

The Semi-Weekly Sentinel.

VOL. 2. RALEIGH, N. C., WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 27, 1867. NO. 52.

THE SENTINEL.

WM. E. PELL, PROPRIETOR.

STATE CONSERVATIVE CONVENTION.

We are glad to see that the Conservatives are moving in the several counties of the State, and appointing delegates to the State Convention, to be held here on Wednesday, the 11th, of December next. We hope it will be done in every county.

Application will be made to every Railroad President to pass the Delegates to the Convention, to and fro, at half price or one fare. We presume that all the Railroads will be ready to do this for delegates to any kind of Convention who have to pay their own fare.

OUR DUTY.

In some of the legends of the colonial days of the country, we read of men, who were driven out, for some crime and because their presence was deleterious to society, from the white settlements. Seeking refuge from the storm of their fellows, and the means of sustaining life, among the aboriginal dwellers in the forests, they sometimes succeeded, by superior art, in ingratiating themselves with the simple natives, when, filled with malignant passions and animated by a lust of revenge, they would invite the savages to plunder the substance or burn the houses of those who had sent them out with a mark upon them.

During the late war, it was not an uncommon thing for deserters to lead hostile raiders, by familiar paths, to pillage and destroy the homes of those, among whom they were raised and had lived.

Thus it is that the white people of North Carolina, while telling their arms in indifference and listlessness, have been surprised and overcome. The herds which have been invaded and overturned them have been led, as in the two instances cited, by men who have been trained as unworthy of the public confidence.

It is useless to speculate upon the causes of our defeat. They may all be brought under one general head, that of criminal apathy. We must now deal with facts as they present themselves in their stern reality.

The general composition of the Convention elect is such as to bring the black of shame to the cheek of every lover of the former fair and unsharred land of North Carolina. With not an exception, the Conservatives elected are gentlemen of integrity, prudence and character. Among the Republicans chosen are men of moderation, fairness and worth, but, in the majority of cases, the extreme and ultra Radicals are either incompetent and ignorant, or men without any of those qualifications which make up standing in a community.

Heretofore, when the solemn and responsible work of making or amending our organic law, the Constitution under which we were to live, has been undertaken, it has been committed to the hands of the best men in our midst, the men of mark, of experience, and of wisdom. Could the great wrongs which, at the Convention at Halifax in 1776, or in this City in 1845, rise from their graves and look upon the spectacle shortly to be presented in the Capitol, who can picture what would be their emotions? Raptured in the seat of Stanley—Touge in the chair of honor, and fifteen or twenty negroes, some of whom cannot write their own names in places once adorned by Gaston, Spaight, Toomer, Sewell, Morehead, and others, alas for North Carolina!

We do not believe that such a body, controlled by such men, can be capable of framing a Constitution in which will be fit for a free people to live under. It must, necessarily, be laughable and inconsiderate, or oppressive, proscriptive and tyrannical. But we will not prejudge their work. We announce it for their purpose to render it as fairly and dispassionately as we can. But, as a measure of precaution, the white Conservative people of North Carolina must organize thoroughly, and at once, with a view to defeating it, if it should be what we have too good reason to apprehend. We may have but one more opportunity to resist the encroachments of that agrarian despotism, which seeks to put the white man down and elevate the black man over his head. A few more such attempts, and we are in a state of things, in which no self-protection, if that occasion for any reason, should cause us to be surprised and as lethargic as the great nations found us.

As the first step towards complete organization, we would propose that throughout the State, in the coming month, a Conservative Convention be held.

IMPEACHMENT.—Our dispatches from Washington, received on Sunday, at ten late an hour for publication in yesterday's issue, stated that the House of Representatives was in session until a late hour on Saturday night. Rumors were all around to be heard, but the Committee seemed to have heard of no such thing. The impression prevailed that the Committee would stand firm in its present aim, to bring against. We shall doubtless have the report in full before we go to press. If so, it will be found in our telegraphic columns.

THE MEMBERS OF THE Alabama Negro Convention have voted themselves eight dollars per day and big mileage. They would also vote themselves a farm apiece, if they thought Congress would sustain them in it. Perhaps the committee sent out to Washington to ask the Jacobin leaders how far the Convention would be permitted to go in disfranchising white citizens, is authorized to consult them on this point also.

PRINCIPLES AND MEN.

What the principles of the Radical party are seems not yet to be settled. Beginning at a low state of leveling and agrarianism, it has reached now a far lower depth, but whether it has found bottom is not yet known. Many of them have been the most violent partisans in the land, opposed to abolitionism, to the freedom of the blacks, and, since their freedom, to granting them any civil rights. But, yielding to the pressure and anxious to be on the strong side, they have swung to the other extreme, and now not only advocate civil and political equality to the blacks, but are ready to allow the social equality. Such are the natural oscillations of extreme men, every where. Many of them were the most liberal rebels in the South. Without principle or honor, they were clamorous for secession and for war, but anticipating the certainty of Radical rule in the country, they now come down upon their knees and lick the dust from the feet of those they formerly hated and abused.

The Radicals now fully endorse the old demagogical dogma, "principles not men," which simply meant, party first, party second, party always. This is clearly evident in the late elections in this State. Deference, character and capacity seem not to have had any influence in the selection of the Radical candidates, as a general rule. In some few instances, moderate men, with some respectability, have been selected, but, as a general rule, they have been disregarded, and many of the worst men in the State have been chosen. The whip of the so-called Local League has been cracked, and every slave to the party has pressed forward to place men wholly unqualified in all respects into the solemn and high positions of delegates to the State Convention.

The Conservatives brought forward many of the most worthy men in the State. In most cases they have been beaten by the craven conduct or the indifference of the whites. We are sure that no Conservative gentleman in the State regrets his defeat, since it is palpable that his election would necessarily have brought him in contact with a class of men, whose association, at least under such circumstances, would gladly be shunned.

THE SHERIFF OF CASWELL ACQUITTED.

It will be remembered that the Radical press was piously exulting some weeks since over the statement of Col. Suckles, in his Philadelphia speech, that one Wm. M. Johnson, a profligate "loyal" scamp, had been cruelly persecuted through the machinery of our civil courts. At the instance of one Touge, and perhaps others, the Sheriff of Caswell, an exemplary gentleman and excellent officer, was arrested and arraigned before a Military Commission, on charges which are stated at length below. The fact that the Sheriff has been acquitted by a Military Tribunal is the strongest rebuke that could have been possibly administered to Col. Suckles, and shows the malevolence of the persecution of which Mr. Griffith has been the victim—a persecution doubtless instigated by the "League."

HONORABLE MILITARY DISTRICT.

CHARLESTON, S. C., Nov. 20, '67.
General Order, No. 124.

I Before a Military Commission convened at Charleston, S. C., pursuant to paragraph II, Special Orders No. 198, current date, which Brevet Major General R. O. Tyler, Lieutenant Colonel, Deputy Quartermaster General U. S. A., is President, was arraigned and tried.

That a "majority" of the "white registered voters" of North Carolina are "loyal men," no sane man doubts. That any but an inconsiderable fraction of them sympathize with Radicalism, is a claim which only exists in the fancy of the Post. There are 103,000 white registered voters in the State, and if there are 18,000 of that number, who have any toleration for Radicalism, the figures and facts do not show it. The Post will find this out in all good time.

MR. DAVIS' TRIAL.—The Counsel for Mr. Davis announce their entire readiness to go on with the trial, and the government officers give no intimation of any postponement. Gen. Lee has been summoned to be a witness and will be present. All favorable, and, as it is, on the spot.

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U. S. DISTRICT COURT.—The Fall Term of this Tribunal commences in this city, today.—Judge Brooks presiding. Among the prominent members of the Bar in attendance at the opening of the Court, we observe Hon. W. A. Graham, Z. R. Vance, Robt. Strange, R. Y. Allen, Nathl. Boyden, Wm. Eaton, Jr., R. P. Dick, and J. H. Wilson, and A. J. Dargan, Esq. We presume that there is still to be heard much business to be despatched.

SUPREME COURT.—The Winter Term will commence on the second Monday in January next.

FIRST WEEK.—Monday and Tuesday will be devoted to applications for licenses. Cases on the First Circuit will be called.

SECOND WEEK.—Fifth and Second Circuits.

THIRD WEEK.—Fourth and Sixth.

FOURTH WEEK.—Seventh and Eighth.

FIFTH WEEK.—Third Circuit.

SHERIFF RAY.—We learn that charges have been preferred against this excellent officer, for having "obstructed" the constitution, by telling the colored people that they could not vote and they paid taxes.

The charges are said to have been preferred by W. W. Holden and J. H. Deas, Esq. Mr. Ray will, we presume, be able to vindicate himself, by the mouths of many witnesses, from the accusation. We give, some days since, a perfectly correct and truthful account of this transaction.

Col. Bamford has very properly constituted a Board to investigate this matter. It consists of Capts. Smith and Suider and Lieut. Aiken.

The sun shines eight hours out of twenty four in some parts of Alaska.

"THE LEAGUES"—INCIDENTS OF THE LATE ELECTION.—A correspondent of the *Wadesboro Argus*, writing from Lenoirville, Anson, gives the following incident of the late race, called, by courtesy, an "election."

"Every negro brought his ticket with him, and neither person, nor argument could affect their intentions. I approached Abram Cox, an old negro more than ordinary intelligence, and tried to explain the matter to him. He agreed to all I said, but said he had sworn to vote for Chilton and Tucker, and could not violate his oath. 'No,' said I, 'surely not; you only took a certain obligation when you joined the League, to support the Constitution, &c. You did not swear to vote for these men.' 'Yes, sir,' he replied, 'I did swear on the Bible to vote for Mr. Chilton and Mr. Tucker, and I must do it.'"

The *Asheville News* says that many negroes at that place did not wish to vote, but had been threatened by the League that, if they did not, they would be fined ten dollars.

The same paper states that, after the opening of the polls, a Conservative ticket was presented, but refused by the managers upon the ground that the words "Conservative and Delegates" were not endorsed on it.

Says the *News*: "This was the first intimation we had of such a requirement, but the presentation of a *handbill*, from Headquarters, showed the necessity. Why the *handbill* was not made public before, is known only to those who had had in their possession for some days. The Radical tickets had been all printed properly, and sent into the country. At Hendersonville the *handbill* was posted, but as there was no printing office at that place, the tickets could be procured only at Asheville, and as we had no communication between this point and the other, except by mail, from Friday evening until Tuesday morning, there was no time to correct the omission on the Conservative ticket. Fortunately we printed our tickets on writing paper, and we hope our Conservative friends supplied the deficiency by writing the words on them."

Again: "Our friend, J. R. Weaver, Clerk of the County Court, was not permitted to register, in consequence of having been in the Court during the war, although during all that time he was a consistent Union man. This is in direct conflict with Col. Suckles' instructions, that being a clerk of a Court during the war did not disqualify him from acting as a clerk, and that no negroes carried out to the polls, and afterwards informed that he had been told that the rebels intended to attack them, and there would be a fight. One poor fellow kissed his wife on leaving home, and told her he did not know whether she would ever see him again, unless she expected to have a fight with the rebels, and may be killed. Poor, deluded beings! Their fond hope for the League is really worse than their former bondage of slavery. We know that had any one modest any of them, they are taught to read them, would have detected them."

"It is believed by some, that a majority of the white registered voters are loyal men, and at heart in sympathy with the Republican party."

The foregoing specimen of cool eloquence is taken from the *Wilmington Post*, a violent Radical sheet.

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FROM THE NEW YORK WORLD.

SHALL THE NEGROES ELECT THE NEXT PRESIDENT?

Within eight months there has been much discussion and some theorizing relating to what is called "universal suffrage." The aim of speculators on this subject is to give to each political party, and to every section of the people, a weight in the government exactly proportioned to its numbers. They assert that, under existing arrangements, minorities have no influence, and that an unequal distribution of power would give them a share in the ratio of the votes they cast. In the election of 1860, the negroes, in the form in which it has been proposed, overlooked the nature of political power. It is not a matter of numbers, but of a majority or a negative decision. They can be brought to vote, but they would divide a load of the burden of a government, and give a large portion to one of a smaller portion to another. It is not a matter of numbers, but of a majority or a negative decision. They can be brought to vote, but they would divide a load of the burden of a government, and give a large portion to one of a smaller portion to another.

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A Further Consideration of the Dangerous Condition of the Country—Causes Which have Led to it, and the Duty of the People.

BY A MARKSLANDER.

(Continued.)

It has never been contended before, that under the guarantee clause, Congress has a right to make a constitution for a State. And yet this is virtually what was attempted in regard to Maryland, Delaware, and Kentucky.

If they do do this they have the power to do it, and how to do it. A still further proposition, certainly. If there be any right of a holder by the people of this country, it is that of forming their own State government. But how a State, or a people of the State, can do this, is not a question of right, but of power. It is not a question of right, but of power. It is not a question of right, but of power.

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less the ten Southern States are not States of the Union. In my former pamphlet I quoted a recent decision of that Justice Chase to show that in the judgment of the judicial department of the Government, the exclusion of a State from the Union can be made away with. His language is, that the exclusion did not "take away from a Member of the Legislature of North Carolina, FROM THE UNION."

The contrary hypothesis rests upon the assumption that the late civil war extinguished the Southern States, and gave to the United States the same title to the territory embraced within their boundaries, and the same authority over their people, as if they had been conquered from a foreign enemy. A word or two more upon this point. If this be true, it would follow that the United States could transfer them and their people to another nation; for what is obtained by conquest, and has not afterwards become a State of the Union, the power of the United States can do away with. And yet, so far, no one has been reckless enough to say that such aession can be constitutionally made of these States. In truth, such an act would be a session by the Government of a vital portion of itself.

The States not having, in the words of the Chief Justice, "even for a moment" lost their character or connection with the United States, the amendment in question has not been ratified so as to make it a part of the Constitution.

IV. The impeachment power. Upon this point the writer thinks that very erroneous and mischievous doctrines are held by some of our public men. These errors are: 1. As to what Congress can do in regard to the President. The provisions of the Constitution are in regard to the President: "The President shall be impeached by the Senate, and tried by the House of Representatives; and if convicted, he shall be removed from office and disqualified to hold any office of honor, trust, or profit under the United States." From the beginning of the Government it has been uniformly held by the Supreme Court that there are no common law offences prohibited by the Constitution except such as are specially named. In the clause before us the only offences so designated are: treason and bribery. For the nature of these offences the courts have a right to refer to the common law for their definition. But, if we are to go to the general terms, high crimes and misdemeanors, these must be specified, and there being no common law jurisdiction in the Courts of the Union, they cannot take cognizance of them without statutory authority. If this was not so, the doctrine of the judiciary would be palpably wrong. But if it be wrong, it is wrong under this clause, for it is not a crime or misdemeanor made by statute—a high crime and misdemeanor. Any alleged violation of a supposed statute, not made a crime by statute, any alleged violation of a party fealty, any use of his official patronage which politicians may find fault with, or which may have proved injurious to the public interest, are not causes of impeachment.

What power has Congress during the trial? It is contended, and, as the writer believes, for the first time, that by statute the President may be suspended in all the functions of his office. Clearly, this power is not in terms given by the Constitution. On the contrary, by every word it is to remain in office until he shall have been removed by the House of Representatives. It is contended, and, as the writer believes, for the first time, that by statute the President may be suspended in all the functions of his office. Clearly, this power is not in terms given by the Constitution. On the contrary, by every word it is to remain in office until he shall have been removed by the House of Representatives.

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