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THE HERALD OF THE UNION.

WILMINGTON, MARCH 16.

LOCAL INTELLIGENCE.

THE CITIZENS' MEETING.

Remarks of Rev. A. D. Heyburn.

CANDID AND DISPASSIONATE REVIEW OF THE PAST.

The Rebel Government the Real Traitors.

NORTH CAROLINA ALWAYS FOR THE UNION.

The Only Hope for the State Now is in Reconstruction.

The following are the lucid and able remarks in support of the resolutions adopted at the Citizens' Meeting on Tuesday evening, delivered by Rev. A. D. Heyburn, of the Presbyterian church in this city.

The speaker commenced by regretting that the duty of opening the discussion upon the resolutions had devolved upon him. Not that he had any hesitation in publicly declaring his views and feelings on the subjects embraced in the resolutions. The present was not a time for men who had settled convictions to be silent. It was the fault of conservative men in these parts that they had been too prudent—or rather timid. Their experience should teach them to be wiser in the future. But he would prefer that some of the older residents of the place, who had taken so active a part in the meeting, should perform the duty assigned to him. Still, as the interests of every one were involved in the course to be pursued by the community, every one had a right to speak and to be heard.

We have assembled to-night in no spirit of mere exultation. This is not the time or place for such feelings; with the evidence of the ruinous effects of the war every where around us; familiar faces gone, never more to be seen in earth; citizens reduced to poverty and distress; houses and shelter, who once lived in affluence, pouring upon us and dependent upon the bounty of the government and the charities of our citizens for food and shelter; he would have a hard time to tell who would indulge in frivolous exultation now. [Applause.] We have come together to do our duty as individuals and to our community.

We have nothing to say at present in relation to our past views and conduct. Among so many persons as compose this assemblage a great variety of opinions must have necessarily prevailed. It is no disgrace for a man to change his opinions; it is dishonest and unworthy to disguise his past course. [Applause.] Nothing of the kind is called for by these resolutions. We have nothing to do with the past. "Let the dead bury their dead," we propose to express clearly and frankly our present views as to the course which we ought to pursue. [Applause.]

The resolutions offered to you to-night are clear, decided, and moderate; such as every one who desires the restoration of the Union to its integrity, can cordially assent to. Their general purpose is, that we renounce the government under which we have been living for the last four years, and that we heartily desire to see our state restored to her proper place in the Union, where we believe the mass of the people have in their hearts always wished her to be. [Applause.]

If there is present any one who has a lurking feeling that he is bound by duty and honor to the confederate government, I would have him reject upon the course urged by that government for the last four years, and then decide by what right it claims his allegiance. Right minded citizens will always judge their rulers with charity, and will endure much for the good of their country; but there is a point beyond which obedience ceases to be a duty. Treason, gentlemen, is a time of which not the subjects of a government may be guilty; when the rulers are guilty of injustice and oppression; when they demand of freemen that they give up their rights, and not to resist and renounce them is treason against freedom and against humanity. [Applause.] And what has been the course of the confederate government from its beginning? It was founded on the doctrine of state rights; and the rights of the states were among the first to be trampled under foot. We soon had also the system of conscription introduced; it was denounced by some of our leading statesmen as unconstitutional, and what never should be in a free country. Their position was in vain, and we had a conscription law as sweeping, ruthless and cruel as ever disgraced the legislation of any country. [Ap-

plause.] Every year added to its severity and injustice; until at last Mr. Davis demanded that all exemptions should be abolished, and the power to detail men for the necessary home duties should be vested in him; he would detail men to practice medicine, preach the gospel, make laws, edit the newspapers, &c., and thus have a solute control over the lives and opinions of all the men in the country. What a claim was that to be made in this free American country. [Applause.] Then came a most burlesque, complicated and unjust system of taxation, which "wring the last dollar from the clutched hand of poverty"—and these taxes for some mysterious blunder or fraud have to be doubled it seems. [Laughter.] And we remained much longer under the power of these men, there are many here who would have had to sell their all to pay their taxes. [That's so! and applause.] I need not dwell on other of their follies and wrongs; the secret sessions of congress; the suspension of the habeas corpus act; the legalized robbery called impressment; the admission into congress of corrupt representatives of a fictitious constituency; the want of good faith in the management of the finances, &c., &c. To close the catalogue we see that at last they were about to finish the destruction of slavery. That which Mr. Stephens pronounced the corner stone of the confederacy. [Applause.] I ask, then, what claims can a government which has proved so false to all the principles on which it is professed to be founded, so oppressive, cruel and extravagant have upon the confidence and obedience of any man? Truly do these resolutions declare that it is a government in which the people have justly lost all confidence. Whither may have been the feelings of any in former times, in view of its character as now revealed, do we not right to renounce it. [Applause.]

We not only renounce the Confederate government, but we declare that it is our desire that the State of North Carolina may be speedily restored to the Union. [Cheers.] I believe that the large majority of the people of the State will join with us in this desire. I do not believe that North Carolina ever lost her attachment to the national government. She was never an advocate of the heresy of secession. When the hour of trial came, and by the folly and wickedness of others we were rendered intractable, and she was called upon to take sides in the contest, she yielded to the strong claims of blood and kindred, and against her convictions generously stood up to support those whose course from the outset she had condemned. [Applause.] And only she distinguished all the obligations she assumed. North Carolina had been trained in a very different school than that of some of her sister States in the South. I cherish a fond memory to look upon a number of apostles and disciples of many of the distinguished politicians of our State, and who were with the majority of their views as to the value of the American Union. You will find an acknowledgment of it in their writings. They implicitly trust upon the preservation as the only means of securing to all the States the blessings of peace, prosperity and freedom. Especially was I struck with the remarks of our whose name will be always held in honor not only in our own State but throughout the whole United States—I mean Judge Johnston. As I read these various passages I asked myself, were these great and good men indulging in mere empty declamation, or did they believe these serious convictions? We now stand that they spoke words of truth and wisdom. It was an evil day for us when we were called upon to forsake their voice. [Applause.] After four years of bloodshed and suffering we have become from us less the value of that government which laid its hand so lightly on us that we could know that we had a government, and which they had no hesitations to quickly that we should to depose it. To night we declare that we return to the faith of our fathers, and seek the restoration of our State to the Union in which she was so prominent in the past. [Applause and cheers.]

I know that there are many who feel that it would be better for the Union if the independence could be achieved. It is a very great delusion. I think that the greatest evil that could befall the South would be the establishment of a separate, independent Southern Confederacy. We are called upon to-night between reconstruction and instant secession, every one ought to choose, without hesitation, reconstruction. If there are any persons who advocate this, I hope they will think of the subject for a short time. What would be the inevitable result were we to have an independent Southern one? Does any one believe that the two nations could live together in peace? I remember that about the time that Carolina passed the ordinance of secession, Dr. Thornwell, with his accustomed eloquence, drew a gorgeous picture of the two sister Republics growing up in peace and friendship, side by side. A man with a lance as over a tired care man's head. These two nations, with a common language, with different forms of civilization, rival interests, with feelings embittered by long years of controversy, could not live together in peace. There would be perpetual war between them. Were between such nations would demand large standing armies; and where large standing armies are, republicanism cannot survive. The armies of the South would have to be drawn from the home population; there is no immigration whose slavery we do. The consequence would be that a stern conservatism would prevail in the army, all the nobles growing up in the community—the small farmers and artisans, &c., those who in a free country constitute the thought and pride. The exultants would be those who possessed broad lands and numerous slaves—these would form the ruling class in the country. Thus we should have a despotic government, with a slave aristocracy—slaves to till the soil and engage in what manufacturing there might be, and the poorer class of whites to compose the army. There can be no doubt that in the main these were the views of Mr. Calhoun and of those who have attempted to carry out his views.

But do you suppose that we should have only two nations? If the work of secession were once commenced it would not stop until the whole nation were resolved into its original elements, and we should have a multitude of petty military despots, the contempt of foreign powers, wasting away each other's strength in bloody and endless feuds. [Applause.] We have seen something of this disintegrating process already. The inhabitants west of the Mississippi river regard themselves, and have regarded themselves for some time, as an independ-

ent people. We do not find them coming to the assistance of the people east of the river. Soon after General Hood took command of the army of Tennessee an order was sent to the Trans-Mississippi department for reinforcements for him to the number of twenty thousand men; and the troops refused to obey the order. So at present; why is it that Gen. Lee receives no reinforcements from the armies which we are told are in Missouri, Arkansas and Texas? The fate of the Confederacy must be decided by the results of the military movements in the Eastern States; we should expect to see forces drawn from every quarter for the decisive battle.—I have seen it stated that the troops west of the Mississippi have again refused to cross the river, and I believe the statement. It is certain that if ever the Southern Confederacy should be established, the Mississippi river would soon cut it in two, and we should have two confederacies instead of one. But the work would not stop here. In the first year of the war it was often and openly declared that the border States,—Virginia, North Carolina, Kentucky and Tennessee, could not long remain in union with the cotton States. Already another confederacy was beginning to make its appearance. And so the process would go on. Who can depict the degradation and horrors of such a state of society? May Heaven in mercy avert from us and from our posterity such a fate! [Applause.]

Entertaining, then, these views, we desire the re-establishment of the authority of the general government over the whole of its territory. We desire it, because we are convinced that only under the fostering care of such a government we can prosper in art, industry, science and literature, and enjoy peace, security and all the blessings of plain, practical republican freedom. [Applause.]

In reference to our own State, it were vain to prophesy of its future. I do not feel so desponding as I find some of my friends to be. North Carolina is a great State; with her rich dowry of fertile land, her fisheries, mines, streams and valleys, and her brave and honest people, she has all the elements of greatness. She prospered in the past in spite of all the obstacles in her way; let us hope that under a changed, and, as we trust, a better state of things, she will soon enter upon that career of prosperity and honor which Heaven has designed for her. [Continued applause and cheers.]

Seizure.—The schooners *E. C. Johnson* and *Robert Stone* have been seized at the port by the United States revenue cutter *Federal*, Captain Davis, for alleged violation of the revenue laws. The former cleared from New York for Port Royal, with a cargo of assorted merchandise, and put into Wilmington without further papers and without procuring to Port Royal, and was disposed of by cargo. The *Robert Stone* cleared from Beaufort for Port Royal, and put into this port and was being seized by her cargo of goods without payment of duty, and without any license allowing her to come into this port.

Captain Davis is after these illegal traders, and will follow them up sharply.

Entertainment.—The storm that evening prevented a large attendance at the Theatre, still there was a good house. The audience, too, seemed well satisfied with the performance. Miss Ida Norton sang a new patriotic song, eliciting enthusiastic applause and an encore. She was in unusually good voice.

To-night we are to have *Miss Waters* for her first appearance. Miss Edgley takes a benefit, which, of course, will be a good one, and on Saturday night she makes her last appearance. Those who have not seen this charming actress should improve these few remaining opportunities.

Chief of Staff to General Grant.

Among the late emplacements of the late Congress was that of a special law creating the office of chief of staff to Lieutenant General Grant, which confers upon him substantially the duties of a brigadier general in the regular army. Finding, as it does, upon Brigadier General John A. Rawlins, it comes as a well-deserved though somewhat tardy recognition of arduous and invaluable services in the field and camp. From the time of accepting his appointment as assistant adjutant general, with the rank of Captain, on General Grant's staff, in August, 1861, until the present time, he has been constantly and ably connected with his chief, and has shared in the hardships and dangers of all his campaigns and battles, from Belmont to the present time—serving from Vicksburg as chief of staff to General Grant, when a major general, and being chief of staff to the same general up to the passage of the late law.

The career of an assistant adjutant general and chief of staff is certainly one of great labor, responsibility and honor. Possessed of a clear intellect, indefatigable with and unparelleled energy, General Rawlins brought an unusually high order of ability for the important position under General Grant, and has discharged the duties of his office in a manner to command the respect of all who know him. It was right and proper that his services should be acknowledged and the continuance in office made co-extensive with that of the Lieutenant General, whose faithful friend and confidential adviser he has ever been.

It is worthy of note that the States of Europe which boast of having been ruled the greatest number of years by divine right, and whose courts are still surrounded by the most gorgeous royal pageants, are the very powers which are the most decrepit and decaying. In proof of this may be adduced Spain, Austria, Portugal, and by far the most ancient of the European sovereignties, the court of Rome.

SHERMAN.

The Occupation and Evacuation of Fayetteville.

Immense Destruction of Property.

THE ARMY ADVANCING AGAIN.

&c., &c., &c., &c.

Brig. General Dodge, Chief Quartermaster of this Department, returned yesterday morning from an official visit to General Sherman at Fayetteville. General Dodge spent an entire day with General Sherman, arranging business connected with the quartermaster's department.

The steamer *Hurt* also came down yesterday bringing a load of the South Carolina refugees who have followed Sherman's army. Those who came down on the *Hurt* were mostly white people. The company was largely composed of ladies. The rest of the refugees are marching down and will be here in a day or two.

The negroes of this immediate party General Dodge will send to General Saxton in the Department of South Carolina, as rapidly as transportation can be provided for them. The disposition of the whites is yet to be determined upon. Those who have friends and are able to provide for themselves will be allowed to consult their own inclinations, of course. The unfortunate ones who have neither means nor friends, but are dependent upon the bounty of the governmental mass, naturally, yield their inclinations in a large degree to the convenience of the government.

The last of Sherman's army left Fayetteville yesterday. Whither bound will be developed speedily enough by the course of events. It is, however, quite evident that he cannot now move much farther without fighting a battle. Where that battle will be it is difficult to foretell. Johnston and Wray are concentrating their forces in the vicinity of Goldsboro', and are receiving reinforcements from Richmond. The rebels are evidently determined to assemble a large army on, and dispute the passage of the Roanoke river. Whether it is any part of Sherman's plan to meet them there or not is more than we are able to tell. But it may be a satisfaction to the public to know that if he does encounter them in this State, he will fall upon them with a ready, more powerful army than it is possible for the rebels to master.

Fayetteville has suffered much by its occupation by Sherman's army. The Arsenal buildings were torn down, the works destroyed and all the monuments attached to it destroyed.—This was done by General Sherman's orders, the establishment being public property and its destruction a terrible blow to the rebels. Not a vestige of that once extensive and important work now remains.

Every cotton mill in the place and vicinity was also destroyed by order. Although these mills were private property, they were not under private control, nor could they be. The rebel army was largely dependent on them for supplies of cloth, the loss of which will be a heavy blow. There were four mills at Fayetteville and two or three on Rockfish creek, all very large and extensive establishments. They were all thoroughly destroyed.

The destruction of the *Observer* newspaper office has already been noticed. This was done without orders, and contrary to the wishes and instructions of the commanding General. It is no part of his purpose, as we are assured, to destroy any purely private property in this State. But some of the soldiers who were familiar with the vacillating course of the *Observer*, took occasion to enter the town in advance of the army and set fire to the concern. Mr. E. J. Hunt, the proprietor, besides the loss of his printing establishment, was compelled to submit to the destruction of his beautiful private residence and on buildings, also fired by straggling soldiers. It was remarked that so great was the feeling among the soldiers against this piece that even a chicken coop was unsafe if it had his name upon it.

Mrs. J. Banks' house was also burned, but in this case, the destruction was wholly unintentional. Some stragglers set fire to an old, deserted, frame warehouse, the flames from which communicated to Mrs. Banks' house which stood in close proximity. The house was burned to the ground despite every effort made to save it.

The building formerly occupied by the Bank of the State of North Carolina, and belonging to that institution, was also destroyed.

At the time Sherman's troops arrived at Fayetteville, there were eight light draught steamers lying at the wharves. Six of these were destroyed, but whether by straggling reb-