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The Topic

WALLACE BROS., STATESVILLE, N. C.

Invite the attention of the trade to their

SPRING STOCK,

which is now complete. Carrying as they do the

LARGEST

GENERAL MERCHANDISE

STOCK IN THE STATE

Merchants visiting them will certainly have

SUPERIOR ADVANTAGES

in making selections. Our terms and prices are in competition with any jobbing house in the country.

Parties finding it inconvenient to call will please favor us with their orders through our traveling salesmen. Soliciting an early examination, we are, very truly,

WALLACE BROS.

NEW STORE! BETWEEN THE CENTRAL HOTEL AND THE JONES HOUSE. NEW GOODS!

R.G. COURTNEY

Having just received from the NORTH a full line of

NEW GOODS

consisting of a beautiful line of spring and summer prints, Cassimers, Flannels, Shawls, Alamance, Bleached and Unbleached Domestic, Apapas, Bobts and Shoes, Men's and Boys' Wool straw and Fur Hats, Ladies' Hats and Hosiery,

Groceries of all Kinds, Especially the Best COFFEE, SUGAR, TEA, RICE, CRACKERS; OYSTERS Mackerel, Molasses and Candy. Also Drugs.

Hardware, Tinware and Crockery all of which will be sold at HARD TIME prices for cash or barter.

Thanking our Friends and Patrons for their liberal support in the past, we hope to merit a continuance of their patronage in the future by Fair Dealing and Low Prices. CALL AND EXAMINE OUR STOCK AND PRICES.

J. T. Webb.

C. B. Webb.

STATESVILLE MARBLE WORKS,

J. T. WEBB & SON,

With many years experience in the MARBLE business, we are enabled to do all kinds of work in MONUMENTS, HEADSTONES, TOMBS & MARBLE FURNITURE

Work accurately, promptly, and delivered free of charge, at any depot on the W. N. C. Railroad. Satisfaction GUARANTEED. C. B. WEBB will continue as traveling agent.

Statesville, N. C., Feb. 18, -17.

WHOLESALE LIST TURNIP SEEDS! MERCHANTS! SEND US YOUR BUSINESS CARD FOR TRADE LIST B. LANDRETH & SONS, PHILADELPHIA.

BOARD FROM W. W. LENOIR.

In the seclusion of my remote mountain home at the foot of the Grandfather, I do not see many newspapers; and I have not seen an article which a friend informs me, was copied from some Northern paper into the News and Observer, of Raleigh, in which I was named, among other men of much more prominence in North Carolina, as having "embraced the knees of the President and besought his smiles on their efforts to obtain office."

The absurdity of the charge, if it had been that I had stolen a sheep, would, I hope, have relieved me of the task of noticing it through the press. But to the shame of the South, the greed for office and its emoluments has corrupted so many men among us who had been true to the South during all the fierce trials of the war, and whose patriotism was held to be above suspicion, that some distant friend, reading this of me might think with a sigh: "Alas! one more man in whose honesty in politics I had confidence has yielded to the temptation of proffered office, and crooked the pregnant hinges of the knee that thrift may follow fawning."

Let me say that there is no ground for such a suspicion of me. If I understand the present designs of the Republican party upon North Carolina, they propose to split the Democratic party of the State on the issue of repealing the act of the legislature which provides that the justices of the peace shall be appointed by the legislature, instead of being elected directly by the people; and to use the patronage of the Federal government as a means to accomplish this end.

Though the present county governments are working well, I would prefer, if the western portion of the State were the whole State, that the magistrates should be elected directly by the people. Yet I cannot shut my eyes to the fact that the effect of the proposed change at this time, on the eastern portion of the State, would be to put the county governments there again into the hands of the colored people, who have not yet acquired experience enough in conducting popular government to use prudently a power so easily abused, and the abuse of which is so fatal to the prosperity of the counties and of the State.

The bad consequences of such a change may be best understood by a retrospect of our progress during the last few years. A few years since, under the working of the county governments which the Republican party purpose to restore, incompetence, extravagance, and corruption had, in many of the eastern counties, so ruined the county finances that the county claims and bonds were almost worthless and the burden of taxation almost intolerable. The property holders were almost in despair, and an exodus of the white people was seriously discussed, and their only refuge from want and wretchedness. The West with the dead carcasses of the East, chained to its living body, could not be roused to works of enterprise and energy, and the whole State seemed to be paralyzed.

Under a few years of the new county governments some of the most distressed of those eastern counties are already out of debt, and their county claims at par. A most wonderful and most gratifying impulse has been given to the prosperity of the East, and of the whole State. New railroads in every part of the State are pushing rapidly on to completion, and still others are projected, and agriculture and manufactures are as growing and prosperous. The heart of every true North Carolinian swells with pride as he contemplates a prosperity unequalled in the history of the State.

Far be it from me to aid in the overthrow of this happy condition of our State; to aid in bringing so terrible a disaster upon the East, and through the East upon the whole State, as would in my opinion result from putting in operation again, at this time, the late system of county governments.

Holding these views as strongly as I have endeavored to express them, I

could have no motive for joining in such a work, except ill-governed spite, or the mad ambition whose motto is, "rule or ruin," or the inordinate love of filthy lucre, the base motive of a price paid for committing a crime, the motive which probably moved the dirty fellow who was paid to lie, and among many others, wrote this on me.

If I could solicit or accept an office, at the price of aiding in such a work of ruin to North Carolina as I am convinced that the proposed measure would bring about, I could no longer respect myself, and would know myself to be unworthy of the respect of others."

But while these are my honest opinions, I condemn no one who as honestly differs from me in mere matters of opinion. For such, though I may think that they have been blinded by prejudice, or misled by false information, I have no word of reproach, however widely their convictions may differ from mine. I can even appreciate and admire their devotion to what they think their duty.

But there are men among us who have intelligence and capacity enough to observe and think for themselves, and to form their own opinions, instead of borrowing them from others; who during the war were on the side of the South and fought gallantly to its close, with strong professions of zeal and sense of duty, to defend a few abstract doctrines of State rights against the usurpations of the Federal government, no great practical issue being directly involved at the commencement but the secondary and comparatively unimportant one of the prohibition of slavery in the territories; and who since the close of the war, during seventeen years of profound peace, have beheld the party which for the time administers the Federal government, not only recklessly violating every right of a State which was any obstacle to its continuance in power, but with equal recklessness trampling under foot those great personal and much more vital rights for which the rights of the States were devised only as additional safeguards; the rights of freedom from arrest and search without warrant, of habeas corpus, of trial by jury, of an independent judiciary, a free press, free speech and free elections; rights on which the whole fabric of personal liberty and free government is founded, and the deliberate violation of any one of which, before the war, would have filled every portion of the United States, from Canada to Mexico, and from ocean to ocean, with alarm and indignation; who now see this party preparing to prostitute the power and patronage of the Federal government to the base end of making a Federal office-holders' raid on our State elections; who see this party led by no higher motives to all this mad and revolutionary exercise of power, those high crimes against the life of liberty, than their determination to continue at all hazards and by any means in power; and who, seeing all this, profess now to approve the policy and acts of this party, and support it with their votes and influence.

I confess that it requires some effort on my part to believe such men sincere, and only the victims of political blindness. When I see their sudden and marvelous changes of opinion accompanied with the receipt of a fat Federal office, the mantle of my charity is not broad enough to cover their sin, nor my loathing of it. It is with such creatures as these last that the slanderous article of which I complain would classify me. Good Lord deliver me, and all who are dear to me from being justly liable to such a charge.

I hope the reader will excuse me for noticing a much smaller thing. The News and Observer, I am told, accompanies the slander on me copied into its columns with the comment that I could perhaps control one vote. The license of the press in discussing public men and measures, the heat of political strife, and custom, which would be "more honored in the breach than in the observance," may be some palliation for throwing such flouts at those who take an active part in politics. But why should I, who have

never busied myself in politics, be singled out by name from among the mass of mere voters to be twitted thus with my want of influence in the elections? If one vote besides my own is meant, the writer suggests what is probably an overestimate of my influence. He intimates more than I have ever tried to do. To try before the elections to learn how I ought to vote, and at the elections quietly to deposit my votes, has, from my youth up, been the extent of my activity at the ballot boxes. I have never sought or held political office, and when solicited have always refused to allow myself to be put in nomination for one. I am too old now to change my course in this respect. In my wild mountain home I am living in the strictest retirement with my time and thoughts fully occupied with my own affairs. How is it, then, that because I have been stabbed in the dark by a lurking foe I should receive this rude slap in the face from the house of my friends?

I hope that I will be excused for thinking and saying that the fling at me in the News and Observer was uncalled for and that it would have been more becoming to have omitted it.

W. W. LENOIR. Shull's Mills, Watanga co., N. C. May 20th, 1882.

DEMOCRATIC ORGANIZATION.

ROOMS DEMOCRATIC CENT. EX. COM. RALEIGH, May 20, 1882.

This committee hereby publish the plan of organization of the Democratic party compiled from the rules and amendments heretofore adopted by the State Democratic executive committee:

TOWNSHIP ORGANIZATION.

1. The unit of county organization shall be the township. In each township there shall be an executive committee, to consist of five, active Democrats, who shall be elected by the Democratic voters of the several townships in meetings called by the county executive committee. And said committee so elected shall elect one of its members as chairman, who shall preside at all of said committee meetings.

2. The several township executive committees shall convene at the meetings of the several county conventions, or at any time and place that a majority of them may elect, and shall elect a county executive committee, to consist of not less than five members, one of whom shall be designated as chairman, who shall preside at all of said committee meetings.

3. In case there shall be a failure on the part of any township to elect its executive committee for the period of thirty days, the county executive committee shall appoint said committee from the Democratic voters of said township.

4. The members of the township committees shall elect to any vacancy occurring in said committees.

5. The county executive committee shall call all necessary county conventions by giving at least ten days notice by public advertisement in three public places in each township, at the court house door, and in any Democratic newspaper that may be published in said county, requesting all Democrats of the county to meet in convention in their respective townships, on a common day therein stated, which said day shall not be less than three days before the meeting of the county convention, for the purpose of electing their delegates to the county conventions. That thereupon the conventions so held shall elect their delegates to represent the townships in the county conventions from the voters of the respective townships, which delegates, or such of them as shall attend, shall vote the full Democratic strength of their respective townships on all questions that may come before the said county conventions. That in case no convention shall be held in any township in pursuance of said call, or no election shall be made, the township executive committee shall appoint such delegates.

6. Each township shall be entitled to cast in the county convention one vote for every "twenty five" Democratic votes, and one vote for fractions

of fifteen. Democratic votes cast by that township at the last preceding gubernatorial election. Provided, That every township shall be entitled to cast at least one vote, and each township may send as many delegates as it may see fit.

7. That in cases where townships consist of more than one ward or precinct, each of said wards shall be entitled to send delegates to county conventions, and shall cast its proportionate part of its township's vote, based upon the last preceding vote for Governor in said township.

8. That for the purpose of fully inaugurating this system, the present county executive committees shall continue in office until their successors are elected under this system, and shall exercise all the functions pertaining to said office under this system of organization.

9. The chairman of township committees shall preside at all township conventions; in their absence any other member of said committees may preside.

10. In cases where all the township executive committees are required to meet for the purpose of electing county executive committees, said meetings shall be deemed to have a quorum when a majority of such townships shall be represented in said meeting.

COUNTY AND DISTRICT CONVENTIONS.

1. The several county conventions shall be entitled to elect to their Senatorial, Judicial and Congressional conventions one delegate and one alternate for every fifty Democratic votes, and one delegate for fractions over twenty five Democratic votes cast at the last preceding gubernatorial election in their respective counties, and none but delegates or alternates so elected shall be entitled to seats in said convention; provided, that every county shall have at least one vote in each of said conventions.

2. The chairman, or in his absence any member of the county, Senatorial, Judicial and Congressional committee shall call to order their respective conventions, and hold the chairmanship thereof until the convention shall elect its chairman.

3. The executive committees of the Senatorial, Congressional and Judicial districts, respectively, shall, at the call of their respective chairmen, meet at some time and place in their respective districts, designated in said call. And it shall be their duty to appoint the time and place for holding conventions in their respective districts; and the chairmen of said respective committees shall immediately notify the chairmen of the different county executive committees of said appointment, and the said county executive committees shall forthwith call conventions of their respective counties in conformity to said notice to send delegates to said respective district conventions.

STATE CONVENTIONS.

1. The State convention shall be composed of delegates appointed, by the several county conventions. Each county shall be entitled to elect one delegate and one alternate for every one hundred and fifty Democratic votes cast, and one delegate for fractions over seventy five Democratic votes cast therein at the last preceding gubernatorial election; and none but delegates or alternates so elected shall be entitled to seats in said convention, provided that every county shall have at least one vote in said convention.

2. In all conventions provided for by this system, after a vote is cast, there shall be no change in such vote until the final result of the ballot shall be announced by the chairman of said convention.

3. All Democratic Executive Committees shall have the power to fill any vacancy occurring in their respective bodies.

4. That the chairman of the different county conventions shall certify the list of delegates and alternates to the different district and State conventions. And a certified list of said delegates and alternates to the State convention shall be sent to the secretary of the State central committee. For the committee.

J. J. LITTLEFIELD, Chairman. J. J. LITTLEFIELD, Secretary.