

# THE BANQUET AT LAURINBURG

## The Lexington of the Late Campaign.

### THE VICTORY CELEBRATED

#### AMID FLOWERS, ELOQUENCE AND BEAUTY.

#### SPEAKERS AND TOASTS OF THE EVENING

The Eloquent Speech of Congressman elect Bellamy. The Rev. Jesse H. Page Presided and no Wine was Served.

Laurinburg, N. C., Dec. 31.—(Editorial Correspondence.)—The campaign of 1898 was opened at this place on the 12th of May with a great White Man's rally at which Hon. Chas. B. Aycock and Hon. Locke Craig made speeches that stirred the people. These were the first speeches made in the campaign. That early May meeting set the pace for the wonderful campaign that followed. It was in this section, later on when the aggressions of Radical politicians had become almost unbearable, that the people first put on the Red Shirt—the emblem that the negroes and their white allies understood to mean that the white men were determined at all costs to put an end to rule that disgraced the State and virtually disfranchised the intelligence and virtue of the State.

The influences that went out from the May meeting, when Aycock and Craig first sounded the key-note of the campaign, and the Red Shirt brigade permeated to the remotest corners of the State, convincing the people that their only hope was in Democratic rule and strengthening their determination to drive out the despoilers even at the sacrifice of their business and their comfort.

It was fitting that the community, which started the ball rolling, should celebrate the victory in a manner that would be historic, and the great banquet here last night was worthy of the spirit of the untrifled Democracy of the Lexington of the campaign. The first shot for White Supremacy fired here was heard from Murphy to Manteo. The recollections of last night's banquet will be as lasting as they are pleasant to those whose good fortune it was to be present.

Promptly at eight o'clock the company gathered in Field's Hall, which had been beautifully decorated by the patriotic women of the town. Flowers gave a fragrance, hunting in patriotic colors lent a glow, and the presence of the lovely belles of the town who waited on the guests made the scene one of rare beauty and of loveliness. Visitors were present from all the adjacent towns in this Red Shirt end of the State, and farmers from the surrounding fertile farms came to join their town neighbors in celebrating a victory which they had won by common labor and common sacrifice. The campaign of 1898 made men brethren as they had never been before and destroyed all artificial distinctions between white men founded upon accident of birth or fortune.

Rev. Jesse H. Page presided over "the best of reason and flow of soul," and "de a model toast-master. He interspersed his introductions with made right and witty remarks which lent an eviating humor to the occasion. The upper was an elegant one, embracing very delicacy of the season, prepared to tempt the appetite, and served by the young ladies of the town, most becomingly arrayed in the sweetest of apron creations and bewitching headgear of some light material that sat like crowns upon their heads. Parenthetically their loveliness turned the head of more than one susceptible youth who forgot to enjoy the tempting viands set before him. These fair maids served no wine, but delicious coffee. As a beautiful young woman, attired in a striking red costume (not unlike the famous Red Shirt in its crimson) handed a talented young politician a cup of delicious coffee, he was heard to say, sotto voce:

"A sweeter draught from a fair hand was never quaffed."

And many older fellows felt to make the same remark. The menu and service would have done credit to mine host of the Yarrowborough House at its best.

The speaking, which followed when the cigars were lighted, was of a high order. Hon. F. M. Simmons was the first speaker, as was proper. He was given an ovation which must have made him feel that he was among friends who appreciated his splendid management of the campaign. His theme was "Our Glorious Victory." He caught his hearers by his first sentence and wove round after round of applause for his happy and bright speech, and when he sat down the people cheered and cheered again in appreciation of his excellent speech.

The other toasts responded to were as follows:

- Hon. Jno. D. Bellamy—"How we Won Our Victory."
  - Mr. Josephus Daniels—"Democrats will Redeem Their Pledges."
  - Hon. James T. LeGrand—"The Campaign of 1900."
  - Hon. W. C. Dowd—"The Red Shirts of Richmond."
  - Mr. Cameron Morrison—"White Supremacy."
  - Hon. Henry Clay Wall—"Our South Carolina Neighbors."
  - Major George Hall—"Why we Rejoice."
  - Thos. S. Wright—"He is Our New Democratic Sheriff."
- No report of the brilliant sayings of

most of these speakers could convey any idea of the enthusiasm created. They were of a high order, and some of them sparkled with wit and wisdom. Mr. LeGrand predicted in an eloquent speech victory in 1900 under the leadership of the matchless Nebraskan; Mr. Dowd was cheered to the echo in his well-timed praise, interlarded with some funny incidents of the service rendered by the Red Shirts; Mr. Cameron Morrison grew eloquent as he argued with effectiveness that white supremacy could never be perpetuated until preference was given to the white men in all kinds of labor; Mr. Wall was scholarly, entertaining, and humorous in his tribute to the Palmetto State; Maj. George Hall, "the brightest star" in the galaxy of Carolina humorists, carried the mirth of the evening to its climax by his witty sallies; Mr. Thos. S. Wright, the first Democratic sheriff ever elected in Richmond county, brought down the house by his originality, and was applauded when he asked to be commissioned to go to Raleigh and cut out the name of "the little yaller nigger politician from the corner stone of the white institution for the blind."

#### HOW WE WON THE VICTORY.

In responding to the above toast, Hon. John D. Bellamy, the new Congressman, said:

"Mr. Chairman: "The campaign of 1898 will ever be memorable in the history of our State, not only for the results thereby secured but for the causes which produced those results.

"For two years, in nearly every department of the three co-ordinate branches of our State government, there had been incompetency and scandal, which was well known and much deplored by the patriotic people of our State. Corrupt white men and ignorant negroes were exercising the functions of government, material progress was checked and social rights were endangered.

"When the Democratic press which represented the intelligence and decency, the conservatism and moral sentiment of the people of our State, would with their powerful invective expose the iniquities of fusion misrule, the Populist and Republican press, which circulated among the adherents of those parties, would denounce these exposures as Democratic lies. And fusion leaders would even go so far as not only to advise but to beg and implore their former followers to look upon Democratic newspapers with distrust, as heretical instruments, and to shun a Democratic speaker as a seditious enemy.

"And thus it was that the great mass of Populists, who held the balance of power in this district, were kept in dense ignorance of the true state of public affairs and poisoned with as bitter prejudice against the advocates of law and order, as it was possible for a civilized people to become.

"Believing, however, in the innate sense of right and wrong of a people, who have ever been noted for conservatism and intelligence, when our party honored me with its nomination in this district, we began to formulate some plan by which these people could be reached.

"We knew the omnipotence of the press, and we knew that by its error and prejudice could be dethroned. We first obtained the names of the Populists in every single election precinct in the Sixth district, and four months without charge over four thousand Democratic newspapers which, unannounced whole-some political and social truths, and which made bold and righteous attacks on the corrupt practices of the administration and the ignominious subjection of a large part of the proudest and best people of our State to negro domination, were sent regularly to the homes of these people.

"By this means the patient was placed in a condition to yield readily to treatment.

"This would have availed little however, unless the organization of the party had been strong, systematic and active, as it was under the splendid management and leadership of our State Chairman.

"Error being gradually exposed the masses hungered for instruction; the papers at the capital and the local papers kept hurling their missiles at the enemy, the county chairman and their able lieutenants, even down to the precinct committeemen were ever alert, both day and night, in their work to convert the tractable, the masses became interested and each voter felt that he had a special duty to perform, and they determined that the condition of affairs which was humiliating to them, and which had already brought the State into contempt and ridicule should cease.

"Our people thus became aroused and when they found that the Fusionists were striving to further negroize and Russelize the State and more fully degrade and disgrace it, all the patriotic emotions of their breasts were kindled and the ranks of Democracy became full to overflowing. No crusader ever enlisted under the banner of Richard Coen de Lion with a loftier sentiment to impel him, or a stronger determination to achieve success than did the rank and file of the Democratic party in the campaign of 1898.

"How did we win our victory?"

1. "By the splendid efforts of the press."
2. "By the magnificent management of our party organization."
3. "By the stubborn determination of the individual voter to win, and"
4. "By the actual efforts of the candidates."

"As the campaign of 1896 was lost by discussion and distraction, the campaign of 1898 was won by union and harmony."

Mr. Bellamy's speech was well delivered and warmly received by his constituents who gave him a great ovation.

It was a late hour when the banquet came to a close and the happy company separated.

Laurinburg began the campaign early in the year. Laurinburg closes the year with a notable celebration of the notable victory. As the visitors departed, "Uncle Jesse Page" (as everybody calls the up-horse of Democracy and Methodism) said: "We have demonstrated that it is possible to have a delightful and successful banquet without wine." And, as usual, the good man was right.

J. D.

#### \*WATCH NIGHT IN BILLVILLE.

Watch night down in Billville—very biggest crowd.

That ever helped the heathen, or praised the Lord aloud! They come from all the neighborhood, a new life to begin.— To watch the old year goin' out—the new year comin' in.

The preacher—he give out the hymn: "Salvation full an' free." "Twuz follered by "Amazin' grace, that saved a wretch like me." An' "Greenland's Icy Mountains" went rollin' up on high. Till it almost shook the windows in the everlastin' sky!

An' then we had a word o' prayer: The preacher stated plain The object of the meetin', whar we never met in vain! Then read a Bible lesson, which give our souls relief.— Then throwed the meetin' open fer experiences brief.

An' then said Brother Johnson—"way down by the door: He'd served the Lord fer eighty years, an' wanted eighty more! An' Brother Williams cried, "Amen!" an' so the word went round. Till we thought the sleepest angel up in heaven heard the sound!

An' then we had more singin'—an' how the tune did rise!—"When I can read my title clear to mansions in the skies!" An' Brother Scott—he said this word: "My real estate ain't here;— But thank the Lord! in heaven I can read my title clear!"

An' the sisters—they stood up an' spoke, an' tears wuz fallin' fast— Fer their gray hairs seemed to tell us they wuz nearin' Home at last! An' each one told of grace an' love that lightened up the soul While crossin' o'er the river "whare the surges cease to roll."

We most forgot the old year—we most forgot the new In tellin' of the wonders that the lovin' Lord could do. An' talk about your shoutin'—I tell you, it wuz prime! Fer we had—to speak it plainly—jest a halleluia time!

I tell you, twuz a meetin' an' I'd have you folks to know. The Lord wuz with them people, as the old year turned to go; An' the new year found 'em happy, as the church bell tolled on high.— An' that watch night down in Billville's took its place up in the sky! —F. L. STANTON.

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#### WEEKLY BANK STATEMENT.

New York, Dec. 31.—The weekly bank statement shows the following changes: Surplus reserve, decreased, \$438,075; loans, increased, \$6,095,600; specie, increased, \$790,900; legal tenders, increased, \$792,800; deposits, increased, \$8,085,900; circulation, increased, \$34,300. The banks now hold \$19,180,975 in excess of the requirements of the 25 per cent rule.

Pains in the chest when a person has a cold indicate a tendency toward pneumonia. A piece of flannel dampened with Chamberlain's Pain Balm and bound on to the chest over the seat of pain will promptly relieve the pain and prevent the threatened attack of pneumonia. This same treatment will cure a lame back in a few hours. Sold by J. Hal Bobbitt, Henry T. Hicks and North Side Drug Store.

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#### A PHYSICIAN'S EVIDENCE OF A CURE OF RHEUMATISM—AN HONEST DOCTOR.

Although a practitioner of near twenty years, my mother influenced me to procure Botanic Blood Balm, (B. B. B.), for her. She had been confined to her bed several months with Rheumatism, which had stubbornly resisted all the usual remedies. Within twenty-four hours after commencing B. B. B. I observed marked relief. She has just commenced her third bottle, and is nearly as active as ever, and has been in the front yard with "rake in hand," cleaning up. Her improvement is truly wonderful and immensely gratifying.

C. H. MONTGOMERY, M. D., Jacksonville, Ala. Send for book free. Address, Blood Balm Company, Atlanta, Ga.

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(62d Year of Publication)

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R. F. HOKE.  
Dec. 21, 1898.

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