

WEEKLY ERA.

RALEIGH, N. C.

THURSDAY, JAN. 8, 1874.

There was in the City one Sosis, infamous for his insolence and villany, who thought the perfection of Liberty was licentiousness of Speech.—PLUTARCH.

Republican State Executive Committee.

The Republican State Executive Committee of North Carolina ought to be called to meet together sometime during this month, and the earlier the better. Let the call be made at once. It is time to begin the work of re-organizing for next Summer's campaign.

JUDGE CLOUD is holding a special term of New Hanover Court, and from the expression of public opinion he is giving general and decided satisfaction to the Wilmingtonians and the people of New Hanover county. The Judge is prompt and pointed in his decisions, dispatches business with rapidity, and enforces perfect order and proper decorum in the Court.

HON. J. L. HENRY, Judge of the 11th Judicial District was in the city on Monday and Tuesday. He has lately been holding a special term of Guilford Court; and his elegant manners on the Bench, capacity for discharge of business, uniform courtesy and great learning as a Judge, have made him a favorite with the Guilford Bar and people.

Even the Democratic press, writes in denunciation of their Democratic Legislature for its shameful treatment of the Oxford Orphan Asylum; and all but the *Wilmington Journal* and *Raleigh News* agree that the late session passed off without anything of public importance having been done, save and except, the North Carolina Railroad Consolidation.

What do, or what can the people say of such a Legislature, and of such a party, that does nothing during a whole session but vote themselves fifty thousand dollars of the peoples' money?

Greeting.

To the Republicans of the State, East, West, North and South, one and all—each and every one—the *Era* extends the complements of the season, and the heartiest greetings of the new year;—a year, destined, let us earnestly hope, pray and work for, to be the last for all time, in which the unscrupulous and corrupt Democracy shall rule or ruin in North Carolina. All other differences let us have buried in the past, knowing or caring nothing now but the fullest and most complete defeat and overthrow of the Democracy.

JUDGE BUXTON, a most admirable gentleman, and splendid judicial officer is holding a special term of Wayne Superior Court.

Our own Watts is holding his regular January term in Wake. Though so much maligned, abused and ridiculed by men of small envy and malicious motives, he is, nevertheless, one of the most popular Judges in the State, and like true gold, shines all the brighter from being frequently rubbed.

The Hon. Josiah Turner, Jr., of the *Sentinel* in this city, spent the Christmas with Billy Mahone in Norfolk Virginia.—*Evans' Independent*.

Oh! ho. Ah! ha.
There's milk in this cocoanut. Billy Mahone has sworn, with his hand on a pile of Railroad bonds as high as his head, that the Western North Carolina Railroad shall never be built through to the Tennessee line. Consolidation proposes to complete the Western North Carolina Railroad. Mahone has plenty of money to defeat consolidation. Turner fights consolidation for a while; funds get low, he goes to Norfolk, dines, wines and hob-nobs with Mahone; comes back with a new Mahone hat, and renews the fight, as the public supposes, with a pocket full of Mahone's bonds.
Don't you see?

An Old Democratic Proposition Revived.

The ridiculous proposition of Senator Price, to elect some Judges, alluded to in these columns a few weeks ago, is nothing new. It is not original with that gentleman, or this Legislature.

Early in the year 1870, Hon. Lewis Hanes, in his paper, the *Salisbury Old North State*, originated the proposition and elaborated the idea that the Legislature had the power, and ought to order an election of a Judge to fill the original vacancy of Mr. Starbuck, he having never qualified.

The matter was brought to the attention of the Legislature in the Spring of 1870, and referred to the Committee. The opinion of Attorney General Olds was obtained; and he held that Judge Cloud filled, by the appointment of the Governor, Starbuck's term. The Judiciary Committee adopted this view, and so reported back to the Legislature.

The matter here dropped for that session.

But, subsequently the wild-cat-ku-klux-Democratic Legislature of 1870-'72 came into existence; and in framing an election law for 1872, the question of electing Judges wherever vacancies had occurred, came up. The proposition was again referred to the Committee on the Judiciary, and that Committee again reported back that Judges appointed by the Governor held under the Constitution, until the next regular election for Judges in the Districts wherein vacancies had occurred, might hereafter occur.

Thus the matter was disposed of by two Legislatures,—one Republican and the other Democratic.

Will Republicans of 1874, and Democrats of 1872, now stultify themselves by voting for Senator Price's bill; or have any of them, the Democrats especially, honestly changed their opinions?

The Oxford Orphan Asylum.

Mr. J. H. Mills, Superintendent of this Institution, has a communicated article in this paper.

As an Institution of merit appealing to all the better feelings of humanity, and demanding a hearty public and private support from all our people, the Oxford Orphan Asylum stands on a footing equal with the Lunatic Asylum, and the Institution for the Deaf and Dumb and Blind. Indeed it is an Institution in many respects with higher and more direct claims than either of the others; and only a Democratic Legislature, that pocketed ten dollars, to each member, of ill-gotten, not to say stolen money—a Legislature that declined to make appropriation for the feeding of the Insane and the Deaf and Dumb and Blind—would or could have failed to make an appropriation of a few thousand dollars for these orphans at Oxford.

The following is taken from the letter-head of the Oxford Orphan Asylum. Read it fellow-citizens of North Carolina, and, if you can, arrive at the degree of shame and infamy that ought to attach to this Democratic Legislature of North Carolina:—

"The Institution was founded by the Grand Lodge of A. F. & A. M. of North Carolina. Its design is to protect, train and educate indigent orphan children, so as to prepare them for useful occupations and for the usual business transactions of life. Its benefits are offered to children between the ages of eight and thirteen, who have neither parents, nor property, nor relatives willing to aid them. Deserted children are not considered orphans. Children so unsound in body, or mind, as to be disqualified for work, or study, will not be received.

"Applications for admission should be made to the Principal on the premises, or to the Superintendent in Raleigh, and should be endorsed by the Master of the nearest Lodge, or by the Chairman of the Board of County Commissioners, and should state the names, ages and condition of the children. *The most needy are the most welcome.*"

The Governor and the Arms.

The Democratic press of this and some of the adjoining States, and certain fire-eaters of this Democratic Legislature have had a God-send out of the letter of Governor Caldwell to the Principal of the Charlotte Military School, informing him that there were no arms he could issue to the school, of the kind the school could use.

They all lose sight of the merits of the case and go off on that portion of the Governor's letter wherein he says, in so many words, that, if he had the arms, he would not issue them to a school of which General D. H. Hill is a leading Professor.

The imputation on General Hill's loyalty is what these Democratic patriots love to harp upon. The General himself does not appear to be seriously aggrieved at the imputation of disloyalty, for he treats it with a degree of levity altogether unusual with him in the editorial conduct of his paper.

Mr. Jones, a Representative from the county of Caldwell, rises in his place in the House to a question of "personal privilege" as though he had been assailed; but how he was personally or otherwise concerned with a matter between Governor Caldwell and General Hill he failed to enlighten anybody by his performance in the House.

But Mr. Jones did not simply render himself ridiculous, which he may esteem to be his privilege. He made a statement on the authority of some others, which is proven not to be true; and that was, that a negro company of Wilmington, to which the Governor had issued arms, were using their bayonets against the peace and dignity of the State; reciting wherein a member of that company used his bayonet on a defenceless woman. The party so charged was up before the Mayor of Wilmington, and it was proven that he had no bayonet, but a wooden stick. For the assault he was fined twenty dollars, and the woman, being in fault, was fined ten dollars.

Mr. Jones did not avail himself of his privilege to inform the House and the public that the Governor had issued arms to two white companies of Democrats at Fayetteville, as well as the negro company of Radicals at Wilmington; and to Bingham's School.

Arms were issued to all of these without regard or reference to politics. It is to be regretted that Major Thomas should have introduced politics into his letter to the Governor. But the arms he wanted were not to be had of the State. Nor has the Governor the right to issue arms to a school. Under a law of Congress arms are issued to the States for the public defence. They may be issued to military companies as a part of the militia of the State, but there is no authority for serving them to private schools, and the Executive and the Adjutant General went beyond their authority and their duty in giving them to Bingham's School.

The Penitentiary authorities purchased the arms for the guard of that Institution at a Northern factory, and if schools want arms suitable for boys to drill with they may purchase them, as the State did for the Penitentiary, or apply to the General Government for them, as they did before the war.

Democratic presses and members of the Legislature are in a sorry fix if they can get up nothing bigger in the way of a political sensation than an expression of Governor Caldwell amounting to an imputation on the loyalty of General D. H. Hill to the government of the United States.

The time was not long ago when a charge of loyalty would have been esteemed an insult and a serious imputation on character, by ninetenths of the Democrats of this State, General Hill included.

EMANCIPATION DAY was appropriately observed in Salisbury. Col. Thomas B. Long and Col. W. F. Henderson were invited to address the meeting which they did in a handsome and acceptable manner.

1874.

The Republicans of North Carolina.

There is work for the Republicans of North Carolina in 1874.

And it is time men began to consider of it.

It has been the practice with Republicans in this State, after the enemy was whipped, and no opposing forces before them, to set their own camp in order. While this fact has evinced a spirit of manhood and independence in our ranks, unknown to others in the palmiest days of the Democracy, it has not unfrequently been misunderstood, by the foes of Republicanism to mean disintegration and disorganization in our party.

During the year just passed, there has been, perhaps, more "regulating" going on inside of the Republican party than was ever known in any party organization within the history of the State. The *Era* confesses to a good share of "bush-wacking" itself, but it has not been without beneficial results to the Republican party in all portions of the State, and to the paper itself as a representative of Republican thought, aims and purposes.

The enemy has taken much comfort of late from a fancied discord in the Republican music, but they will note a different tune when the dancers come on the floor next Spring.

The demand of our colored fellow-citizens for a better definition, and a more impartial administration of public justice, as conveyed by the term civil rights, the Democracy has grown wild with delight over, and office-seeking Democrats, and would-be Judges and solicitors are bouyant with the expectation of seeing disaffected white and colored Republicans marching up to the ballot-box next August in their support!

Their bright anticipations are destined to a speedy and a gloomy disappointment.

Where is the Republican in North Carolina less true and faithful to the Republican cause than he has been heretofore? Where is the Republican who does not intend to stand by the party of his country, to maintain and preserve the integrity and power of the Republican organization?

Disappointment abuses, mistakes, wrongs and want of faith there have been many instances of; but where are the great principles of the Republican party at fault? Practices and the policies of individuals are one thing,—the principle of a great party another. Wherever corrupt practices, selfish policies, or bad faith have obtained, let us all see to it that unworthy individuals are held responsible therefor, and others shall be substituted in their places.

Let our political actions square by the rule laid down, in the National Convention of the Republican party, and let us do everything under party organization, that the good of the party and the wise and patriotic desire of individuals, require shall be done.

The enemy are gathering before us for another contest. "The 'germyander,' that always potent weapon of Democracy is again in requisition. The reassembling of the Legislature will signal some of the most shameful and disgraceful partisan legislation that ever outraged or humiliated a decent people.

Prepare to meet them, Republicans. See to it that the corrupt and mean thing known as the Democratic Legislature in North Carolina shall exist in our State no longer than the first Thursday in August. The masses of the people are flocking to us, more and more, every day. We have only to stand firm and maintain the integrity of the Republican party; and God and right will give us the victory.

The present term of the Supreme Court is Judge Bynum's first service on the Bench. Legally, mentally, and in every other sense one of the first men of the State. Hon. W. P. Bynum will mark his impression on the Supreme Judiciary of North Carolina.

North Carolina Railroad Consolidation.

This measure which lately passed the General Assembly of North Carolina, is one of great public importance to the people of this State.

But it seems not to have received as much attention at the hands of the State press as it ought properly to receive.

The completion of the Western Extension is the great desideratum, and if this consolidation shall accomplish that end, nothing of greater importance to the people of Western North Carolina, and indeed of the whole State, could possibly be devised at this time.

The *Era*, it will be remembered, strenuously urged the sale of the Western North Carolina Railroad last year, in order that the line might be completed. Its arguments on that policy have never been answered, nor can they be but by the completion of the Road through the present scheme of consolidation. That this scheme may succeed is the earnest hope of this paper; and such must be the earnest hope of all true men, women and friends of the State. No patriotic North Carolinian can consent to or allow any obstacle to be thrown in the way of this great measure. And in this connection the *Era* denounces the open hostility of one, and the studied silence of the other of the two daily papers of this city respecting the consolidation measure.

And it is proper to say here, that a communication lately appearing in the *Sentinel* over the signature of "Holt" was not written by one of the Holt family, who, owning the largest private interest in the North Carolina Railroad, are all in favor of the scheme of consolidation.

The cases of Lee Dunlap and Joseph Baker.

The *Raleigh News* of the third instant, had an editorial under the head "Look now upon this picture and on that" which does no credit to the editorial profession, the party that paper represents, or the people of North Carolina.

The matter treated of is murder, the sentences of Courts, and the action of our Judiciary and law officers based upon the recognized and imperative law of the land, and the laws of humanity.

One Joseph Baker for the willful murder of a colored man, had been convicted and sentenced to be hanged last Friday. The *News* says:—"Fairly tried by a jury of white men, he was justly convicted and, in obedience to the stern decree of the law, was justly condemned to die."

But the ire of the *News* is excited because one Lee Dunlap, a negro, charged with the murder of a white man in Charlotte in 1868, has not been hanged.

That paper makes no distinction between the absolute and admitted guilt of Baker, and the very probable innocence of Dunlap. One is a clear case of unprovoked reckless murder. The other a case involving the greatest doubts, amounting almost to a certainty, that the killing, if done by Dunlap, was done in self-defence.

In the case of Dunlap the trial was removed from Mecklenburg to Lincoln County, where he was convicted and sentenced to death. He appealed to the Supreme Court and a new trial was granted, for cause shown.—*See North Carolina Reports, Volume LXXV, page 288.*

Baker was tried in Mecklenburg, where the offence was committed. He was convicted and sentenced to death. He appealed to the Supreme Court, and a new trial was refused, for cause shown.—*See North Carolina Reports, Volume LXXIX.*

The *News* raves madly at Judge Logan, and in a back-handed way slaps the Supreme Court in the face:—"This is Lee Dunlap, a negro, who has been convicted of the murder of James Gleason, a respectable citizen of Charlotte, and who obtained a new trial by the marvellous stupidity of the Judge presiding. The same Judge did not err when he tried Baker."

The effort of the *News* to draw a