

THURSDAY, JUNE 8, 1876.

Raleigh Sentinel Newspaper for Sale 15 June, 1876, AT AUCTION.

By virtue of an order made by Hon. John Kerr, Judge, &c., in the action of Evans Turner, Adm. of Josiah Turner, Sr., dec'd, against Josiah Turner and others, I will on the 15th day of June, 1876, at 12 m., in front of the Court House in the City of Raleigh, expose to sale to the highest bidder the Sentinel newspaper, together with the fixtures, presses, type and material belonging to the establishment, together with the good will and sole right to edit and publish said Sentinel newspaper in the City of Raleigh.

Terms—one-half cash and balance at six months, with interest from day of sale, secured by bond approved by the clerk of Orange court.

A particular description of the property will be given on application to me.

JOHN C. SYME, Receiver.

HON. WALTER L. STEELE.

The Democratic Convention for the Sixth Congressional District have nominated for Congress the Hon. Walter L. Steele, he receiving about one hundred votes over Hon. T. S. Ashe on the 5th ballot. This Merrimon vote was the basis on which the convention worked. Col. Steele is not unknown to our readers. He has long been more or less connected with the politics of the state. He is a man of unusual vim, of fine oratorical powers, of good judgment and high character. His nomination is equivalent to an election, and we are certain he will make an able and acceptable representative, and reflect honor on his district and upon his state in Congress.

Apropos of Steele's nomination, the Devil suggested that while Ashe was investigating Blaine, some day was stealing a march upon him. To which we replied: But his successor is true as steel, and will make a good Congressman. And the Devil responded: Yes, his name implies he is fit to be a Congressman, or Secretary of War.

CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS.

The state of North Carolina has not been prosperous. The people of all sections are in a worse condition than before the war. There are several reasons for the deplorable condition of our people. Among them is one that suggests itself to the mind of every reflecting man familiar with the state, to wit: That the hands of the people have been tied by the harsh commands of the constitution. We have seen our Legislature assembled at Raleigh year after year commissioned by the people to give them the relief they so much need. But we have also witnessed the lamentable fact that the Legislature was powerless to afford the state the required relief. The provisions of the constitution were in the way. A change, therefore, was necessary. To make the change a convention was called. Its work is now before the people for ratification at the ballot box. There are some thirty amendments. We propose to consider them at some length. They may be divided into three classes: First, those intended to protect and perpetuate the rights and liberties of the people; second, those calculated to promote the general welfare by improving the machinery of the government; and third, those whose adoption is necessary to strike from the constitution provisions that are now out of place in that instrument.

The first amendment belongs to the first class. It provides that "secret political societies should not be tolerated." The object of this is apparent. Secret political societies are baneful in all governments; particularly so in a republic. When freemen resort to secret societies to carry out their ideas, they lose much of their manhood. No government meets with its death so soon as that which permits secret combinations for its overthrow. If the liberties of the people are to be perpetuated we must ignore such societies. This is the teaching of history and we must hearken to the experience of mankind if we would preserve all that is worth having in the government bequeathed to us by our patriotic fathers. A twelve month has not passed since the whole United States were alarmed lest Gen. Grant should seek to perpetuate his power. If there had been a secret society working in his interest as there was in 1868, when the Union Leagues were in operation, Gen. Grant might readily have subverted the liberties of the people. This is the scope of the first amendment. Is it not a wholesome regulation? and is it not wise to place in the fundamental law of the State such a provision to ward off any danger that might otherwise come from secret political societies? The second amendment is germane to the first: by it the practice of carrying concealed weapons is condemned. By the constitution all men are allowed to bear arms: this is the right of freemen. But concealed weapons are the instruments wherewith murderers and cowards wreak their vengeance. The law should prohibit the practice.

HARNEY'S CHARGE AGAINST SPEAKER KERR.

We regret that want of space prohibits the publication of the evidence of the man Harney who charges Speaker Kerr with selling to him a recommendation for the appointment of a man named Greene. The charge was made, as Harney swears, solely because the newspapers alleged there was corruption in the office where Harney was a subordinate placeman, in the City of New York. This he swears was the only reason why he made the charge public. It was to offset the newspaper attacks upon the corruption and villainies of Harney's employes, patrons and friends, that Harney started the scandalous report. There never was but one case of swamping so extraordinary as that of Harney; so incredible, so inconsistent, and so devoid of all the elements of truth. That case was the ludicrous one in which a lunatic deposed before a committee that Grant had come through the key-hole of his door and threatened his life for some imaginary cause. The statement of Harney falls a little short of this, but nearly approximates it. Besides Harney's character has been shown to be bad—and it is now represented that his intimate associates in modern Gotham are of the worst repute. But had he led a blameless life prior to the day he appeared before the investigating committee, his carriage and bearing during the investigation have been such as to stamp him as a first-class scamp. His testimony is a series of contradictions, evasions, provocations.

When asked to write for the purpose of obtaining a specimen of his handwriting for comparison with an anonymous letter, he pleads that he is too nervous—that he is so nervous that he cannot write, and he is a clerk in a public office; a hale, hearty buck; a man about town with a strong physique. He denies telling anybody of the alleged transaction with Kerr before being summoned and Solicitor Bliss testifies that he had told many persons about it in New York. But we have no space to give his numerous contradictions. His statement is to effect that Kerr on being approached by him, recommended Greene for an appointment to an office, and he afterward paid Kerr \$500 for that service. Greene testifies that he paid Harney \$450, but that he did not understand that Kerr received any portion of it; that he felt under great obligations to Kerr and paid him a special visit long afterwards to thank him for his kindness, which he would not have done had he supposed that Kerr had sold his influence or his patronage.

Hon. Michael Strouse testifies that Harney, about that time, asked him to recommend Greene, saying that if he could get Greene the appointment he (Harney) would make \$400 by it. Kerr swears that he had no acquaintance whatever with Harney; that the latter, who was an assistant doorkeeper, introduced Greene to him—and told him Greene was seeking an appointment. Greene subsequently called on Kerr at his room, and after a close examination he found that Greene was well prepared for the appointment. Greene also had a fine record as a young officer in the army, and was strongly recommended. Kerr took a fancy to him; and after a month or so secured his appointment, by his recommendation.

Kerr had before that time recommended one of his friends for the appointment, but as positions in the army were at a discount then, and a rigorous examination had to be undergone, the party so recommended had not noticed it; nor did he know any one else who wanted the appointment besides Greene. Kerr swears positively that he had no acquaintance with Harney, that he never received a cent from him in his life; and that he never received a cent from any one else for this recommendation. He has ever been regarded as a peerless man among the public men of the country in regard to fair, honest dealings. That he would have sold himself for a few dollars is incredible, but what is still more incredible is that such a fellow as Harney is shown to be, who then had a large family dependent on a small salary, should have paid Kerr \$500, when he only received \$450 from Greene, and Greene was an entire stranger to him. The truth of the matter is, Harney made up the story to wreak political vengeance on Kerr and the democratic party. No one credits his vile slander.

John C. Syme, Receiver of the Sentinel, announces that this paper, its name, good will, &c., will be sold at public auction on June 15.

We can only hope that a paper which has accomplished so much good for North Carolina will find as a purchaser some first-class editor who will perpetuate its fame and keep its name dear to the hearts of the people. It has a fine subscription list; and under prudent management will start at once on a career of great prosperity.

James Montgomery Bailey, "The Daubury News Man," will lecture this fall. Among American humorists he is by all odds the best writer.

BLAINE IN CONGRESS.

Blaine seems to have been playing his old role in the House of Representatives. He had the folly to entrust some letters in the hands of Mulligan, a witness before an investigating committee, and withhold them. This was tantamount to an admission that the letters contained important evidence against him. To break the force of such an argument he first assumed the position that they were his private property, since he wrote them. But the subcommittee Hunton and Ashe were not to be bullied by the ex-Speaker, and reported the matter to the committee on the judiciary, with a recommendation that Blaine be brought to the bar of the House for contempt. Evidently Blaine's chances for the Presidency had by this move been almost extinguished. No party could succeed with a candidate who had concealments to make. But he still hoped to get the better of the adverse fortunes which had overtaken him. A dispatch was received by Mr. Knott the chairman of the committee purporting to come from Josiah Caldwell in London. The tendency of this communication it is said was to exonerate Blaine from some of the charges that had been made against him. As soon as the dispatch was received Knott showed it to several gentlemen—but they could not at once ascertain whether it was genuine or a forgery. On Monday afternoon Blaine rose to a personal explanation, made many allegations against Knott and the sub-committee (Hunton and Ashe) and got on a high horse generally. He read some letters asserting that they were the ones he had captured from Mulligan and undertook to justify his conduct and vindicate himself from the charges that have recently overwhelmed him. The part he undertook to play was a difficult one. But the stake was great. If successful, he would appear to be a martyr, if foiled, his aspirations for the Presidency were gone. He made a great effort. All the keys were played upon. The hearts of the republican members responded—and Blaine thought he had triumphed over the evil fortune that had beset him. But not so. Knott knocked the props from under him completely. Blaine charged that Hunton and Ashe had been constituted a committee to investigate him with the fell purpose of destroying him, and that the committee had delayed its report to injure him. He also charged that the telegram had been suppressed by Knott also to prejudice him; and he introduced a resolution requiring Knott to read the dispatch.

REPLY OF MR. HUNTON.

Mr. Hunton, of Virginia, who is the chairman of the subcommittee, stated as follows: The House had witnessed this morning a remarkable, not to say unexampled, scene. During this session two resolutions had been adopted by the House, each of which ordered an investigation, each of which had been referred to the Judiciary Committee by the House, and each of which had been by that committee referred to a subcommittee consisting of Mr. Ashe, of North Carolina, Mr. Lawrence, of Ohio, and himself. Before that committee had reached any conclusion or had finished taking testimony, an effort was made by the gentleman who was supposed to be most deeply concerned in these investigations to take the consideration of those questions from the organ of the House and to report upon them in person. He need not remind the House what sort of a report would come from that committee if the gentleman from Maine were allowed to make it.

When the subcommittee was organized the gentleman from Maine had expressed himself not only satisfied but pleased with its personnel, and now that gentleman complained that two members of the subcommittee were ex-Confederates. On the very day fixed the investigation had begun, and from that day to this every hour that the committee could devote to it had been devoted to it, except when the gentleman himself prevented it. More than two weeks had been lost to the committee because of the conduct of the gentleman from Maine. Every member of the committee would bear him witness that the committee had worked in season and out of season, sitting on one occasion nearly the entire day in order to get through with the investigation prior to the 14th of June. Every delay that had occurred had been either because the gentleman from Maine was absent or requested an adjournment.

Mr. Mulligan had mentioned when under examination that he had certain letters, and the mention of those letters had seemed to have an immediate effect upon Mr. Blaine, who immediately whispered to Mr. Lawrence to move an adjournment, and Mr. Lawrence had got up with great solemnity on his contenance and said: "Mr. Chairman, I am very sick." [Laughter.]

Mr. Lawrence rose to explain.

Mr. Hunton—I hope the gentleman is better to-day. [Laughter.]

Mr. Lawrence—I ask my colleague whether, when I went into the committee room that morning, I did not say I was so sick it was very difficult for me to sit there at all, and at about 12:30, at the time the committee usually adjourns, I said I was quite unwell and moved that the committee adjourn. I have been quite unwell ever since. [Laughter on the Democratic side.]

Mr. Hunton—That is exactly as it occurred. The gentleman from Ohio came in in the morning sick, but he went to work in the most vigorous style for two hours, and when the letters came the gentleman became sick again, and somebody else became sicker. [Laughter.]

Mr. Lawrence—It ought to be said in justice to Mr. Blaine that as to his alleging his purpose for me to move

to adjourn, it was not because of any fear of what was going on.

Mr. Hunton—I never mentioned any such thing. [Laughter.] The gentleman is raising up a man of straw to knock him over, but I do say, that after those letters were mentioned incidentally, the gentleman, as a suggestion of Mr. Blaine, moved an adjournment, and put it on the ground that he was sick. An adjournment was had, and he did not like to keep our colleague in misery and distress.

Mr. Blaine had no more property in these letters than he had in my watch or in any other piece of my property.

Mr. Frye—Did not Mr. Blaine offer to submit these letters to be examined privately, and did not Mr. Hunton say that he would not examine them privately?

Mr. Hunton—I refused to receive them privately. I said to Mr. Blaine over and over again, "I do not want to see your correspondence either publicly or privately. I have got no right to see it except as a committee man, and those gentlemen who sit on either side of me have the same right as I have. I do not mean to receive any papers which my colleagues on the committee cannot see and inspect with me." Then I had the honor of an invitation to Mr. Blaine's house, to read those letters, but I replied in the same way, "I have no right to go into your house as a private citizen and read your private correspondence; if I have a right to look at it at all, it is as chairman of the committee, and if I have no right to look at it in that way, I have no right to look at it at all, and I shall not do it." It is for the House to determine whether the committee did right or wrong. If I have erred, it has been an error of judgment, and I say to-day that it is a job I never fancied.

MR. KNOTT'S REPLY.

Mr. Knott, of Kentucky, (Chairman of the Judiciary Committee,) said he had listened to imputations upon himself within the last two hours which, coming from a different source, he might perhaps answer very differently from the manner in which he should now attempt to answer them. Those who were intimately acquainted with him knew that he was the last man in the world to seek a personal controversy; and he assured the House that of all men in the world the gentleman from Maine (Mr. Blaine) was the last man with whom he would seek such a controversy. That gentleman was entirely too immense in his proportions. "Why, man! he doth bestride the narrow petty world. We walk between his huge legs and peep about, to find ourselves dishonorable graves." Personal controversy seemed to be that gentleman's forte.

The gentleman had quite unnecessarily lugged him (Mr. Knott) into this personal matter of his own. In the first place he had insinuated that from some unworthy motive he, (Mr. Knott,) as the chairman of judiciary committee, had appointed on the subcommittee the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. Hunton) and the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. Ashe.) In answer to that he had to say, first, that either of those gentlemen was his (Mr. Knott's) peer in any sense of the word, and that in point of honor it was no disparagement to the gentleman from Maine to say they were his superiors. [Hisses and other marks of disapprobation from the republican side of the House.] That is all right. There are three kinds of animals in the world that hiss, vipers, geese, and fools. [Laughter.] In the second place this subcommittee was selected long before there was any insinuation public or private that the gentleman from Maine was in any manner implicated in any of the alleged fraudulent transactions on the part of any of these corporations, and it did seem to me (when the gentleman flung his imputations at me) as a little strange that he could ascribe such notions to me under the circumstances, even granting that the gentleman from Virginia and the gentleman from North Carolina were his personal enemies. It does seem a little remarkable that you cannot touch one of these railroads but the gentleman from Maine will squeal; and I have no doubt, that it struck Mr. Harrison as a little remarkable, that when that \$75,000 bond transaction was mentioned in the meeting of Directors, the Treasurer of the Union Pacific Railroad Company should say, "Do not say anything about that; it will involve Blaine." But this committee was raised long before I had any intimation that Mr. Blaine was involved in it in any manner. I went to his personal friend and colleague, (Mr. Frye,) and asked him to take a position on the subcommittee, which he declined. So much for the appointment of the subcommittee. The gentleman from Maine seems to insinuate that it is the settled purpose of the Judiciary Committee to do something which might, peradventure, prevent him from receiving the nomination of his party at the coming convention of Cincinnati. I beg the gentleman to believe that, so far as I am concerned, we are perfectly willing he should receive that nomination. If in the pending campaign we cannot defeat the gentleman from Maine then our cause is entirely hopeless. [Laughter on the Democratic side.] If he shall receive the nomination and be elected by the American people in the face of all the facts, then all I can say is, "May the Lord have mercy on the American people." [Shouts of laughter.] I take occasion to say that so far as these letters are concerned, they were legally the property of Mr. Fisher, and were legally in the possession of his bailee, Mr. Mulligan, and that Mr. Blaine had no more right to their possession than I had. The Judiciary committee has done the gentleman no wrong; it has not even decided what shall be done with these letters. The committee has not taken any action on the subject at all, and the gentleman ought to be informed that to-morrow morning the question was to be brought up. Yet in defiance of all parliamentary law an ex-Speaker of the House comes here on the pretext of a personal explanation and takes the matter away from the jurisdiction of the committee. That is the condition in which this thing stands. It is still a matter of sub judice, not decided at all; and there was no intimation that a solitary word of one of those letters would be given to the public; but the gentleman was very positively assured that he would not be martyred by the judiciary committee. Now, why all this noise for so little wool? The Judiciary committee, on

which the gentleman has made such a violent assault, has done him no wrong; on the contrary, it has extended to him every conceivable courtesy. There was no disposition manifested by anybody to do anything that will militate against his interests in the slightest possible degree. Every request that he ever made to the committee has been complied with, and every postponement which he has asked has been granted. Everything has been done to protect the gentleman, for, God knows, we want him nominated. He need not be afraid there will be any opposition to his nomination from this side of the House.

[Laughter.] Now, there might have been—a grave question presented to the consideration of the House, growing out of this thing, and that question is, whether after the House has committed a question for investigation to a committee, the authority of the House can be trifled with by having the witnesses, who are summoned before that committee, met by the way-side, pumped dry, their documentary evidence in their possession obtained from them surreptitiously and a contemptuous refusal made on the demand of the committee to deliver it up. That question might have come up. I do not say that it would have. As to the cable dispatch from Josiah Caldwell, it is true that last Thursday morning I did receive a dispatch. The gentleman from Maine (Mr. Blaine) seems to know precisely the hour at which I received it and its contents. He seems thoroughly posted on the subject; but permit me to say, with regard to the insinuation that that telegram has been suppressed, that any man, high or low, whoever he may be, who will elsewhere make such an insinuation, will have to take the consequences. I hurl the falsehood back into the teeth of any man who makes a suggestion as to the suppression of that dispatch. [Applause on the Democratic side.] I received it. I did not suppress it at all. In less than thirty minutes after I received it I read it to several gentlemen. But there was no particular address in London, from which it purported to come, and I did believe—I am not altogether certain yet that I do not believe—it was a fixed up job. [Murmurs of dissent from the republican side.]

Mr. Hale, of Maine—The dispatch purported to come from London, and did not that indicate to the gentleman from Kentucky where to telegraph to Joseph Caldwell?

Mr. Knott—I had information that Caldwell was in Italy building railroads there, and not in London. There being no point in London designated in the dispatch, it struck me as being a little singular. I should have been expected to address a reply to London, where there are three or four millions of people. I might as well have gone to hunt a drop in the ocean.

I have not the dispatch here. It is at my house. The contents of it are substantially as stated by the gentleman from Maine, (Mr. Blaine.) I do not know that I can repeat it in exact terms. The purport of it is that Mr. Caldwell had seen Thomas A. Scott's testimony in the New York papers, and that it was substantially correct; that he had not let Mr. Blaine have any bonds, and that he would send an affidavit to that effect, but that he was engaged in a railroad enterprise over there and could not come to give his testimony without serious pecuniary loss. This is substantially what is in it, and if the gentleman had only waited the dispatch would have been presented to the committee for whatever use the committee might see proper to make of it. I had no desire to injure the gentleman from Maine personally, and especially not politically, but I desire the truth may be told. As for myself I had no knowledge of any transaction by the gentleman from Maine inconsistent with the highest personal integrity. I do not desire that he should be injured in the least, but I do desire that, if any person is guilty of wrong, we shall turn the gas on and let the people see him. [Laughter and applause.]

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