

# WEEKLY ANSONIAN

FEARLESSLY THE RIGHT DEFEND—IMPARTIALLY THE WRONG CONDEMN.

VOL. III. POLKTON, ANSON CO., N. C., WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 4, 1876. NO. XXVII.

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**The 43d N. C. Regiment During the War.**  
Whiffs from My Old Camp Pipe.  
Passing through Mt. Sidney early the morning of the 29th, we took the Keezletown road to the right, and at noon stopped to rest on the battle ground of Cross keys, where Jackson and Fremont fought in 1862. Camped at Keezletown that night, near one of the finest springs in the Valley. The next day we again strike the turn-pike and pass through New Market, and camped for the night in an open field. Here we are on the 1st of July, with another mouth behind us, and still not a drop of rain has fallen on us.

The dust and heat were almost intolerable, and many of our men by this time, were completely barefoot, and marching at the average rate of 22 miles per day, over a rough, rocky country, had placed them almost beyond traveling. But with that heroic fortitude characteristic of the Southern soldier, they would be at their post at night. We passed Mt. Jackson, Edinburg, and through Woodstock and camped on the creek in the fairer place. On the 2d of July we passed through Strasburg, and Middletown, and reaching Newtown camped for the night. Here Hunter had the house of a Methodist minister and a Col. White, burned. He ordered the whole to be laid in ashes, but the officer, trusted with this humane and chivalric order for some reason failed to execute it. But he required and forced the citizens to take the oath of allegiance to the United States Government. It was said that Hunter did this in retaliation, for an attack made on one of his trains by Mosby. This officer, although called a "guerilla," by the enemy, was a regularly commissioned officer of the Confederate army and his attack on the train was legitimate warfare, and the cruel order of Hunter to burn the roofs from the defenceless heads of women and children, as a retaliatory measure, must be regarded by all honorable brave men, as not only without excuse but dastardly and cowardly. Sunday morning, we are again moving, and passing through Winchester where the enemy said "lived the most rebellious women in the South," and camped near Smithfield that night. Oh, the dust, the heat, the sore bleeding feet, the tired stiffened limbs! Was this holy day never again to be to us a day of rest! But such is War.

On the morning of the 4th of July, we approached Charlestown, and so well guarded were our movements, that some of the Federal troops—some of the "bomb proof" gentry, were out in the village to escort the few loyal ladies that could be found to Harper's Ferry. No aid in celebrating the 4th, but their leave-taking, was rather hasty and unceremonious. The citizens and especially the noble ladies, lavished upon us every kindness and attention. We pressed on to the village of Better, which occupying the heights, bearing the same name, overlooks the town of Harper's Ferry and drove in the pickets.

**RADICAL LIE NAILED.**  
Vance on the Keith Massacre in Madison.

**LESSER FROM JUDGE MERRIMON.**  
RALEIGH, N. C., Aug. 18, 1876.  
R. M. FURMAN, Esq.:  
DEAR SIR:—Your letter of the 12th inst., addressed to me at Washington City, has just reached me here. You enquired whether I have any, and if any, what recollection of any thing done by Gov. Vance during the late war in reference to the killing of thirteen citizens on Big Laurel creek in Madison county in 1863, under the order of Col. James Keith. I well remember the horrible and atrocious deed. I was the Solicitor of the 8th Circuit at the time, and did all that I could in the then disordered condition of affairs in that county and country generally, towards bringing the guilty parties to justice and merited punishment. Keith escaped and continued to fire until after the close of the war. I am very sure that those who impute to Gov. Vance any sympathy with Keith in that murderous transaction—or in the transaction itself—do him great and gross injustice. He heard of the crime, by some means soon after it was perpetrated, and wrote me as Solicitor at once requesting me to ascertain and report the facts to him. In his letter to me dated Feb. 9th, 1863, he says: "I desire you also to make an investigation officially into the reported shooting of a number of these prisoners, with all the circumstances, as I intend to look into the matter myself."

I made such examinations as I could and reported to the Governor. I know from my correspondence with him that he took a deep and anxious interest in the subject. He had a correspondence with the Confederate Authorities about it, with which I am not entirely familiar.

The Military Authorities took notice of the matter. It came before a military court sitting at Knoxville, Tennessee, of which Hon. Thomas Ruffin, then Col. Ruffin, was President. The Court ascertained many of the facts. Pending the examination or before it, Keith resigned his office, Colonel, and the Military court had therefore no jurisdiction to try him; but Col. Ruffin wrote to Gov. Vance calling his attention to the horrible character of the crime, as developed by the facts as detailed before that court.

Gov. Vance then obtained a copy of the proceedings had before the Military Court, either from Col. Ruffin or the War office at Richmond, and sent the same to me, expressing in the strongest terms his horror at and condemnation of the crime, and instructing me to prosecute Keith as vigorously as I could. He neither palliated nor apologized for it—on the contrary, he condemned in the most unqualified terms and manifested a resolute purpose to see Keith and the other guilty parties punished. Keith escaped as I have stated.  
I am, &c., Yours truly,  
A. S. MERRIMON.

**ALL ABOUT IT.**  
An Address to the Voters of North Carolina by Jno. T. Dewese—How the State was Bobbed in 1868-'69.—Revelations of Republican Ras-cattles.

*The Political Villanies of Gov. Holden, Bill Storn, Windy Billy Henderson, Sam Watts, Jim Harris, Tim Lee, and others leaders of the Republican Party of North Carolina.*  
To the Voters of North Carolina.  
Gov. Holden, Bill Storn, Andy Jackson Jones, Windy Billy Henderson, Joe Abbott, General Estes, Sam Watts, Jim Harris, M. S. Littlefield, G. W. Swepson and Tim Lee all had a share in these steals.

The penitentiary matter was one of the swindles in which I had no share: and only know that John A. Hymas, C. L. Harris and the member from Weldon had their hands all crossed by Harris with his money just for luck, he used to say. Harris told me he had \$1,000 from Prayn who also showed me a note or receipt for the sum, I do not know which, as I paid very little attention to it, well knowing it was one of those schemes which would bring trouble and so kept my hand out of it.

Tim Lee, another one of the Loyal Saints, was dismissed from the Union Army in a Massachusetts regiment for conduct unbecoming an officer and a good man. I procured a copy of the order of dismissal for Col. I. J. Young, who Harris was trying to oust Young from the Collector's office. Tim too, had his little share of the bonds in the time; but at all who had anything to do with him, and then beat himself.

J. C. L. Harris wanted to be Postmaster; Daddy, C. J. Harris, offered me \$1,000 to sign his recommendation. I declined. Harris then had Shaffar, the Carpet Bag Register, who has about as much brains as a bull calf, to write me a letter, offering me \$1,000 to sign it. I declined. Logan then wanted to fight me in Mahler's jewelry store, for not giving him a recommendation.

Littlefield, Swepson and Abbott, each, are to blame, one much as the other, for the condition of affairs in your State. They corrupted the Legislature, using such willing tools as J. H. Harris to let the negro members to vote for all of their Railroad schemes. Harris was by them paid the money with which he purchased his farm. In fact he would do nothing unless he was paid for it. He must have received not less than \$15,000 for his influence and his vote. Abbott got at least \$100,000 for his share. You all know how much your State was swindled out of; the members themselves received but little. Sam Carrow was paid \$3,500 for trying to influence Rodman's opinion on the legality of the bonds issued the Railroad company.

Coleman, who was the first Attorney General under Holden, was paid \$500 and constable to resign; so that Mr. Olds, the Governor's son-in-law, could be appointed in his place, to be of use to the ring, as Coleman was always drunk.

Dick Badger and Tim Lee each got their \$8,000 of State bonds out of the Atlantic & Ohio Railroad Company appropriation. In fact, not one of these Radical chaps that are now bounding me, did a lick of work; but they got the pay, and your State had to pay them. The stealing extended from one end of the State to the other, and was confined entirely to the Republican party. More than one man now in ease and plenty in your State stole what he is dairy eating; and if the Republican party is to be continued in power, you will get just four years more of it.

as they want. In supporting Tilden and Hendricks I know I am assisting to get rid of a lot of leaches and thieves. I am some to blame for having put them on you.

The negroes, if let alone by these leeches, would soon make good and inoffensive citizens, but they, by their fears being constantly worked on, are kept in dread of the Democracy. Be kind and patient with them, and they will see who are their friends and come to their masters for advice instead of Tim Lee and Cebj.

Let me say in conclusion, that the above is only a sample of the men who now want to control the destiny of a State. They are fit followers of such a theiving government as Grant has given us for the past four years, and which, if the Republican party is successful, we will have for the next four years. Then it is for the freedom of your State to rally around the polls at the November election, and by your votes get rid of these thieves for thieves they are; and get honest men in their places. They are a disgrace to the people of your State, and I am glad I parted company with them, and got once more in honest company.

JOHN T. DEWESE.  
**FALSE PROPHECY.**  
How the Republicans Attempted to Deceive the People.

From an Address to the People of Chatham by Messrs John Manning and William F. Stroud, Members of the Constitutional Convention of 1875

It was charged during the campaign for the Convention, in the address of the Executive Committee, of the Republican party, and reiterated by Republican orators and papers:

1st. That the Democratic party was unfriendly to the homestead and personal property exemptions, and if control was obtained of the Supreme Court they would overule the decisions of that Court, as applied to all debts.

No ordinance or resolution interfering, or proposing to interfere with these provisions of the present Constitution, was introduced by a Democrat; one was introduced by a Republican, but it was promptly decided that it came within the restrictions of the act calling the Convention, and was never allowed to pass its second reading.

2d. That the Democratic party would discriminate in property exempt from taxation against the poor man in favor of lawyers and other professional men. No alteration was made in the provisions of the present Constitution on that subject.

3d. That the Democratic party in order to reduce the blacks to a degraded position, would legislate against their own race by annexing or requiring property qualifications for voters.

No property qualifications of any sort was required either for office or for a voter.

County Courts, do away with the townships, cripple or abolish the common school system and convene the Legislature in an extra session.

None of these things have been done or attempted.

7th. That "the plotters" would create life officers, taking from the people the power to choose their own rulers.

The terms of officers and the mode of their election remain the same.

8th. The sessions of the General Assembly would be prolonged and the expense increased.

The sessions of the General Assembly have been shortened, and expenses diminished more than one-half.

9th. That the Convention would cost \$500,000.

It has not cost \$20,000.

10th. That the Amendments would not be submitted to the people for their ratification, or if so, that thirty days notice would be given.

The Convention has submitted the proposed Amendments to the people, has given over twelve months in which the Amendments can be examined and discussed, and has provided for a more liberal and intelligent distribution of them than was ever before practiced in this State.