

W. P. CANADAY, Ed'r & Prop'r.

WILMINGTON, N. C.

SUNDAY MORNING, OCT. 5, 1878.

We ask especial attention to the portrait in another column of the opinions of Samuel J. Tilden as to the Democratic prospects of the future, and the further declaration that he is so disgusted with the course of the Democratic party that he abandons all idea of being its candidate for President.

The prospect of increasing ignorance in the state of North Carolina is alarming. In 1877 out of 498,296 legal pupils, between the ages of 6 and 21, only 104,178 attended school. Thus there were left 394,118 pupils who were growing up in ignorance. If this condition of ignorance should continue with its natural increase ten years, the number would be nearly doubled, and the amount of ignorance would become dangerous to the state.

GENERAL SHERMAN AND THE SALISBURY CONVOCATION.

Several gentlemen, residents in our town of Salisbury, having decided it to be expedient to hold a joint gathering of the ex-Union and ex-Confederate soldiers at the above named town on the 23d of October next, addressed a letter inviting Gen. W. T. Sherman, the General of the Army to be present on the occasion. Gen. Sherman, in a few words, possibly abrupt, as is his wont, declined the invitation. We print his letter below.

It is not our purpose to sit in judgment on the right of these persons to hold this meeting, or to invite Gen. Sherman thereto. But we have a few observations to offer upon the propriety of such gatherings, and we must say at the outset that we agree substantially with the drift of the General's remarks. Here are two sets of men to get together who fought each other on opposite sides, for ideas totally diverse and dissimilar. What are they to talk about? Is the occasion merely social, wherein they stand up, raise their glasses in mid air and drink to the sentiment that both sides fought bravely? If so it would be a very insipid and silly performance, worthy only of boys and not of full grown men. They would have in such a case, no purpose at all in meeting except to stare at each other, and to discuss the quality of the wines, or it might be of corn whiskey.

But suppose they depart from this course and commence to talk about the questions which adhere like barnacles to the whole structure of the meeting—questions upon which there is no agreement. One fellow bursts out with a eulogy of Gen. Hood or Lee, and another recounts the military genius of Thomas or Grant. The next thing that would occur, would be some fellow ringing the changes on the glories of the Confederacy, while another dragged in bodily and in full feathers the live American eagle. The current of speech would either take this latter course, or else it would run into nothingness, or else both classes would stultify themselves by pretending that it had been just as well to have fought on one side as the other. Anybody knows that it is not yet long enough since the war to undertake to indulge in these empty mouthings.

We do not deny, of course, that there is a certain fraternity in the great profession of arms. Soldiers are in some sense brothers, and on whichever side they fight, whether on the right or the wrong side, there are many things among them in common. There is, we might almost say, a sort of common brotherhood in the profession, which comes from doing similar things. There are similar tactics and principles of strategy, of conduct, and of honor, which are in common with contending forces. It is no doubt a fact that the discipline and experience of a soldier, merely as such, on an average elevates and improves him as a human animal. And two men who fought on opposite sides can compare notes of the very battle in which each was engaged. But there is a certain line between the two that cannot be passed, there are certain limits in thought and converse that cannot be transcended, and this fact would certainly be realized in such a convalesce as is proposed at Salisbury. It is very likely that in two hundred years from now, the descendants of Grant and Lee, Sherman and Johnson, Sheridan and Stonewall Jackson, and others like them, may celebrate the events of these times in common. But there is not sufficient of cosmopolitanism now around Salisbury to render such a gathering desirable.

The following is Gen. Sherman's letter:

HEADQUARTERS ARMY UNITED STATES, WASHINGTON, D. C., Sept. 2, 1878. Messrs. G. A. Dinwiddie, A. G. Holthouser, John A. Kinney, and Charles Price, Salisbury, N. C.

GENTLEMEN: I beg to acknowledge receipt of your letter of Aug. 30, inclosing a circular, and thanking me to unite with the survivors of the late civil war, in a reunion at Salisbury, N. C., on Thursday, Oct. 25, 1878. The time is too remote for me to make a promise, but I assure you that it would be most agreeable to me personally and socially to meet you on any suitable occasion.

There is no use in mincing terms. Whenever and wherever the honest men of North Carolina meet to ally sectional and party animosities and to cultivate feelings of fraternity and respect for their fellow-citizens of the United States, it will be to me most tempting to come to Salisbury. I would far prefer to come alone, than as before with a vast army, leaving desolation behind; but I must not be construed as assenting to the proposition that Confederate and Union men were alike worthy of a celebration for the terrible history of 1861-5.

I would much prefer to come on some civic occasion when all are absolutely equal, all alike interested in the present and future glory of our common country. There were very few Union soldiers in North Carolina during the war, though we believe the people generally were opposed to secession and war, and that your meeting, if confined to surviving soldiers of North Carolina, will be in fact a "Confederate reunion," where I would certainly be out of place. All soldiers in their social reunions glorify their deeds of heroism, and this reunion will hardly be an exception, and it will give me great pleasure to see the splendor that before. Were I present, and you should suppress this natural feeling, I would feel myself an intruder, marring the natural happiness of a festive occasion. I know that the soldier element was the first to lay aside the angry passions of the war, and are now leaders in the new epoch which is sure to add wealth and prosperity to our whole country, and when some occasion arises when we may all meet on common ground in North Carolina, to celebrate some Revolutionary event, or to encourage some modern enterprise, you will be glad to see me, and I will be glad to come to Salisbury, to Guilford Court House, or any other place in the "Old North State." Wishing you an agreeable reunion, but asking you to excuse me, I am, with respect, yours most truly, W. T. SHERMAN, General.

GRAMERCY PARK SPEAKS. A reporter of the Washington Republic has interviewed, not Uncle Sammy himself, but his nearest friend. We do not vouch for the statement, but publish it, leaving people to believe it or not as they please. This gentleman states that Mr. Tilden's sole interest in politics at present is confined to the crushing of Tammany and John Kelly, and the election of Gov. Robinson. He says at the very opening of the interview: "You see, you Republicans don't understand the old man. You think he is an iniquitous old customer, and don't give him credit for being smart enough to not play a losing game in politics. You believe he wants to run for President again and buy his way through, or something of that kind."

"Perhaps so," was the rejoinder; "but what do you mean by a losing game?" "I mean," said this informant, "exactly what I say, and you can apply my remark to the Democratic prospects in the next National campaign."

"You're right," said Mr. Tilden. "Well," was the response, "he doubts it enough to think that the Democratic candidate next year will have a very heavy load to carry, and also to feel disinclined personally to enter the race with such an extraordinary handicap laid upon him." "You don't pretend to say that Tilden is a disciple of the Bloody Shirt, do you?" asked the *Republican*.

"Well, not exactly," said Mr. Tilden's friend, "but something like it. Now, I know that Governor Tilden, having a sharp eye to politics and being possessed of rare ability to grasp public sentiment and anticipate its effect, has not failed to observe the effect of the peculiar and sectional demonstrations of the southern Democracy upon the northern people. I know that he feels that the blunders of the late extra session of Congress did not exist in the Democracy in public estimation. I know that he believes the reputation of southern state debts, the nullification of general laws, the frequent political murders, the condoning by entire communities of the most outrageous crimes, the deprivation of great masses of voters of their political rights, the practical non-enforcement of the laws in some localities, and the general prevalence throughout the entire south of a disregard of political equality, as well as of the buldozing and proscription which exist there, cannot fail to militate against the success of the Democratic ticket next year.

"Does he talk in that strain?" "Yes, he talks in that strain," said this vicarious friend; "that is to say, he talks that way sometimes to his more intimate friends. In fact, he believes these things so firmly that he does not feel inclined, as I have said, to assume or resume the personal risk, expense and anxiety of becoming a candidate for President again—not, at any rate, until the attitude of the political situation has changed from the way it now stands."

THE DEADWOOD FIRE.

The most graphic description of the almost total destruction of the town of Deadwood in Dakota was given by the correspondent of the *Inter Ocean*. We make a few extracts from it.

As quickly as possible the fire engines, hose cart and hook and ladder companies, with their wagons were on the ground, but owing to the high wind, insufficient water, and in the insufficiency of our hose to answer the demand before any result could be gained, the fire was beyond control.

The people grew frantic after the first half hour of endeavor to quell the flames, and the majority only applied themselves to their own property, and the mad flames went their own way, devastating everything in their way. He explains that Deadwood lies at the junction of two creeks in the shape of the letter "V", in a narrow gulch at the bottom, and the houses extending on the side of the steps.

In a few minutes the flames had passed from Sherman street northward to the Welch House, the principal hotel in the city, distant only about 200 feet from the point where it commenced, and the guests, some seventy-five in number, had barely time to escape before the hotel, a fine three-story frame building, was in a mass of flames. At the same time the fire extended across Sherman street toward the county offices, and northward toward the business part of the city. In almost less time than it takes to write it the fire had crossed Lee street, which runs east and west, and was the store of Main street, where all our most important business houses were situated. In less than thirty minutes Main street was reached and a mad light took the place of an organized fighting of the fire.

UP THE HILL, ON THE NORTH SIDE OF THE GULCH. Went the insane crowd, carrying with them all imaginable articles of use—clothing, bedding, merchandise of all kinds—women half clad, and with children in their arms; men staggering beneath heavy bundles, and all in the confusion never seen except in the time of a fire panic. In a few minutes the fire reached a store of powder in the building of Jensen, Bliss & Co., hardware merchants which exploded with startling results. On every side missiles of all kinds were hurled, but, happily to say, without any result fatal to human life.

Soon the entire space, between Main and Sherman streets was a seething mass of flames. One after another of the business houses went down. It was hoped when the fire reached the line of brick buildings occupied by Halzeman, B. Halstein, Graves & Curtis, Browning & Wringrose, and R. C. Lake, its course would be checked, but the thought was vain, for the fire first passed around and then attacked them. The first to take fire was the store of B. C. Lake, with an immense stock of hardware, and soon the magnificent building was in flames. Shortly, came a terrible explosion, and soon another, and then still another—roots of buildings which had been considered our best work, as to a large extent demolished. Only three of the warehouses remain, and on the fire swept till the demolition of buildings in Chinatown checked its course.

In the meantime, the fire had extended up Sherman street, and first took Langrishe's Theatre, the finest in the Hills; then the Masonic Hall, then the building which was the store of officers went down, and with them went the hall containing the records of our property. The Overland Hotel came next, and only by a superhuman effort was the fire checked by tearing down a building nearly a block and a half south of its original location. At the time it went on, our Court House with all its records, was gone, and then Worthheimer's building and all our banks; the Overland Hotel and all of Main street was swept clear to the United States Signal Service and Telegraph office, which were merely saved by the utmost exertions. Then from there up the hill it sped, and destroyed almost all of William street, one of the most beautiful residential streets in the city, where seemingly satisfied with its work, it stopped. The loss is about two millions, and perhaps more.

IGORANCE IN THE SOUTH.

The Washington correspondent of the *Atlanta (Ga.) Republic* gives information in regard to the illiteracy of the Southern States, which ought to startle every good citizen. The statistics furnished by the Bureau of Education show an illiteracy in the South that is awakening just cause of alarm among the most enlightened of the nation. From the most careful statistics in the States of Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, North and South Carolina, it is found that nearly eight per cent. of the children are out of school, growing in ignorance, and if this condition of things is allowed for ten years illiteracy will be the normal condition of the entire voting population. The last census showed that two-thirds of all the voters in Louisiana were unable to read and write, and in the parish of St. Landry in 1874, one-half of the white and five sixths of the colored voters were unable to write their names. The great question that confronts the nation, is how shall these soon to be voters, be lifted out from this dark pall of illiteracy?

The hostility to free schools in the South, and the poverty of things in the colored race is a distinction in the way of educating the masses. The preservation of our civil institutions demanded that every child shall be educated. Self protection calls for an amendment of the Constitution requiring each State to establish free schools, compelling the attendance of all children between seven and fifteen in school at least three months in the year. The million and a half of illiterate voters now in the South increased by the unlettered soon to reach their majority, under the lead of men hostile to our nation's life is an element that endangers the permanency of our national existence. Much is being done by various institutions in educating colored youth, fitting them for teachers and the various professions.

Important Questions in Court—Cases of Political and Commercial Interest Before the United States Supreme Court.

WASHINGTON, Sept. 28.—The Attorney General was obliged to leave the Presidential party at Cincinnati a few days ago and return to Washington to prepare for the Supreme Court, which is to sit on Oct. 13. The cases before it at its opening are of peculiar importance so far as the United States are concerned. Among them is the petition for a mandamus against Judge Rives, of the Western District of Virginia, who removed into the United States court the cases of two colored men indicted for murder, upon the ground that they were prevented from having a colored man upon the jury; also a case of habeas corpus in behalf of two Judges of the State courts of Virginia, who have been indicted in the United States Courts for preventing colored men from sitting on the jury. In addition to these is a case from West Virginia, which State has passed a law excluding colored men from juries. There is also the case of a revenue officer from Tennessee, who is indicted for murder in the case of the State, the case having been removed to the United States court for trial, on the ground that the deed was committed in the necessary execution of his duty as a revenue officer. The question of the constitutionality of the law authorizing such removal is to be discussed, as well as the manner in which the trial is to proceed after it is transferred to the United States court. There are also two cases involving the constitutionality of the Election laws, which are brought up by habeas corpus—one from the District of Maryland, involving the legality of the punishment of the five Judges of that State, and one from the District of Ohio.

In connection with these, which may be called political cases, there are three others to be heard later in the term, involving the constitutionality of the Civil Rights act, entitling negroes to equal accommodations at theatres, taverns, &c. There are also three cases of commercial importance involving the constitutionality of the United States Trade-mark laws—first as they affect foreign nations with whom this country has treaties, and, second, as to their operation within the lines of a particular State.

Upon these questions there have been conflicting decisions in the District Courts of Ohio and Wisconsin. It is understood that those affecting foreign commerce were advanced in the United States court at the request of the French Minister, transmitted through the Secretary of State.

Boat Clock.

To the Editor of *The Tribune*. Sir: My wife, bless her, has been doing what may result in almost anything if the benefits thereof can be properly extended. We have an old clock in the house which, for reasons of its own, absolutely refused to go. "What shall I do with it?" she said, "Send it to the watch butcher," said I, "and have it come back worse than ever, and a bill of \$3 to pay for spoiling it."

So it stood there on the mantel, as mute as a candidate, and not ever offering to condone, till, the other day when I was gone, she got a screw-driver and took the works out and popped them into a kettle of boiling soap-suds. She boiled the clock well, and then she took it out and wiped all she could reach of it and put it in the oven to dry. Then a feather and a little oil, and when that clock was wound up and set going it was like a regular Democratic nominee in Kemper county. But the sewing machine had been taking lessons of the clock, or something of the kind, and so, when it went and afterward to the oven. It goes now to perfection. This remedy should be applied generally. Couldn't it be tried on Tammany, or some men's reputations? I don't think it would work on children, and I'm keeping a sharp lookout, but it's great for any man's machine. W. O. S.

Wholesome Truths.

In his address before the Worcester convention, Hon. A. H. Bullock made the following candid statement: To the Republican party we are proud to belong. It has been through corrupt practices, nor has any other party been so exempt; but such is the growing independence of its members that the chances for bad practices and bad men are rapidly diminishing. If we judge the civil service by the payment to the treasury of every dollar of the vast revenues of the year past. It has not been without intolerance, but no association of men, drawn together originally by the tie of a moral sentiment, has been less intolerant. There breathes day through its ranks a general freedom which lifts its members above the mere shibboleth of a nomination. No man need leave the party, for he is free within its bound only, in the exercise of his independence to aid his judgement and conscience by scrutinizing closely the agency and the question at stake. I have lived through two generations of national parties, and I have yet to learn that in any one of them there has been a more exalted manhood and personalism than now thrives in the Republican party of this country.

It is one of the woeful streams of Maine. A summering papa lay fishing, in company with his two boys. A magnificent silver eel, having fooled around the bait, was snubbed landed, and an mortal coil snubbed off without unnecessary delay. The father had resumed his occupation, when one of the youngsters, noticing the spasmodic action of the striped eel, called out excitedly: "Look, father! Look at the beast! He's making believe he's alive!"

The toughest week pulls the old sand-scoop out into the lake of a morning has the worst case of bronchitis ever diagnosed. He was in a mixture of an Indian war-party and the jip of a captured vessel, and suggests danger of a captured vessel if not speedily doctor'd.

Peterson's Magazine, which a contemporary calls "pre-eminently the first of the lady's books," is on our table for November, ahead of all others. It is astonishing how this favorite continues to improve. The present number leads off with a charming steel engraving, "The Little Haymaker," and is followed by one of those double-sized steel fashion plates, superbly colored, only seen in this periodical. Then comes a powerful engraving, "The Oriel Window," illustrating a story, and then some fifty wood cuts of dresses, patterns in embroidery, crochet, &c., &c. A pretty love story "The Prize at our Archery Club," brilliantly illustrated, follows, and then tales and novelties by Mrs. Ann Stephens, Mrs. F. Hodgson Burnett, Marietta Holley, Frank Lee Benedict & Co., &c., &c. With this number appears the Prospectus for 1880. A specialty of "Peterson" is a monthly Supplement given to each subscriber, with a paper pattern for a lady's or child's dress the patterns alone being worth more than the subscription price. FIVE ORIGINAL NOVELTS will be given in 1880, by Mrs. Ann Stephens, Mrs. Frances Hodgson Burnett, Frank Lee Benedict, &c., &c. A NEW FEATURE will be introduced, in a series of brilliantly illustrated stories, and other articles. The price of "Peterson," remember, is but TWO DOLLARS A YEAR, or less than any other first-class magazine, postage free; to clubs for \$3.50 are even lower viz: two copies for \$3.50 with a superb, copy right mezzotint (size 2 1/2 inches by 20) "WASHINGTON AT VALLEY Forge," a premium. Or four copies for \$6.50, and an extra copy of the magazine itself as premium. Or five copies for \$9.00, with both an extra copy and the "WASHINGTON AT VALLEY Forge," for premium. For larger clubs the premiums are even more tempting. Now is the time to get up clubs for 1880. Specimens are sent, gratis, if written for. Subscribe to *nothing until you have seen a copy of "Peterson"*. Address, CHARLES J. PETERSON, 306 Chestnut Street, Philadelphia, Pa.

The military history of the United States is as strange as the rise and rapid growth of the nation. In 1790 the rank and file of the army, as fixed by act of Congress, amounted to 1,216 men; and in 1811 an English expedition of only 3,500 men was able to seize and burn Washington, the capital of a country which even then numbered 8,000,000 of inhabitants. In 1861, at the commencement of the war of the secession, the whole regular force amounted to only 11,000 men. In April of that year the President called 75,000 volunteers for three months to defend the capital, which was threatened; and in May a further call for 42,000 was made. In July two calls for 500,000 each were authorized by Congress, and as even this vast force proved insufficient for the gigantic struggle which America had now embarked in, it was found necessary to introduce the conscription. In October, 1863, a levy of 300,000 men was ordered, and February, 1864, a further call of 500,000 was made. Finally, in the beginning of 1865, two further levies, amounting in all 500,000 men were ordered, but only partially carried out, in consequence of the cessation of hostilities. The total number of men called under arms by the Government of the United States, between April, 1861, and April, 1865, amounted to 2,759,019, of whom 2,673,053 were actually embodied in the armies.

The cause of the negro exodus from the South has been laid at the doors of "railroad corporations and Northern emissaries," who have, for selfish reasons, disturbed the happy and contented laborers in the cotton fields and sugar plantations. Secretary Sherman has caused a semi official investigation to be made through Mr. E. S. Hamlin, who has visited the South and West, and conversed freely with the fugitives themselves. He says: "The causes of the movement are mainly three—misery in the South for the person and property of the negro, political persecution and inability, on account of unfair treatment, to make a decent living. There is, unfortunately, too little reason to doubt that all these causes exist. The negro is not easily induced to leave the place where he was born and to which he is habituated. His aims and desires are very modest. That the race in very considerable numbers has begun to leave the South is of itself proof conclusive that something is radically wrong in his condition at home."

That the exodus will continue until means are adopted to give the black man something like a fair show, no one can doubt.

Prince Napoleon's character is marred not only by his bad temper and his proverbially bitter tongue, which makes it next to impossible for any one to get on with him or to get on with any one else—facts which caused him to flee the Algerian administration and brought him back to France from so many important missions; but by a worse defect than either of these, a fatal want of essential to true success, and is disposed when people decline to see things as he sees them to give up in disgust, and let them learn by experience the wisdom of councils he had not energy to do battle for. He resembles Byron's Mordredian, who, with plenty of staff in his hands, would fly to his arms in pleasure.

In an English court, in the course of an argument, a barrister remarked: "Who's Kitty?" said the magistrate. "Your wife," said the barrister. "I suspect you mean Mr. Chitty," the author of the great work on pleading. "I do, sir; but Chitty is an Italian name, and ought to be pronounced Kitty."

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THE examination has resulted in the conclusion that the sample contained no poisonous or harmful admixture. I have been unable to discover any trace of the deleterious substances which are employed in the adulteration of inferior liquors. I would not hesitate to use my self, or recommend to others, for medicinal purposes, the Schiedam Schnapps as an excellent and unobjectionable variety of gin. Very respectfully yours, Signed CHAS. A. SHELLEY, Chemist.

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