeting, Cowles and Stokes both announced to the people that there would be a Republican meeting, in the Court House, on the ensuing 4th, which would be free for everybody, and both of them turned to me and asked me to be present and to participate in it; and so our meeting passed off quietly.

A few days afterward, Holden had an editorial in the *Standard*, in his usual "magnificent" style; showing how C. J. Cowles, white, and Rev. Alfred Stokes, colored, had entered the rebel meeting in Wilkesboro', and, by their powerful logic, burning eloquence, flashing wit and withering sarcasm, had overwhelmed, discomfited, and annihilated the 'rebel' orator. And nobody felt much hurt at all this.

When the meeting assembled on the 4th, I did not intend to address it, but was sitting quietly in my office, as the meeting proceeded, until several of the most respectable citizens of the County came to me and requested me to go out and address the meeting. To this I replied that I supposed they had orators enough in the Court House to consume all the time allotted; but they insisted that the Republican orators would soon be through, and that the people generally wanted to hear me. I finally consented to go out, no one ever supposing that there would be the least objection to my speaking, after I had been invited.

I went in and quietly took my seat among the audience. R. M. Smith, who considers himself a leader among the Republicans, came to me and asked me if I did not want to speak. I told him that I did, but I wanted to wait until he and all his friends were through, for I wanted to interrupt no one.

J. Q. A. Bryant and Rev. A. Stokes spoke after I entered. Stokes threw in a few hot shot into the region where the powder was stored, and came very near producing an explosion. He doubted the sincerity of the orators who had preceded him, in their professions of love for the negro, asked them if they were willing to go home with him and sleep with him that night, or ask him to sit down to their tables. He declared that the republican party had not prosecuted the war to free the negroes, but Mr. Lincoln, in 1862, had declared, in his proclamation, that if the rebels would lay down their arms they might keep their slaves. Now, this was too much for the weak-kneed brethren, who had all along been so much in negro and black republican sympathy, to stomach, and they could hardly keep it down. Beyond question it was this that Stokes had been put up to say these things by some rebel. This Stokes indignantly denied, and went on to advise his negro friends to love their old masters and neighbors of the South and regard them as their best friends. This was so much more comfortable to the porches of the Court House than what Cowles had given them, that it seemed to plant the seed of discord and anger in the bosom of the negro against their white neighbors, among whom they must live. If the remarks of Stokes had not made the rebels so angry, I have no idea that any one would have objected to my speaking.

At the conclusion of his remarks, a number of persons were called for by the crowd, R. M. Smith, Gideon Smoot, A. S. Calloway, Esq., &c., and all declined, and my friends, thinking that no one else would speak, called for me. I advanced toward the President's seat, where all the orators had stood, and the Chairman of the meeting, Col. Gideon Smoot, arose, took me by the hand, and pulled me up over the railing, and told me to stand by his table. I commenced speaking and had just got the attention of the audience, when the Rev. Samuel Smith rose and interrupted me, saying that he objected to my speaking there. Several voices cried out that I should speak. I turned to the President, Colonel Smoot, and he said he wanted to hear me speak, and was just going to call on me, when the people called for me. By this time, there was great confusion in the house, and some two or three men had come out and procured pistols and came in the house and held them in their hands, but presented them at no one that I saw. I am sure that none of my friends, when they first came into the house, were armed, for they anticipated no disturbance; and the few, that had arms at all, procured them after the difficulty commenced, and after, as I am informed and believe, several of the "*Heroes of America*" had drawn their knives and slipped them, open, up their sleeves. It is utterly false, that any one in Wilkesboro, or, so far as I know or believe, in Wilkes County, of those whom the *Standard* and its correspondents call "Rebel"—which means every one who has not bowed down and licked the footstool of Black Republicanism—goes armed at all, or carries arms upon any occasion. Every body is obeying General Sickles' orders here in regard to arms, except a few of the "*Heroes of America*."

After the confusion became great in the Court House, Col. Smoot mounted the table and called loudly for order and asked me to assist him in quieting the people. This I attempted to do but could not. Col. Smoot then proposed to me that he would adjourn the meeting and all should go out and hear me from the steps of the Court House. To this I assented, and Col. Smoot did adjourn the meeting, and I went down and addressed the public from the steps. A few of the most frantic of the *Heroes* stayed up stairs, and endeavored to interrupt me by singing, dancing and yelling whilst I was speaking. As for anybody "holding the Court House by force," "*driving*" anybody "*out*," &c., &c., as stated in the *Standard's* correspondence, they are all fictions, worthy only of the *Standard*. I heard no one object to my speaking in the meeting, except S. P. Smith, sr., and R. M. Smith, one of whom had just asked me if I did not want to speak. On the contrary, most of the respectable and consistent Union men, who were present, came to me, either in the Court House or after I went out, and expressed their disapprobation of the course of the Smiths, and charged them with being the cause of all the difficulty; among whom I may mention Harrison Church, Adam Staley, and might mention many others. Samuel Smith, jr., and Alfred Stokes both expressed their regret that any one should have objected to my speaking.

Some hour or two after the difficulty at the Court House ended, there were two or three fights in the streets, between men who were excited by liquor and the occurrences of the day. The fights were with fists, sticks, rocks, &c.; no deadly weapons were used, as falsely stated in the *Standard's* correspondence, except in a fight between three negroes and a young man by the name of Forester, whose politics I do not know, in which Forester cut one of the negroes with a Barlow knife. The "poor crippled Negro," over whom the *Standard* means so pathetically, was on the other side. He ran in and whaled the *Hero of America* over the head with his crutch, while he was fighting his young master, and the "Poor Negro" is denounced here as a "rebel," and threatened with *military arrest*. Magistrates have issued warrants for the parties engaged, and they are all bound over to Court for trial.

I have given you a full and fair account of this whole matter. If the *Standard* wants to do justice to men, whom he has endeavored to injure, he will copy this statement, for the truth of which I refer to every respectable Union man who was present. But the object of the *Standard* is to seize upon every little fist fight that may happen in the State, to swell the false cry which he has been making, ever since the people refused him for their Governor, that the people of this State are disloyal, oppress Union men, and have no regard for order, that he may have the pleasure of seeing the people of his State dragged to distant military posts, to be tried for trivial or imaginary offences,—well knowing that the expense of such a trial will ruin them, though they may be acquitted. This, to such a man as Holden, will be *sweet revenge*.

R. F. ARMFIELD.

### *PROBABLE REMOVAL OF GENERAL SHERIDAN.*

Information received this morning from a source I have always found reliable leaves no doubt, I think, that General Sheridan will soon be removed from the command of the Fifth Military district. The President has resolved to assume the responsibility of this grave step, and it is said he is backed up in his determination by every member of the Cabinet, except Secretary Stanton. The subject, in all probability, will be discussed and settled at the Cabinet meeting to morrow.

I am informed that General Hancock has been agreed upon as General Sheridan's successor, and that he is regarded by the President and Cabinet as a more fit man in every respect. It is known that the President's first choice for the Fifth district was General Sherman, but the latter preferring, like General Thomas, to remain in his then position, his feelings and predilections were regarded. The President never favored the appointment of Sheridan, but waived his own objections at the solicitation of General Grant, who pressed Sheridan's claims very warmly. It was thought, too, that the experience Sheridan had already gained in the department would be found valuable, and therefore he was retained in command and clothed with the power of military reconstruction. *Washington Cor. N. Y. Herald*

Advices from San Luis Potosi, Mexico, are received to the 15th instant. Maximilian's counsellor has been arrested. The subalterns of the imperial army have been released, and the remaining Queretaro generals will be sent to their respective States for trial. A long letter has been published in General Diaz's organ, to show that some one in the capital, probably Marquez, detained Maximilian's letters after he was captured, and thus prevented the earlier arrival of his counsel at Queretaro. The full letter of Escobedo against foreigners is published, and is, if anything, more bloodthirsty and barbarous than was at first believed. He speaks of becoming a candidate for some office, and defines the letter as his unalterable platform. Lopez, the betrayer of Queretaro, who had been pardoned by Juarez, is still liable to a trial in Oaxaca for crimes committed there, and the opinion in Matamoras was that he would be executed under the charges.

A young lady teacher of Indianapolis was endeavoring to impress upon her scholars the terrible effects of the punishment of Nebuchadnezzar. She told them that for seven years he ate grass just like a cow. Just then a small boy asked: "Did he give milk?" The teacher fainted.

An acquaintance of ours, a mother, too, not long since, was lamenting the loss of a child (one of a family of eight,) "because," said she, "there was just enough for a cotillion, and they did dance so prettily."

Sydney Smith once commenced a charity sermon by saying: "Benevolence is a sentiment common to human nature. A. never sees B. in distress without asking C. to relieve him."

A German and his wife were arrested in the Paris Exposition, the former charged with fraudulent bankruptcy. They were searched. "No effects," was the reply of the searcher, when the size of the lady's chignon caught his attention, and he pulled it off. It was a nest of bank notes.

The "Poisoned Hash" is the title of a cheerful romance now being published in a New York weekly paper.