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THE SENTINEL.

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

TUESDAY EVENING, APRIL 23, 1867.

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 whites 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 instructed, 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 from all sides and make up an honest judgement as to the course they will take.

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 his birthplace, the scene of his youth and 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 grey in the public service, it is fit that once more, before he is 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 political history, nor all his acts and sayings since his elevation to the Presidency, and we can but regret his attempt to reconstruct *States*, which, according to his own principles, needed no reconstruction, and which attempt and failure seemingly justified the Congress, as the law making power in the government, to undertake that task, yet our people will always retain a grateful remembrance of his many manly, able and noble defences of the Constitution, and will most heartily accord to him honesty and sincerity in his purposes to restore the ancient landmarks of the government, and to promote the earliest restoration of the country to Union peace and prosperity.

If timely notice is given of his intended visit, poor as our people are, they will give him the highest demonstrations of respect and esteem, due to the high office of Chief Magistrate, of which they are capable. We hope nothing will occur to prevent or interfere with his purpose.

SEED WHEAT.

Thus early in the season, we have received a circular from Messrs. R. H. Allen & Co., of New York, informing the public that they design importing, for the benefit of wheat growers, pure white and red Mediterranean seed wheat, and that they will probably be able to furnish it at from $5,50 to $6 per bushel, on accommodating terms. So far as Messrs. R. H. Allen & Co., of New York, are concerned, we are under no obligations to make such an announcement gratis, but our anxiety to see our farmers improve their seed of all kinds, as well as their lands, prompts us to make the fact public.

ARTFUL RESCUE.—The Springfield (Mass.) *Republican*, ultra Radical, administers the following severe and just rebuke to Mr. Holden. This is but one of a number of similar articles that we have seen:

"The Raleigh (N. C.) *Standard*, Ex-Governor Holden's paper, makes great use of the confiscation bugbear, evidently for the purpose of frightening reluctant Southerners into support of reconstruction. This is bad policy. If it shall accomplish its object, it will at the same time establish in those acting under such a motive an unconquerable hostility to the party threatening the infliction which they thus avert. The *Standard* makes the matter worse by defending confiscation as just and proper in itself. It would be the most monstrous of political crimes."

In our biographical notice of the late Hon. R. M. Saunders, on yesterday, an error of the types made to speak of his election to the "Supreme" Court, bench. It should have been *Superior*.

THE ELECTION in New York for delegates to the Constitutional Convention takes place to-day.

TIME.—Time is painted with a lock before and bald behind, signifying thereby that we must take time (as we say) by the forelock, for when it is once passed there is no recalling it.—*Swift*.

If "Freedom shrieked when Kosciusko fell," she must have given an unearthly yell when the military bill became a law.—*Boston Post*.

THE LATE COLORED MEETING.

We present below, in the order of their delivery, the speeches delivered by the gentlemen, who were invited to address the meeting of colored people on yesterday.

SEATON GALES, Esq., who spoke first, said:

FRIENDS AND FELLOW-CITIZENS:—My *friends* you have always been, and my *fellow-citizens* you now are, under the wonderful change which has been wrought in your political condition,—a change which, a few short years ago, would never have entered the head of the wildest dreamer,—a change which opens before you a great future, if you are but true to yourselves and your country.

When I received your invitation to address you on this occasion, I did not hesitate one moment about complying; and this for several reasons. Born and raised among you, I can recall not one single instance in the past, when I have had other than kind and respectful treatment at your hands. So far as *my* relations with the institution of slavery were concerned, they have always been pleasant and agreeable, though it was my fortune to own but two slaves, both of whom, in a ripe and good old age, loved and respected, I am sure, by all who knew them, have long since gone to *rest*. They nursed my infancy, and in *their* old age I tried to do my duty by them, so far as I was able. They sleep in yonder graveyard, and I honor and revere their memories.

But apart from such private reasons, I recognize it as binding on every white man in the community to feel, and express on all proper occasions, a warm interest in the welfare of the colored population. He who does not feel such an interest, and express it, too, when called upon to do so, is greatly lacking, I conceive, in a plain duty. To live side by side in the same country, under the same government, and to be ruled by the same laws, is our fate, which we cannot escape if we would. How evident then that the worst enemy to both races is the wretched demagogue, be he white or black, who would endeavor to excite dissension and discord among ourselves, and to array the classes against each other! What reason can there be for strife? What sense can there be in strife? Or rather, what wickedness and folly there is in strife! Are we not all citizens of North Carolina,—are we not all devotedly attached to her name and character, and vitally interested in her fortunes—in one word, are we not all brethren, bound together by common interests and common hopes?

You have asked, me, my friends to advise you in relation to the great public questions of the day. You are now a free people, made so by the power of the sword; though I am not one of those who believe that the Southern people fought in the late war to perpetuate slavery, as I *know*, taking the solemn declarations of Congress, of Mr. Lincoln, and of the press and leaders of the North, as the evidence, that it was not the purpose of the Federal government, until it was found necessary as a war measure to overthrow the white resistance to the constituted authorities, to abolish slavery. But waiving the discussion of that question, as out of place and unnecessary, you have been made, and you are, freemen. I should despise, from the bottom of my soul, the white man who felt any enmity towards you on that account, or who could not feel that it was natural and praiseworthy, that you should rejoice in your emancipation. I feel and I know that I speak the sentiments of nine-tenths of the white people of the South, when I declare that it is their desire to elevate you in the scale of manhood, and to make you everyway worthy of the great privileges which have been conferred upon you and everyway equal to the grave and serious responsibilities which you now have to assume. We can never forget your long years of faithful service,—we can never forget that we have grown up together, and the associations of a life time, and, above all, we can never forget your quiet, patient, orderly and peaceful course during the four terrible years of war, from which we have just emerged.

Well, then, first, as to what lies immediately before us: A new government is to be made, and you are to participate in its formation. Certainly, the building up a system of government for a great people, which is intended to last for ages, is a great and a solemn work. It should not be approached with passion or prejudice. It should not be committed to bad or weak men. If you will listen to me for a few moments, I will try to tell you how I think so great a duty should be performed. I certainly have no personal interest to advance. I have no ambition to gratify. I am not striving for your votes for myself or any one else,—certainly not for myself, for the reason that the same law which confers the boon of suffrage upon you takes it away from me and deprives me of the privilege of holding office. Perhaps you would like to know why I am disfranchised. I will tell you. I never was a secessionist; on the contrary, I fought that doctrine for years. But even if I had been, that would not have disfranchised me, for I know a good many secessionists who are not disfranchised; and I know, too, a few who, although disfranchised, are now striving to take that lead in the work of reconstruction, which, under the provisions of the Sherman Act, they are not allowed to take. At the call of my State, after I had been voted out of the Union, I took up arms in her defence. That, of itself, would not have disqualified me, but I happened, before the war, to be so unfortunate as to be appointed a *Squire* and accepted that great office. I never had any fancy for its duties. Indeed, the only time that I ever exercised them at all, I believe, was when, in my own parlor, I united two of your own race in the holy bonds of matrimony, with my own family as the witnesses of the ceremony. And that's what puts me out in the cold. However, I am far from complaining, and if you, who are privileged to participate, will only do your duty well, and build up for me and my children a just, stable, kind and liberal government, I shall be satisfied to live under it the balance of my days.

One thing is established. The law fixes one fact beyond all question and controversy. In order to form a State government that will be acceptable to Congress, and in order to secure re-admission into the Union, we *must* comply with the terms of what is called the Sherman Act. I recognize it as an imperative obligation resting upon us to endeavor to bring North Carolina back into the Union, and to make her, what she once was, the brightest star in the political firmament. In fulfilment of this obligation, we must take this law of Congress and carry it into effect in good faith. That is what I am for. Well, according to the terms of that Bill, which must be faithfully carried out, in order to get us back into the Union, your civil privileges, your perfect political equality, are fully established. They can neither be denied nor taken away. Whatever be the character of the men composing the Convention, which is to make the new Constitution, those privileges can neither be taken away or abridged. I know of no one, in the light of present events, who is in favor of doing either. Where, then, is the use of parties, of divisions, of secret political organizations, or of political organizations of any character? Why then surrender your own judgment into the keeping of others?—My friends, you can in no way so well illustrate your manhood and prove your fitness for the new privileges with which you have been invested, as by exercising your own judgment and following your own convictions of right and wrong, regardless of the dictates and commands of others who set themselves up as your peculiar masters. Let no man crack the party whip over your heads. Talk about freedom and slavery! That man is the veriest slave on earth, who is bound by a secret oath, or some stringent party obligation, to do that which his conscience may disapprove, or who allows any one man or set of men to control his opinions and govern his will.—Such a servitude—such a slavery of the mind, is even more galling than that of the body.

Throw aside all such mean and debasing trammels, and in looking about you for the men to carry out the behests of Congress and to set the old ship once more afloat, select those in whose *past history* and present friendship you have confidence,—men upon whose judgment and, above all, upon whose *charity* you can rely. Take the men (provided, of course, always, that they are lawfully qualified to engage in the work,) whom you would approach for advice in difficulty or for assistance in extremity. Who are they? Look around you in the community and see who they are! Take the men whose counsels are for peace, quiet and harmony, and who do not seek to agitate the public mind by new and dangerous issues, which must prove destructive, if accomplished, to good order and stability of government, and which, even now, are withdrawing the thoughts of so many from that which is of the highest importance, the means of livelihood and the education of yourselves and children.

Perhaps some of you may have read or heard of the proceedings of a Convention, which has just adjourned in the city of Richmond, and which was held under the direction of a monstrous pretender by the name of Hunnicutt, who has been addressing your race at various points in the State of Virginia, making great professions of regard for your brethren there, but who always "lets the cat out of the bag" and betrays what he is after, by "handing around the hat" before he leaves. North Carolina has always been a quiet, steady, moderate State. It has been very gratifying to see that our colored people, in their new relation, have done nothing to impair the reputation of the State in that respect. It is flattering to your good sense, and the best evidence of your correctness of purpose, that, in none of your meetings or public demonstrations, have you exhibited any of the violence or vindictiveness that was exhibited in that Virginia meeting. I pray Heaven that you will continue to keep aloof from such bad counsels. Spurn them as you would the evil one. Spurn them as you desire *peace*—as you wish to live in friendship and harmony with your white brethren,—as you long to see the troubled elements composed and calm creep over the troubled waters,—as you are anxious to go quietly about your duties and avocations and to lay up something for your children and for old age.

What would it advantage you that the leading white men in this community should be forever disfranchised or prevented from holding office? Have you any animosities against them to gratify? Would it make your sleep the sweeter, or your appetite the better, and your condition in any respect improved, that such men as Gov. Worth here, for example, who has always been your friend and who, if it is Union men you desire to reward or to honor, has a record of unswerving consistency in that respect, should be placed under the ban? No, my friends, I do not believe it of you. Under the excitement of the moment, some of you at times may think and speak differently, but the whole history of your race shows that to cherish bad and revengeful feelings is not one of your frailties—in which respect you present a shining contrast to many hereabouts who have white skins. Let us all here, this day,—to sum up the whole matter in a single word,—adopt that grand, impressive and god-like motto: Universal freedom and universal charity.

I beg here to recall to you the advice of Gen. Sickles in that excellent and practical speech which he made to the freedmen of Charleston, a few evenings since: Beware, said he, of those who would excite animosities between the two races. He told them, most truly, that the prosperity of the South and the welfare of the country were intimately associated with the harmony and good feeling between the people of both races. Intelligence, capital, land are not less important than labor, and yet, without labor, these can have no solid foundation.

What would be thought of the man, who, living in a household whose interests, comforts and trials must all be identical, should nevertheless give all his confidence to outsiders or strangers? Would he not be thought a very silly fellow, and would he not deserve to be unprosperous and unhappy? And it thus I put the case to you: Will you, in the hurry of the moment, under the evil counsels of designing demagogues, take it for granted that we of this political household are to be necessarily opposed to each other, and cannot live in peace and harmony? No, give the race, with whom are associated all the memories of the past, and against the best part of whom it is now sought to array you, at least a trial. It will be time enough to desert them when they show a disposition to deprive you of present rights, or to injure or oppress you. So far as the dominant power in the government is concerned, the privileges which they have given you are not the result of any special love for you, as is evidenced in the fact that, in nearly every State in which they have the ascendancy, they have denied the right of suffrage to your brethren there. They were influenced by the double motive, that they thought it would punish the South and believed it would perpetuate their party.

I should be glad, if I had time, to talk to you about your moral and educational interests. I want to see you become, under Providence, a virtuous and intelligent power in the land. Educate yourselves and your children—be industrious and saving—discountenance the idler—frown upon the vicious,—encourage the weak and the struggling. Erect school-houses,—build churches. Establish among yourselves at once and firmly that same rule of morals that has always existed in well governed society;—Put the mark upon the man who is guilty of dishonesty or immorality and let him be to you as a heathen man and a publican.—Above all, strive to understand the true nature of your liberty,—what it means. In the light of that liberty, properly appreciated and understood, you may do great things and accomplish a grand destiny; and I earnestly trust that that light may lead you into the paths of prosperity and peace.

R. H. Battle, Jr., Esq., next ascended the stand and said (in substance) that he understood this meeting was said by some to have been called by party men, for party purposes—that so far as he was concerned he could deny the imputation. His first knowledge that such a meeting was to be held was derived from a note presented to him at his office by two of his colored friends, who added their personal solicitations to those contained in the note that he, with other gentlemen of the city, whom they considered the friends of their race, should address them on the subject of reconstruction. He had never been a candidate for popular favor, and he appeared before them in compliance with their invitation and to subserve no personal ends.—Because he had never engaged in politics, he valued the invitation as a compliment—inferring, as he had a right to do, that his conduct towards them in private life, and in the way of his business in the Court House, had been such as to inspire them with confidence that he was disposed to deal fairly and justly by them. He trusted such confidence was not misplaced. His first recollections of this holiday were associated with an old black man, from whom, in the little streams about Raleigh and Chapel Hill, he had taken his first lesson in the art of fishing. This same old man had taught him while still a boy that true piety was confined to no race or condition in life, and his appreciation and that of the family to which he belonged of the faithful services of this colored friend of his youth was such, that he would never be permitted, though now a *free man*, to suffer from privation or want.

He thought that the former slave holders had every cause to entertain kindly feelings to those who had been their slaves—while they and their sons had been engaged in war, the slaves, though perfectly aware that on the issue depended their freedom, conducted themselves as if they had no interest in the result and continued to labor and provide subsistence for the helpless families of their masters—and since the surrender of the Confederate armies, and they were rejoicing in their newly acquired liberty, they had, as a class, treated their former owners with becoming respect. The old slave holders then were their friends, and such they ought to consider them, and as such they did well to ask their advice.

On the subject of their duties in the work of reconstruction, his remarks need be but few. They had, each and all of them, who were twenty one years old and had lived in the State twelve months, the privilege of taking an active part in that work. The registration which was soon to take place under the reconstruction bill, would probably show that there are about thirty-five thousand colored men entitled to vote, and if the white men should have lost one-fourth of their voters by death in the war and such participation on the side of the South as excludes them, there would be one black voter to two white voters in North Carolina. The work, then, will not be mainly the black man's work, but the privilege and duty of all who may be permitted to vote will be identical. All are equally interested in electing good men to the Convention soon to be called, and that the Constitution framed by that Convention shall be such as freemen should live under. It is the theory of a republican government, that its citizens are entitled to meet together to consult about public matters and to hear the views of all; and it is the duty of freemen not to hear one side or one set of men only. This was one of the objects of the meeting to day, and they were their enemies who advised them against coming to hear what might be said by those they had the right to consider their friends. They might look for expressions of regard from demagogues, who really cared nothing for them. Whenever they were approached by men they did not know to be interested in them for their good, they should look back a little and consult their memories, their acquaintances and the former slaves of those men, if they had any, and learn whether they can now be relied on. They have now to give what they never had before—their votes; and votes go a long way with demagogues and bad men, who want office. They should beware of committing themselves now to men or parties; but when the time should come to vote for members to the Convention, they should select honest, unprejudiced and good men, regardless of the teachings of ambitious politicians and demagogues. They and the white voters must take care that they employ such men to erect the building that is to afford shelter and protection to us all, as will understand their business, with prudence enough to set its foundations on a rock, carefulness enough to select good timber, and skill enough to put them together in such a manner that we and they may not have cause to be ashamed of their handiwork. In the meantime, before the day they are to cast their votes, they should not permit politics and politicians to cause them to forfeit the confidence of their employers by neglecting their ordinary business; for at last, it was by industry, frugality and honesty that they must expect to elevate themselves socially and morally to the position they now enjoy politically.

In conclusion, he felt pleased by the respectful attention they had given to his remarks, and bespoke for those to be submitted by Gov. Worth, who would succeed him, that consideration which experience, wisdom and high position should always command. It was to be hoped that they would be uninfluenced by the ridiculous charges of those who would have them believe that Gov. Worth, who, up to the time the State attempted to secede, had passed thirty years in active opposition to secession, and in the legislature of 1860-61, stood his ground against that doctrine, till the Union phalanx was thinned to three, after the war was ended, and nothing was to be gained by it, had been foolish enough to turn secessionist. The Governor, at the end of the war, in view of the trials, grief, privation and despair throughout his native South, and among all classes of its citizens, determined, as all good men should have done, to forget what he conceived to be the errors of those who had not acted with him in opposing secession, and to do what he could to better their condition, as well as those of his friends. For this his fellow citizens chose to elect him to the position he now fills, and for this all should respect and honor him.

GOV. WORTH spoke as follows:

FRIENDS AND FELLOW CITIZENS.—I very much fear that I shall address you to day under two very unfavorable circumstances. With this heavy wind and a feeble voice, I know it will be very difficult for me to make myself heard by this immense assembly. I address myself to my colored friends, especially, on this occasion, although there are many white persons present, because it is at the instance and by the request of the colored people that I appear before you to day. I have heard some complaints made that I have not spoken to you more frequently, but let me tell you that it has been my unvarying custom through life to keep my advice always until I was asked for it, and on no occasion to give it unless it was asked. But I have, on all occasions, attended to every invitation which I have received, and I don't see how I can be called a politician or accused of any interested motives in attending your meeting to day. The request came from yourselves alone, and I feel that I am only doing my duty in coming forward to advise you at this important crisis.

I do not appear here, to day, to stir up any bad feeling or to build up any party. I have no motives to accomplish, save that one great and necessary one, to bring about, so far as in me lies, peace and harmony among the black and white people of this country, and to promote the common interest of our common country. What else could I accomplish? I can no longer be eligible to office, after you have framed your new constitution, and consequently, if I address you, I must do so through a purely disinterested motive, through a desire to see all classes of our community united, peaceful and prosperous. When you have framed that constitution, I shall not be entitled to fill the office of constable, much less that of Governor, and therefore have no personal object whatever in view; and when that law comes into effect, let me tell you that no man will more willingly yield to its conditions and provisions than I. I will not then be entitled to even a vote, and I speak honestly when I say, that I think I should have a right to vote as well as those who were my servants both before and during the war. I know you will agree with me in this. I would be willing to put the matter to yourselves, because I feel confident that you would, unhesitatingly, consent that I should have a vote, especially if you were familiar with my past history. I have never been a politician in my life; but about thirty years ago I had the honor of being a member of the General Assembly, and some very valuable laws were passed at that session, and many of them exist to the present time. One of those laws was that it was a crime to learn a black man to either read or write. The great body of the Assembly voted for that bill. I voted against it. The records will show that, I believe. I think now, as I thought then, that it was wrong to deprive any person of the means which would enable him to read the word of God, while many of those who abuse and vilify me now, at that time thought differently. In spite of that law one of my boys, named Joe, a blacksmith, was taught to read and write with my knowledge and consent. How I have always acted towards the colored people, if you want to know, are you to find out? By what I say here to-day?—No. You will find yourselves very often mistaken if you believe what you are told by speech-makers. If you are sensible and would act with prudence, you will not allow yourselves to be carried away by the flattery of the hour. When you inquire into my past history, you will find that I never hand-cuffed negroes and sent them into the slave market as some of my traducers have done. On the contrary, I have bought and sold negroes for the purpose of bringing families together. I have still living with me the first slave I ever owned.—His name is Stephen. If you want to know how I have treated the colored people ask him, and I suppose you will be satisfied with what he tells you.

A voice—"We can't depend on what Stephen says." (Laughter).

Governor Worth—"If you can't, then ask somebody else. I depend on him, and believe he depends on me."

A voice—"That's so, I have talked with him and he told me so."

Governor Worth—He is an honest old man. I have trusted him with thousands of dollars, and I have always found him upright and honest in his dealings.

I would not have alluded to these matters to-day, were I not aware that imputations had been circulated around that I was coming here for the purpose of inflaming your minds, and accomplishing party ends and purposes. God knows I belong to no party now. There can be no party now in the South. Congress has passed a law which is to be carried into effect even at the point of the bayonet, and what need can there be for parties under such circumstances? Whether we approve of that law or not, we must abide by it. Consequently, the mere question of party is little better than a mockery.

It has been announced in the papers that I was coming here to address you with a view to inflaming your minds, and provoking party feelings amongst you. In no way have I attempted to do so. I happened, at the beginning of the war, to be a member of the General Assembly, and I opposed that unhappy war to the bitter end. I felt at the time that it must unquestionably result in misery and suffering. Perhaps some of you think it was gotten up for the purpose of setting you free.—Those of you who can read know well that the Congress of the United States declared they had no such object in view. You are free now, but neither party intended that you should be so. The two parties went to war, however, and the consequence is that you are free. (A voice: Thank God). I opposed the war. I was raised a sort of Quaker, and we Quakers don't like fighting; therefore, I do not like war, nor do I wish ever to see anything of the kind again.—And now, notwithstanding that I opposed the war to the last extremity, I am accused of being a secessionist. Oh! what a fool I would be to become one now, when it is not popular, when I refused to do so when it was! I can assure you that by such an accusation you pay me a very poor compliment indeed.

Governor Worth then produced the *Standard*, and read from it the following extract in reference to his presence at the meeting:

"Governor Worth is to address the meeting. Will he tell the colored people that in one of his messages to the Legislature he proposed to "distribute" them like so many cattle throughout the country?—to drive them from the homes of their fathers among strangers in the cold, bleak regions of the North? Will he tell the people that in the same message he pronounced the Congress of the United States an "unconstitutional" body?—the same Congress that passed the Sherman act and gave to the colored man the right to vote. Will he do this."

Is there one amongst you who can say that I have attempted to advise you in any way whatever in relation to the forthcoming or any other election? I have never done so, and any such assertion must ultimately fall to the ground.

In reply to the above paragraph, Governor Worth produced the message in question, dated November the 19th, 1866, and read from it the passages referred to by the *Standard*. They are as follows:

"The people of the South (whether from prejudice or not is immaterial to the view at stake,) do not regard the negro as their equal. He is not allowed the right of suffrage. The North insists that this prejudice of the South does cruel wrong to the African. Among us they are very poor and few of them have acquired local attachments by ownership of land. The result of emancipation and war have made the whites poor also; and the uncertain condition of our federal relations prevents the influx of capital or population. Enterprize is paralyzed. Few are able to employ laborers and pay them liberally. On the other hand the dominant States are rich. In all of them the wages of labor are much greater than we can pay. In many of them are public lands of great fertility, which the law gives to the actual settler at a nominal price.

In one of these States a portion of the people has given a substantial earnest of the principles they profess, by electing two Africans as members of their State Legislature. Every thing seems to invite their emigration to the dominant States; but most of them are too poor to pay the expenses of moving. This difficulty may be overcome by diverting the appropriation made to sustain the Freedman's Bureau, to defraying the travelling expenses of those who may choose to move, allowing each one to choose the State or territory to which he would go. When thus left free, and aided to go where they may think their condition will be bettered, no grounds will be left for further sectional strife as to their government.

"I am sure North Carolina will not object to this scheme. If it be objected that the emigration would be so universal as to, for a time leave without a sufficiency of laborers, and if it be conceded that this would be the result, who would not prefer to perform servile labor, until other labor could be procured, to the iniquitous and humiliation to which we are now subjected. But such would not be the result. North Carolina means to treat her freedmen with justice and humanity. Very many of them retain the feelings of kindness and confidence, which they formerly felt towards their late masters, and these reciprocate the feeling and pay them fair wages and give them every reasonable aid to better their condition."

This is what I have said about our treatment of the colored people. Does this look like "driving you to the cold bleak regions of the North?" Does this savor of inhumanity as implied in the *Standard*? Much has been said about your right to vote in the South and about the objections offered to it. The State of Massachusetts does not allow you to vote without submitting you to certain restrictions.—That State pretends to love you well, but in the South there are no restrictions whatever, under the reconstruction acts of Congress. Perhaps I have said more on this matter, than I had intended, or ought to have said. I don't want to force you to leave the South. I have never entertained any such feeling. I think we can do very well together, but I do say that if you want, and it is your desire, to leave the State, you should receive some assistance in doing so.

If you would act sensibly and wisely, my advice to you is to look well to the past and present history of men before you give them your support.

I do not think it worth while for me to go into an extended history of politics. I have no idea of doing so. It would ill become me at the present time, and I do not think you would want to hear it. When I was a youth I went to hear a man make a speech. Well, he made a very grand speech, indeed. He spoke Greek and Latin, and astonished everybody that heard him; but when I returned home I was asked how I liked it, and I answered that I did not like it. I was then asked what my objection was, and my reply was that "I thought when a man spoke he should speak in such a way that every person could understand him." My friend said to me, "Why you are very much mistaken by supposing that the speech is not a popular one;" for, said he, "the people will go away extolling him, and saying he is such a great man that we could not understand a single word he said." (Laughter.) But my effort on this occasion has been to address you in terms which you could understand.

A voice—Might I ask, Governor, if this meeting was got up to endorse the action of the Convention held here in March '67?

Gov. Worth—It is not. We have only met here to have a friendly talk exclusive of politics. If I were to undertake to speak of the great national questions which agitate the country, I think I would be taking upon myself a useless task, but I will tell you that when you are going to vote you should look to a man's private character—his past history—has he been honest, is he possessed of the requisite intelligence to fit him for the office—has he treated his slaves kindly? Inquire what he was, not what he is. Trust not what politicians say to you at the time you are going to vote, because none of them are likely to tell you the truth at that time. These are the matters which should command all your attention and you should study them well, for your responsibility is a very serious one. It is no idle chimera that you are called upon to decide. It is the fate—the future welfare or destruction of our country. If you find a man of the kind I have spoken of, I say to you no matter what his party politics may have been, vote for him—he will do to vote for.—I believe it is the way all over the world, that a man knows the weak points in his own character, and is always trying to prop them up. And so it is when a man comes to speak to you about his honesty; that is the time for you to look out for your pockets. When you hear a man say he is brave, you may rely on it, he will make a good run; and when these men tell you they are honest, be sure that you look to their past history, and study it with proper attention. I am not now talking to you as a politician, but advising you as a friend. I tell you not to inquire so much into a man's politics as into his honesty.

I am accused of being a very cruel man, and why? Because when, some months ago, Gen. Sickles issued an order prohibiting whipping for crime, I went to Washington and had the order altered by the President. They try to make out that I wanted that law to apply only to the colored man. That is not the fact. The law of North Carolina always recognized the punishment of flogging for crime, and I did not want the black man flogged any more than I did the white. Do you want, when you lay down at night, to be liable to be robbed at any moment, without the infliction of any punishment on the criminal in case he is caught? (No, no.) I wanted a law that would whip the white rogue as well as the colored one. We had a case of a boy only seventeen years of age, some time ago. He had been convicted of what lawyers call burglary, and his crime was punishable by death, according to the laws of the State of North Carolina. I thought the boy too young to be hanged, and submitted the case to Gen. Sickles, who has the power to do what he pleases. I have no power to make laws, but in this particular instance he made a very judicious law, which was, that the boy should be put to work on the highways for a period of ten years. Whipping was a punishment in the days of Moses, and I do not know that the law of Jesus Christ abolishes it.

Above all things, I advise you to be honest, be industrious, be peaceful. If you would succeed in life and do your country credit, observe this: Before and above all politics, be prudent and devoted to the welfare and happiness of this country, and by your honesty and industry educate and elevate your race, both politically and morally. The time has come when you can be either a blessing or a curse to this republic. Do not be the latter.

In conclusion, I will say that I did not come here, to-day, for any purpose other than to give you advice, and whenever you call on me either publicly or privately I shall always be ready to do the same, but I will not be running after you, pulling you by the coat skirts and telling you I love you to further my own selfish designs. I thank you for the patient hearing which you have accorded to me, and trust that you will not abuse the great trust which has been confided to you.

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and best variety of Garden Seeds, just received from R. Sinclair & Co, Baltimore, at the Farmers' Hall. JAMES M. TOWLES,
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Wrapping Paper, Powder and Shot, Golden Cards. Pearl and Corn Starch, Farina and Tapioca; English Dairy Cheese, Factory Cheese; a large assortment of Canned Fruits. Pickles, Preserves, Mustards, canned Oysters, Lobsters, Sardines, &c.
Oranges, Lemons, Figs, Currants and Prunes, and everything usually kept in a first-class Grocery.
Also Liquors of all grades. Attention is especially called to our pure old Robeson County and Old Keller Whiskey.
All manner of Sauces, Catsups, and Fancy Groceries generally, very cheap for cash.
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50 " Plow Lines, 10 Gross Axe Helves,
Rope, Twine, Nails, &c.
PULLIAM, JONES & CO.
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Feb 22-163-tf

CASTINGS, CASTINGS, CASTINGS.

15,000 lbs. Pots, Spiders, Ovens, Skillets and Bakers, on consignment—which we will sell to the trade at manufacturers, prices.
B. P. WILLIAMSON & CO.
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WINES, WINES, WINES,

40 Cases Claret Wines.
80 Gallons Cooking Wines.
100 " old Scuppernong Wine, by Keg or the gallon.
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In Store, and to arrive:

50 Half bbls., N. C. Family Roe Herrings.
50 " " Choice Shad.
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50 doz. "Elwell's" Steel Hoes Nos. 0, 1, 2 and 3.
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25 Coils best Jute Rope.
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GUANO! GUANO!! GUANO!!!

60 TONS more No. 1 Peruvian Guano, daily expected. Give us your orders at once if you need any.
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CANDY! CANDY!! CANDY!!!

2000 lbs. assorted Candy—in 25 and 40 lb. boxes.
In Store this day.
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April 11-209-tf

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100 No. 0, Plows.
50 self Sharpener Plows.
25 A. 6. "
5 Sesparks Cotton Planters.
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BAUGH'S RAW BONE PHOSPHATE.

Twenty Tons of this celebrated Fertilizer,
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April 15-211-tf

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