THE ERA.

Official Organ of the United States.

W. M. BROWN, Manager.

RALEIGH, N. C.:

THURSDAY, JANUARY 27, 1876.

The ex-confederate soldiers of North Carolina, especially those who were dragged into service after 1863, owe a debt of gratitude to Hon. J. G. Blaine for his efforts to prevent the pardon of Jefferson Davis, the man who wanted General Johnston to aid him in stealing thirty-nine thousand dollars in specie *after the surrender*, in order that he (Davis) might run away with it. Davis *knew* that the soldiers had not been paid a cent for four months; but what cared *he* for that so he could save himself.

Merrimon, Joe Davis, Vance, Waddell and others are perfectly willing that the present Supreme Court of North Carolina which decided in favor of the poor man's homestead, should be upset, but, at the same time, they endorse Jefferson Davis, who wanted to take the money that was due the poor conscripts to aid him in making his escape. Such men as Joe Davis and company are just as willing to deprive the poor ex-Confederate of their homesteads *now*, as Jefferson Davis was to deprive them of their money in 1865.

Jefferson Davis has sued his brother's children for a portion of their dead father's property. This is something like his action in trying to get Gen. Johnston to give him the money due the poor soldiers. After he found the war was a failure on his part, he cared not who went under so *he* could escape with his pockets full. And yet Joe Davis, Vance, Waddell and others want to have him pardoned, so he can again have a seat in the United States Senate. Do the poor, beggared ex-Confederate soldiers approve of this?

Joe Davis, Vance, Waddell and other Democratic representatives from North Carolina are earnest in their efforts to have Jefferson Davis pardoned, so that he can again occupy a seat in the United States Senate and hatch up another rebellion. Let every ex-Confederate soldier who lost an arm or other limb, or who had friends killed after 1863, remember that Davis alone was responsible for every drop of blood shed after the Hampton Rhodes conference. Let the good and true men who struck for peace in North Carolina in 1863, remember, that but for Davis the war would have stopped and thousands of lives and millions of property been saved. Above all, let our people hold Joe Davis, Vance, Waddell and others to a strict account for again attempting to force the arch-traitor into the Nation's Halls.

When Gen. Joseph E. Johnston told Jefferson Davis at Greensboro, in 1865, that the struggle was hopeless, and, that it was best for the country that terms of peace should be made, the arch-traitor opposed any proposition for peace unless it provided for *his own* safety. He was willing that every village and hamlet in the land should be laid waste, and, that the wives and children of the poor conscript soldiers should perish with hunger, rather than that he and his so-called Cabinet should risk a trial for treason. This is the man whom Joe Davis, Waddell, Vance and other Democratic Congressmen are trying to have again made eligible for a seat in the United States Senate. Think of it, ye poor, crippled beggared, ex-Confederate soldiers, think of it!

The Great Criminal.

Now that the Democratic House of Representatives is making earnest efforts to have Jefferson Davis restored to all the rights of citizenship, thereby paving the way for his return to the United States Senate, we think it well enough to lay before the surviving soldiers of the Confederacy a little episode in the life of this destroyer of the nation's repose, which will serve to show his utter selfishness and want of feeling towards the poor men who were forced against their will to take up arms for a cause in which they were "hewers of wood and drawers of water," for the most infamous band of aristocratic traitors that ever domineered over a free people after the surrender of Lee at Appomattox Court House, Davis, accompanied by Mallory, Regan and Benjamin, of his so-called Cabinet, fled from Richmond and took up his quarters at Greensboro, N. C. Gen. Joseph E. Johnston who had command of the Army of Tennessee was at that time in full retreat before Sherman's army, and, like every other sensible man saw that further resistance was not only in vain, but would entail upon the southern people such miseries as had even at that late day of the war never been inflicted. Common humanity, if nothing else, prompted him to stop the effusion of useless blood. He telegraphed to Davis, laying before him the situation of affairs, and was summoned by the so-called President to meet him at Greensboro for consultation. Gen. Johnston accordingly met the so-called President, and urged him to consent to some plan for the restoration of peace, stating at the same time, that the cause of the Confederacy had failed and that further resistance would only result in the *murder* of his unfortunate command, as the federal army outnumbered those of the south as much as *ten to one* or perhaps more. Davis hooted at the bare idea of a proposition to surrender. He urged Johnston to disband his men to meet again at an appointed place and, with a disgusting braggadocia declared his ability to raise another army sufficient to continue the struggle. When asked by Johnston how he proposed to do this, he said in substance, that he would draw from the aged and infirm who had been left at home to attend the crops and protect the women and children. Gen. Johnston, as a soldier and a humane man, scorned the proposition. He told the tyrant, that the men had not received a cent for their services for the past four months; that they were demoralized and hopeless of successfully contending further, even if they had proper arms. Davis, seeing that he could not longer deceive, finally agreed to proposals of surrender *provided* the government of the United States would, in arranging terms, do so through him as *President* of the Confederacy. His reasons for this were plain. He no doubt thought if he could so far carry his point as to gain from the United States authorities a recognition as the *de jure* President of the so-called Confederate States, he would be allowed to go free and save his worthless neck from the halter it deserved. But the government of the United States would listen to no such humiliating proposals, and Davis prepared to flee the country. Now comes an act of meanness, outstripping anything we ever heard of in an honorable man—especially in one who claimed to have previously stood high as a soldier. We want every ex-Confederate soldier to read what we are going to relate and then say whether such an infamous, unfeeling wretch deserves again to be allowed the privilege of aiding to make laws for, or to hold any position in a free government. When Davis found that Gen. Johnston would no longer consent to prosecute a war which to every sensible man appeared not only useless but cruel, the devilish traitor made a bold attempt to get that officer to aid him in stealing a large amount of silver coin with which he could escape the country and enrich himself. *These are strong words but they are true.* He telegraphed from Charlotte, N. C., to which point he had retreated, or rather stampeded, for Gen. Johnston to send him a chest of coin of which he was the custodian, to aid himself, the scoundrel Judah P. Benjamin and other civil officers of the *so-called* government, in getting off. The reply of Gen. Johnston redounds to his credit. He stated to the infamous and selfish traitor and tyrant, that he should do no such thing. He contended, that as there was then no other arm of the exploded government but his division of the army, and that as his poor worn-out, broken down and hungry soldiers had not received any pay for several months, the money belonged as much, if not more to them than to the head traitors, and Gen. Johnston distributed the money to the poor soldiers, share and share alike, regardless of rank. The amount was something over thirty nine thousand dollars.

These things are not stated without authority. We have the best Confederate proof in the "narrative," of the events of the war, written by Gen. Joseph E. Johnston and to which any of our readers can refer.

We say without fear of successful contradiction, that Jefferson Davis was one of the worst enemies the masses of the southern people ever had. There are hundreds, and perhaps thousands of ex-Confederate soldiers now living in North Carolina who are not only crippled for life, but who were stripped of their last dollar's worth of property mainly on account of his obstinacy and selfishness. He was willing to sacrifice everything, even to the extent of having the entire land laid waste and in ashes, if thereby the least chance had offered itself to screen his vile carcass from harm. We think the course of the Democratic Congressmen from North Carolina should be received with the utmost indignation by those of this State who were dragged into service against their will to fight for a cause after it had proven to be utterly hopeless. The course of Joe Davis, Vance, Waddell and others proves conclusively that they are void of sympathy for their suffering people. It proves more. It is evidence, that the feeling of treason and rebellion still finds a cheerful echo in their hearts, and, that if need be, they would again follow Davis in another attempt to bring discord and perhaps ruin upon the country. Let the good people of North Carolina mark the course of these hangers-on to the skirts of Jefferson Davis, and let them prepare to hurl them from their seats in November next. The insult offered to the ex-Confederate soldiers by the proposition to pardon the great criminal, should cause them to rally against the perpetrators of such an outrage.

Republican National Convention, 1876.

The next Union Republican National Convention for the nomination of candidates for President and Vice-President of the United States will be held in the city of Cincinnati, on Wednesday, the fourteenth day of June, 1876, at 12 o'clock, noon, and will consist of delegates from each State equal to twice the number of its Senators and Representatives in Congress, and of two delegates from each organized Territory and the District of Columbia.

In calling the convention for the election of delegates, the committees of the several States are recommended to invite all Republican electors, and all other voters, without regard to past political differences or previous party affiliations, who are opposed to reviving sectional issues, and desire to promote friendly feeling and permanent harmony throughout the country by maintaining and enforcing all the constitutional rights of every citizen, including the full and free exercise of the right of suffrage without intimidation and without fraud; who are in favor of the continued prosecution and punishment of all official dishonesty, and of an economical administration of the Goverament by honest, faithful, and capable officers; who are in favor of making such reforms in government as experience may from time to time suggest; who are opposed to impairing the credit of the nation by depreciating any of its obligations, and in favor of sustaining in every way the national faith and finanical honor; who hold that the common-school system is the nursery of American liberty, and should be maintained absolutely free from sectarian control; who believe that for the promotion of these ends, the direction of the Government should continue to be confided to those who adhere to the principles of 1776, and support them as incorporated in the Constitution and the laws; and who are in favor of recognizing and strengthening the fundamental principle of National Unity in this Centennial Anniversary of the birth of the Republic.

E. D. MORGAN, *Chairman*,
WM. E. CHANDLER, *Sec.*,
Republican National Committee.
WASHINGTON, January 13, 1876.

Has Democracy Principles?

The constant charge of Democrats has been that the Republicans were incapable of getting beyond the war, incompetent to effect any of the practical reforms which the country demands, and prone to stave off those reforms by continually reviving the passions and bitter memories of the war. If Mr. Blaine had intended to prove that charge well founded, could he have done so more effectually than by his recent speech?

The constant charge of Republicans has been that the Democrats have no principles, but only prejudices; no beliefs of any kind, but only an absorbing greed for office; no convictions that they are not ready to sacrifice for party success, and no care for reform except as a hollow and dishonest pretext for turning their opponents out of power. If the Democratic leaders had intended to prove that charge well founded, could they have done so more effectually than by their organization of the House, and their treatment of the currency question?

These Democrats professed an intense anxiety for a pure, efficient, and non-partisan civil service. How indignantly they pointed to the use of public office by Republicans to reward party workers or promote party ends! But they come into power in the House, and instantly, as if by magic, every Democratic reformer becomes a participant in the scramble for place and power, the capital is besieged by an army of hungry spoil hunters, and officers and clerks of long experience and tried fidelity are turned out to make room for men who are experienced only in Democratic wire-pulling, and tried only in the Confederate service. Is this the reformed, non-partisan service we were promised? On the contrary, no Democrat pretends that he has the slightest desire for such a service, in the House where his party has the power. To all appearance, the professions of these men were false and fraudulent. Not the faintest suspicions of zeal for reform in the public service appears where they have the power to divide the spoils; they object to a partisan service only when it is not in the control of their party.

These Democrats, again, professed certain fixed convictions about the currency. They were divided, it is true; some professed to believe that the Republican party by proposing specie resumption had been robbing the people, and particularly the people of the West and South, for the benefit of bondholders and bankers; others professed to feel intense and holy indignation because the Republican party had paltered with so vital a question, had tarnished the public honor by needless delay, and had insulted the country by making pledges to resume without intending to resume, or taking adequate measures to secure resumption. If these two classes of Democrats were honest, they could not possibly agree. If either had any convictions whatever, those convictions should have made it impossible to countenance such a bill as that of Mr. Payne or that of Mr. Morrison. For if any Democrat honestly believes that specie payments are impossible, and that the attempt to reach resumption is an attempt to rob the millions of producers for the benefit of money-lenders, he must spurn with unutterable loathing the proposal to pile up gold, wrung from the earnings of the people by taxation, for the purpose, in his view at once futile and rascally, of raising the price of greenbacks to par. But any Democrat who honestly believes that the Republican pledge was a cheat because it was not accompanied with measures for its fulfillment, that the honor of the country has been tarnished by needless delay in restoration of the currency, that business and industry demand a settled policy—"speedy "resumption; no steps backward"—must realize that the repeal of the act of 1875, the indefinite postponement of resumption, the refusal to adopt simple measures suggested by the Secretary of the Treasury to redeem that pledge, would be an act of treachery, cowardice, and unspeakable injury to the country. But what do these Democrats propose? To repeal the pledge of resumption, and yet to continue, with less rapidity, the piling up of coin which the present law requires. Do these Democrats fancy that the voters in this country are fools? Do they suppose men will not see that the Democratic leaders, whether hard money or soft money by profession, are ready to throw away all principle, barter off all convictions, and sacrifice all public interests, for the sake of securing the harmony and promoting the success of "the party?"

We beg to inform the Democratic leaders that they underrate the intelligence and the sincerity of the people. Their own followers will scorne them for so vile a dodge as this. The inflationists and repudiationists are vicious and ignorant, but they are in earnest. They believe something. Watch the prediction: they will toss into the earnest political ditch the shallow persons who have gained places in Congress beceause their professions were satisfactory, but who really believe nothing, and are ready to barter away every interest of their constituents for party cuccess. Not less honest are the hard-money voters, Democrats and Independents, whose voters have saved Democracy from complete rout by giving it the victory where it has promised "no steps back ward." Let Democracy take this step backward, and men who take or countenance it will soon learn what the people think of it. This is not a good time for political wolves in sheep's clothing. The man who would repudiate a solemn pledge of the public faith may call himself a Hard-Money Democrat fifty times a day if he es. Voters will treat him as a udiator.

This country demands honest convictions in its rules. With all its faults and crimes, the Republican party has shown that it had positive and rooted convictions; it was indeed earnest even when it was in the wrong. The country has therefore sustained, and in spite of many errors, will sustain it, against any spoils-hunting conspiracy of political tricksters, who have no beliefs that they are not ready to barter off a share of the spoils. If the Democratic party wishes to be regarded as such a conspiracy, let it go on as it has begun.—*New York Tribune.*

THE Presidential campaign will be one of the most active in our history. Democracy will not relinquish its foothold upon the House of Representatives, much less its hopes of natural control, without a desperate struggle. Every means available will be brought to bear to overthrow the Republican party. The stake is a grand one—no less than the nation itself—and to secure it Democracy will marshal, in battle array, every element and shade of opposition. Republicans must be wide awake to the nature and necessities of the conflict, Clubs must be organized; the local paper must be made a power for good; the people should be enlightened, and no stone should be left unturned to secure a glorious victory for the cause of Justice and Union. Republicanism saved the nation from overthrow; Republicanism can alone preserve it.—*Washington Republic.*

Amendments.

Synopsis of the Work of the Convention.

The total number of amendments adopted is 31. The Judicial Department received more attention than any other in the Constitution. That Article was so amended as to give the General Assembly power to establish other Courts inferior to the Supreme Court, with power to prescribe the manner of appointing the presiding officers of such Courts, who shall hold for a term not exceeding 8 years.

The number of Supreme Court Judges was reduced from five to three; of Superior Court Judges from twelve to nine—all to be elected by the people. At the first election the Superior Court Judges are to be chosen by general ticket, but the General Assembly may provide that at succeeding elections they be chosen by Districts, as at present. Both Supreme and Superior Court Judges to be elected for eight years.

The General Assembly are authorized to require the Supreme Court to meet at points other than the State capital.

The principle of rotation of Judges was adopted; and no Judge can hold the Courts of any District twice in succession except at intervals of four years.

Sections 15, 16 and 17 of Art. 4 of the Constitution, which prescribe the original jurisdiction of the Superior Courts, and regulate the matter of probates, administrations, &c., are stricken out, and in lieu thereof the General Assembly are empowered to allot and distribute the judicial power, regulate the jurisdiction of the Supreme Courts, all matters of appeal, practice, &c. Section 31 of the same Article is so amended as to limit the duration of the term of the Governor's appointees to vacancies in this Article to the next regular election for members of the General Assembly. Section 33, same Article, is so amended as to leave the original jurisdiction of Justices of the Peace in civil actions to the General Assembly. The criminal jurisdiction of these officers is retained.

The provision in the Constitution of 1776 by which upon a two thirds vote of each House of the General Assembly Judges of the Supreme and Superior Courts may be removed from office for physical or mental inability, is re-enacted. This power is in addition to that of removal by impeachment.

The Article on Suffrage and Eligibility is amended. Hereafter persons convicted of felony or other infamous crime are denied the right to vote until restored to citizenship by due course of law. A residence of 90 days in the County, instead of 30 days, as heretofore, is indispensable to voting.

The Article on Education is so amended as to retain all fines, penalties and forfeitures in the hands of the respective county officers, together with the poll tax and such property tax as is collected on that behalf.

The Article on Penal Institutions, Punishments, &c., is so amended as to give the Legislature power to farm out penitentiary convicts on public works, public roads, &c.

Intermarriage between whites and negroes is prohibited to the third generation.

Separate schools for the two races are to be provided.

A Bureau of Agriculture, Immigration and Statistics is established with full power to the Legislature to protect sheep husbandry.

Article 7 of the Constitution, which prescribes the system of county government, assessment of taxes, election of Magistrates, &c., including the valuation of property is amended so as to give the General Assembly full power to change the present system of county government, election of Magistrates, &c.

The General Assembly is to meet biennially on Wednesday after the first Monday in January succeeding their election.

The 13th article is so amended that no Convention of the people of this State can hereafter be called except by a two-thirds vote of each House of the General Assembly, such call to be first submitted to the qualified voters of the State for their approval or rejection.

Amendments to the Constitution may be proposed by a three-fifths vote of each House of the General Assembly, and if at the next general election a majority of the voters of the whole State approve the same they shall become a part of the Constitution.

An ordinance has passed declaring that no amendment adopted by the Convention shall have the effect of vacating any office or term of office now existing under the Constitution, and filled or held by virtue of any election or appointment.

The *per diem* of members of the General Assembly was fixed at $4.00, their mileage at 10 cents, and sessions limited to 60 days.

The General Assembly are invested with power to denounce fitting penalties for carrying concealed weapons.

Prospectus.

PROSPECTUS

—OF—

THE ERA,

A Political, News & Family Journal.

THE ERA is published in

Raleigh, N. C.,

Every Thursday, and each number contains

FIFTEEN COLUMNS,

Or more, of original and carefully selected reading matter.

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IMMIGRATION

and the

Development of the Material Resources of the State;

To keep up with the

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PRACTICAL INFORMATION,

Valuable to each and every class of the community; and to promote

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The ERA will be Republican, and will at all times

EXPOSE AND OPPOSE

CORRUPTION,

INCOMPETENCE & EXTRAVAGANCE

In office, without regard to party affiliations.

The Democratic party, Which had control of the Legislature of the State, and which has been guilty of such flagrant abuses of power, will be the subject of our constant and

SPECIAL SURVEILLANCE.

Whilst giving full attention to local an State matters, we shall endeavor to give The ERA interest and value for readers in every part of the country. The future destinies of our State depend on the watchfulness, prudence and activity of the Republican masses during the interval to elapse before the next general State election in November, 1876.

TERMS.

$2.10 a Year--Invariably in Advance.

Advertising.

As THE ERA has a LARGE SUBSCRIPTION LIST, advertisers will find it an excellent medium for communicating with the public.

Commercial Report.

WHOLESALE CASH PRICES.
ERA OFFICE, January 6th, 1876.

General Market.

COTTON.

Dull—12¾a12¾.

BAGGING, Domestic 2¼lb yd 16.
COTTON TIES, 6¼@7c.
FLOUR, North Carolina $7.25@7.50.
CORN, $1.00.
CORN MEAL, 1.10.
BACON, N. C. hog round, 14¼.
" " hams 18.
BULK C. R. sides, 15.
" shoulders, 12.
LARD, North Carolina, none.
" Western tierces, 18¼.
" " kegs, 18.
COFFEE, Prime Rio, 25.
" Fair " 24.
SYRUP, common, none.
MOLASSES, Cuba, 50.
SALT, $2.25.
CHEESE, Cream, 18¼.
" Factory, 17¼.
" Dairy, none.
NAILS, on basis for 10d, 4.00.
SUGAR, A, 12¼.
" Extra C 12.
" Yellow, 10@10½.
LEATHER, Sole 27¼@30.
HIDES, green, 7@8.
" dry, 11.
TALLOW, 9@10.
POTATOES, sweet 60.
" Irish, 1.00.
OATS, shelled, 0.60.
" sheaf, 1.25.
FODDER, 1.00@1.25.
HAY, N. C. baled, good, 1.20.
CHICKENS, grown, 30.
EGGS, 20@25.

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OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY WESTERN N. C. INSANE ASYLUM,
Morganton, N. C., Nov. 5, 1875.

SEALED PROPOSALS WILL BE received at this office, to be presented on or before February 1st, 1876, for the laying of two and a half millions of Brick, more or less, according to specifications of the Architect, for the foundation walls of the Western Insane Asylum. The said proposals must contain bids for the work, both with and without the cost of supplying lime and cement in accordance with the printed specifications. The work to begin on or after May 1st next, and be completed on or before December 1st, 1876.

The work shall be strictly under the direction, control and supervision of such person as the Board of Commissioners may appoint.

Copies of the specifications of the contract will be furnished by addressing the Secretary at his office.

Approved and executed bonds to the full amount of the bid, are required to be filed with the proposals.

Proposals should be sealed and marked, "Proposals for laying brick for the W. N. C. Asylum of North Carolina," and addressed to
T. GEO. WALTON,
Secretary of W. N. C. Asylum
Nov. 9, 1875.—24—8t Commission.

Miscellaneous.

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