

The News and Observer.

VOL. XLVI. NO. 150.

RALEIGH, NORTH CAROLINA, SUNDAY MORNING, SEPTEMBER 3, 1899.

PRICE FIVE CENTS

LEADS ALL NORTH CAROLINA DAILIES IN NEWS AND CIRCULATION.

BRYAN WILL LEAD THE FIGHT IN OHIO

Unification of Party Looked for There.

ON CHICAGO PLATFORM

TIME FOR BITTERNESS AND REVENGE PAST.

CROKERS' TRIBUTE TO BRYAN SIGNIFICANT

New York no Longer Recognized as the Enemy's Country. Bryan the Candidate in 1900 With no Modification of the Platform.

(James Creelman, in N. Y. Journal.)

Cincinnati, Ohio, Aug. 28.—The most tremendous fact in the political situation today seems to be that Ohio is likely to be the scene of a great unification in the Democratic party. With the nomination of John R. McLean for Governor, on a platform endorsing Bryan and reaffirming the Chicago platform, the rank and file of the party will be reunited. Mr. Bryan will come to Ohio and lead the fight.

Those who formerly were known as gold Democrats will be found working heartily for the candidates nominated by the Chicago platform Democrats and Populists. Senator Hanna's almost incredibly brutal and corrupt methods have made it impossible for self-respecting gold Democrats to support his candidature for Governor. Thousands of Republicans have been driven from their party by Mr. Hanna. There are fanatics among the free silver men who still whoop and snort at every sign of reconciliation with the former gold Democrats and denounce them as agents of Wall street, but the really able and responsible leaders are glad to assist in re-assembling the Democratic forces.

ALL OF ONE SENTIMENT.

I have talked very freely, not only with Mr. Bryan, but with much more radical men, like Altgeld. Everywhere I find the same sentiment, that the time for revenge and bitterness is past, and that every man who calls himself a Democrat must submit to the rule of the majority in his party or cease to call himself a Democrat. Let no man in the Eastern States deceive himself for a moment regarding the present state of facts, or the prospects for the immediate future.

The National Convention will be held within eight months, and no change can be effected between now and then. Mr. Bryan will be renominated, the Chicago platform will be readopted, the imperial policy of the Republican party in the Philippines will be denounced and a specific legislative remedy for the trust evil proposed. The Democratic party is overwhelmingly committed to this course, and I fail to find a sign of real opposition. If Mr. Bryan is alive next summer he will be the Democratic candidate for President. Democrats in the East had better realize now the utter futility of attempting to secure a modification of the party's financial policy. The free coinage of silver and gold at the present ratio of 16 to 1 is an immovable fact in the Democratic creed.

PLATFORM TO PLEASE ALL.

Many of the Western and Southern leaders say that they do not expect a Democrat in a strong gold standard community in the East to stake everything on free silver, but they do expect him to loyally accept the Democratic platform as a whole, and if he cannot fight for any one plank in it, at best he will find a sufficient creed and adequate issues in anti-imperialism, anti-trustism, the income tax, opposition to government by injunction and official arbitration of disputes between capital and labor.

I find in my journeying that a great deal of bitterness has vanished since 1896. Mr. Croker's significant tribute to Mr. Bryan is taken everywhere as a sign that the plain people of New York, and of the East generally, have realized the genuineness and nobility of Mr. Bryan's character and the patriotism of his millions of supporters in the West and South. The effect of Mr. Croker's utterance through the Journal really is remarkable. The Western and Southern leaders know that Mr. Croker seldom takes a stand until he is sure how the plain people of New York feel. They know that the Tammany leader has more than once carried the metropolis at the polls against the combined position of the press, and they believe he is a surer judge of the masses in New York than almost any other man.

In the East and South New York is no longer recognized as "the enemy's country."

NEW YORK WILL ACQUIESCE.

Mr. Bryan and his friends are satisfied that whatever the delegates from New York State may propose in the National Convention they will loyally acquiesce in the decision of the majority. That decision can be stated now with practical certainty, and Democrats who have been nourishing themselves on the hope that the ratio is to be omitted from the free silver plank had better give up the delusion. If there is any man who will refuse to support Mr. Bryan and the Chicago platform with the added issue of anti-imperialism that man had better make

up his mind now that his only alternative will be President McKinley, imperialism, Hanna and the gold standard. Most of the former gold Democrats in Ohio realize the situation, and are getting ready to accept the Democratic platform as a whole.

"EXIT THE GREAT AGNOSTIC."

To the Editor: Since the days of Volney, Voltaire, Paine and Hume, no one has cut a broader swath in the field of agnosticism than Col. R. G. Ingersoll, whose inglorious career recently was so suddenly closed in the State of New York.

In some respects he was the most dangerous of the quartette, being panned as he was with so many variegated gifts, and a person embracing both the "suaviter in modo" and fortiter in re tout ensemble, fitted for the unfortunate task of enthusing and misleading the impulsive and plastic minds of the youth with whom he came in contact—of commanding and attractive personality—brilliant mentality, logical reasoning, persuasive oratory embellished with apt witticisms he never failed of attracting large and intelligent assemblies of young men, who in their depraved nature were cheerfully ready to embrace any sophistry which cleared the way for personal indulgence unattended with suggestion of future punishment. Here the deadly virus took root and spread its poisonous miasma.

It is becoming too common to eulogize the dead at the expense of truth and public safety; from strained construction of charity; hence we combat not the man, but the false doctrines he promulgated in his capacity as public teacher, unattended as they were by any evidence—mythical surmising. As the world goes he was a brilliant success, but at last when he went down under the relentless scythe of the "Great Reaper" he fell a broken shaft, an unfinished pyramid, a miracle of genius, a detroner of hope.

Painful as it is we must in honest candor place him in the niche he is to unfortunately occupy.

We cannot force ourselves to the conclusion that primarily he was a disbeliever, believing as we do the Creator at some period in every man's existence illuminates his benighted being, through the direct radiance of spiritual truth, but this refused, he may be led to believe a lie and be lost. We surmise, too, that the Colonel was unfortunate in his chosen environments, environments which fostered and encouraged his dangerous position. One thing seems to be a reasonable deduction: with all his grace of person, and charm of manner and his multifarious benefactions, he must have, under the instigation of the great Arch Enemy, formed an intense hatred for the God who made him, else he would not have labored so assiduously to subvert His cause—a subversion which, if he could have effected, would have carried with it our boasted civilization, with all its privileges, immunities, and blessings, and sadly in failing us with the orphanage of hope. Failing in his mission he sunk into the icy arms of death, unprepared, "unwept, unhonored and unused."

After sowing so many seeds of moral leprosy, and placing the poisoned chalice to so many lips of the young manhood of his country, it is a fearful thing to appear before the Great Court of Assize with the accumulated weight of thousands in an idea so fraught with horror we forbear to enlarge upon it. Whilst we in the sublimity of our faith have never feared the ability of the combatants of Christianity to wrench us from our moorings or that its essentials would be weakened through any malevolent machinations of men, yet we know through such agencies many have been engulfed in irremediable disaster.

Even England's great poet, the versatile Lord Byron, in some respects occupied a like place to Col. Ingersoll in his influence over impressionable natures, through the medium of the passionate strains of his inimitable poetry—poetry in some parts suggestive of immoral life, and antagonistic to high ideals, yet he in taking a retrospective review of his restless career sang in tones of mournful cadence—

"The thorns that I've reaped
Are of the tree I planted,
They have torn me and I bleed;
I might have known what fruit
Would spring from such seed."

At another time he virtually confesses to man's infirmity and the existence of a higher power, when he says—

"A spark of that immortal fire,
By Angels shared, by Allah given
To lift from earth our low desire."

It would have lifted his had he not, in his weakness and love of pleasure allowed the carnal to dominate the spiritual of his being. Thus we often find among the brave, the generous, the impulsive, men worthy of a better fate go down through unwillingness to curb the fleeting passions of the hour.

Again, unfortunately, too many conclude that as almoners of charity, and adherents of the conventionalities of life, a passport will be furnished them to the blissful regions of the "Great Beyond," but alas, may realize when too late, their great mistake; and then

"Beyond the wreck of years
Spend an eternity of tears."
JNO. D. THOMAS.
Littleton, N. C., August 10, 1899.

LITERARY NOTES.

Messrs. Barbee & Smith, Nashville, Tenn., and Dallas, Texas, will publish, about the middle of September, "An Autumn Lane and Other Poems," a new volume by Will T. Hale, the Southern poet whose verse has been familiar to the public for a number of years. It is said that the book will contain the poet's best work, some of which appears for the first time. It will be a handsome volume, in the best style of the book-binding art.

BILL ARP'S TOPICS

Bill Thinks Dreyfus is Innocent and Being Persecuted.

TALKS ABOUT THE WAR

The Negro Problem is Discussed. Some Districts Where There is no Trouble.

It is indeed singular how much sympathy and what an intense interest the trial of Dreyfus has excited all over the civilized world. The life or the liberty of but one man—a Jew of no great consequence—is at stake, and yet the world looks on with more concern than is given the Philippine war, where thousands have died in battle since the trial of Dreyfus began. The great heart of the people believes the Jew is innocent and is being persecuted by the military because he is a Jew. Civilians everywhere are getting more and more jealous of the military power, and well they may be, for it is aggressive, cruel and intolerant when not kept under restraint.

The long suffering of Dreyfus has intensified the pity of mankind and recalls the plea that Shakespeare makes for Shylock, "I am a Jew; hath not a Jew eyes and hands, senses, affections, passions. If you prick us do we not bleed. If you poison us do we not die?" This persecution has been going on for five years and the end is not yet in sight. It reminds us of the historic trial of Warren Hastings that began in April, 1790, and continued until April, '95. Never was a man so unjustly assailed. The sublimest oratory and logic of Burke and Fox and Sheridan came down upon him with withering and pitiless force. Burke spoke three days and amazed the world with his matchless eloquence, and the world pronounced Hastings guilty before any evidence had been introduced, for Burke's speech was an exordium, a presentation of the bill of indictment. Poor Hastings, frail, small and sickly, knelt at the bar and there heard the terrible denunciations of his accusers. The English nation was against him and even his friend and patron, William Pitt, deserted him. Hastings, as governor general of India, had not pleased the party in power and was to be made a victim. That was politics then, and it is politics now. It was like the execution of Mrs. Surratt and Captain Wurz in 1865, for two more innocent persons could not have been found, but the thirsty public demanded some victims and these were chosen. In 1795 Hastings was triumphantly acquitted on every charge and public opinion had already turned in his favor. Lord Macaulay says that he administered the Indian government with more than the capacity of Richelieu, and John Stuart Mill says he was the best governor that India ever had.

Well now, if Dreyfus can have such a happy ending to his long suffering and trial the world will be satisfied. Labor is already a hero—the brightest star in the galaxy. He has made no blunder in act or speech during his long and arduous labors and when he declares with folded arms and glistening eyes and impassioned voice that Dreyfus is innocent the world believes him. If he is again condemned, France will be disgraced and degraded in the eyes of the great powers of the world. A government that cannot save one innocent man cannot save itself when revolution comes.

The next biggest thing before us is the everlasting war that, like Banquo's ghost, will not down. It drags its slow length along from day to day and week to week until its blood and cost have almost ceased to agitate us and only its politics is considered. The question foremost is will it roll McKinley in again or roll him out. Imperialism is a bigger presidential issue than silver or the tariff.

But just now the question that seems to concern the South is what shall be done with the negro. In some portions of the country there is no disturbance, no friction, no outrages of any kind. The two races are getting along as peacefully as in the years gone by. There are whole counties down in lower Georgia and a whole district in some of the Western States where the negroes as a mass are industrious and humble and give no trouble. In upper South Carolina there is peace and harmony save an occasional disturbance that bad men like the Tolberts provoke. Most of the outrages that provoke the lynchings come from negro tramps who have no settled home, no family, no occupation, but go and come when they please. They are the scum of the towns and cities—the overflow—for cities breed crime and corruption both among whites and blacks. The last report of our prison commission shows that seven counties with our seven largest cities furnish one-third of all our convicts. Fulton county alone has 281. The more remote from these pestilential centers of crime the fewer convicts. Pickens, Towns and Gilmer have none. Twelve counties have but twenty-four. It is remarkable that some counties in the black belt where negroes predominate show so good a record. Quitman has but two convicts, and perfect peace and good will prevails between the races, and the negroes down there took as much pride in the display and success of the late agricultural convention as did the whites. Now the question is if such harmony exists in Quitman why cannot it exist elsewhere? Is it a settled fact that the two races cannot live together? For one I am not yet prepared to admit it. There are thousands of negroes all over the South who are docile, law-abiding, respectful and industrious, and their labor is needed. If Northern fools, fanatics and politicians

would let them and us alone I feel sure we could get along in peace. It is not fair to judge the whole race by the exceptions that show up here and there. Force them out of politics, establish the whipping post and enforce the vagrant law and in five years there will be no outrages, no lynchings and the number of convicts will be reduced 50 per cent. I believe this. If the enforcement of these laws reached some bad white men let them suffer the penalties. The time has come when we must purge and purify the ballot box just as we now purge the jury box. In some of the States the ballot is hedged around with a property qualification of \$500 and the ability to read and write. It should go farther and require a good moral character just as the jury box does. We all know many good negroes who should be allowed to vote and some bad white men who should not. The devil is not dead. Not very long ago I troubled myself and spent some money in getting a white man pardoned out of the chancery because his poor wife importuned me. He hadn't been out a month before he got into another row and was put in the calaboose. There were two cows in the pound near the calaboose and next morning when the marshal went after Pat to take him before the mayor Pat was not in, but the cows were. The devilish rascal had got a skeleton key and unlocked himself out and locked the cows in and now my friends joke me about Pat and call him my pet and I am out of the pardon business. Well, now that man is not fit to vote, for he has deserted his family and won't work.

The negro paper says that Richard Price, Governor Atkinson's faithful body servant, stole the governor's gold watch the day he died and now languishes in Newnan jail. Don't that cap the climax? A good old negro by the name of Moody died here a few days ago and was buried with great ceremony. His sons came from abroad to attend the funeral, and one of them was so overcome with grief that he declared he could not bear to see his dear old father put down in the cold, cold grave and so he staid at the house to weep and mourn. But when the family returned he had stolen the old man's best clothes and everything else of value and gone off on the train.

Well, I don't think that his sort should be allowed to vote, do you? One table in this prison report surprises me and that is the great increase of burglaries over simple larceny by the negroes. Seven hundred and ninety-two convicts are in for burglary and only 50 for larceny. I suppose the explanation is that for small stealing they are sent to the county chainings and put to work on the public roads. For the unmentionable crime or its attempt there are 178 convicts. Judge Lynch does not get them all by a long shot.

The prison report is interesting and instructive reading and shows the most careful and humane treatment of the convicts. The commission with General Evans at its head, are all kind, Christian gentlemen, and no State in the Union can show a better record of its prisoners, both male and female.

But it is impossible to keep up with the lies and slanders that are circulated by Northern politicians and Southern negro editors and educators. It is all a scheme to get money from the Northern dupes. Even as notable a woman as the wife of Booker Washington, who is chairman of the executive committee of the National Association of Colored Women, says in her published address, "The white people preach and point to the immorality of young colored girls and yet the white people themselves are to blame for this condition of affairs, for in this convict lease system the girls and women are not only worked in the field with men, but are shut up at night in the same cells with them. Can you expect a poor, ignorant colored girl to be pure and virtuous when she is shut in night after night with a man?"

General Evans writes me that no such condition exists in Georgia, nor has ever existed, and that for ten years past the female convicts have not even been worked on farms with the men, but have been leased to separate contractors who work none but the women on a farm. The women (about sixty in number) work together, eat together, sleep together and are absolutely separated from men and boys and are on entirely different farms. These women are not confined in cells at all, but live in a house far more comfortable than they lived in before their conviction. The men and women do not meet at all at any time or anywhere.

How is that? What explanation can that woman make? What can Booker Washington say about it? He had better say something about it, for he has had the support and encouragement of the Southern people and he will be held responsible for such malignant slanders. This prison report shows that 40 per cent of the convicts can read and write. That 45 per cent are married. That 90 per cent are between the ages of seventeen and twenty-seven. That only forty were in slavery before the war and only eighteen are old enough to remember what slavery was.

This report shows over 4,000 colored convicts, including the county chainings, and 600 of these are from Fulton county. Atlanta seems to be a good nursery for crime.

Another singular table in the report is called the table of "recidivists," which means, I suppose, the "returners." There are 269 serving a second term; 47 a third term; 6 a fourth term and 3 a fifth term. They seem to like the business. A good whipping or two or three good whippings would have stopped all those recidivists. If a man likes one kind of punishment so well as to go back to it, it would be well to change it and let him try another.

But let us keep on agitating and discussing and let no man boast that he knows it all, for he doesn't.

BILL ARP.

There are times when a man would be appreciated more if he would keep his mouth shut and let his money talk.

IGNORANT AND VICIOUS BARRED

The Amendment Discriminates Against These Only.

BE THEY WHITE OR BLACK

STATE'S RIGHT TO REGULATE THE ELECTIVE FRANCHISE.

NO COURT HAS POWER TO OBSTRUCT IT

If the Amendment is Adopted it Will be Part of the Organic Law of the Commonwealth No Court May Destroy.

(Extract from a letter written by a native of North Carolina, who has resided for fifty years in another State.)

The Constitutional Amendment has been discussed as if it were a series of distinct and independent enactments. It is, however, not a legislative enactment, but a proposition to the people to amend their charter of government. It is well known that Constitutions adopted by the people of a State are not to be construed according to the technical rules which prevail in the interpretation of statutes. They are held to mean what the people intended, when they adopted them. The mass of the people are not lawyers, and do not measure their words by subtle and technical rules. Reason requires that their language should be interpreted, according to the meaning which it bears in the ordinary understanding of men engaged in the ordinary pursuits of life.

But if the amendment were a statute subject to technical rules, it would be necessary to consider it as an entirety. It would thus be seen that it is a proposal for a restriction of the elective franchise. It is a governmental plan; a scheme to be carried into effect in all its parts, without change, addition or diminution. It is not competent for the people to adopt one part and reject another; they must take the whole or none. If they accept it they say, in effect, We wish this whole instrument as a part of our Constitution, and we adopt it without modification in the slightest particular. Let us consider this question a little further. The Amendment disfranchises certain classes of vicious and ignorant voters. The second section excludes the criminals therein mentioned. The fourth and fifth sections deal with ignorance. This subject is regarded under two heads, to-wit: illiteracy and absence of knowledge of public affairs. The two taken together impose a disqualification for voting. Knowledge may be obtained by other methods in addition to reading; such as conversation with intelligent persons, hearing lectures and discourses and listening attentively to public discussions. It is well known that many individuals who are unable to read and write have a shrewd knowledge of business affairs, and are able in these matters to try conclusions successfully with those who are far superior in the education derived from books. Learning and wisdom are not the same. The voters of the State of North Carolina have always been fond of hearing public debates on the stump by candidates for public office. Those who could not read and write obtained much information regarding the public questions of the day, and by reflecting on them and conversing with friends and neighbors they were enabled to form an intelligent opinion on the subjects submitted to their votes. It appeared proper to the framers of this amendment that men having this sort of knowledge should not be excluded from the elective franchise. Their proposal is one and indivisible; that those who could not read and write, and who did not have the knowledge naturally acquired from thirty years of voting ought to be disfranchised. The proposition cannot be divided without destroying its effect. To accept one part and reject the other would make a provision which was not intended, and would accomplish something entirely contrary to what was intended. No rational person would suppose that this was fair or just. Most certainly no court of justice would ever construe any document, whether deed, statute or constitutional amendment, so as to declare that it was to have effect contrary to its obvious, natural and unmistakable meaning. The framers of this amendment thought that the children and lineal descendants of those voters for thirty years would learn enough from their parents to qualify them for the right of suffrage. This may be wise, or it may be unwise, but it is their proposal to the people; and the question is exclusively for the decision of the people at the polls.

The Fifteenth Amendment of the Federal Constitution provides that "the right to vote shall not be abridged or denied on account of race, color or previous conditions of servitude." That is to say that these circumstances shall not be made a mark or discrimination which shall take away or restrict the right of voting. It may be said that the framers of the Amendment to the State Constitution desired to exclude vicious and ignorant negroes from the ballot box. Be it so. It is to be hoped that no decent man in North Carolina desires their admission. Vice and ignorance are not attractive, whether clothed in a black or a white skin. But the desires of the framers of this amendment are not in question; nor the desires of

the supporters of the amendment. The real question is whether the people have the right and power to adopt it as part of their organic law. And this is resolved into the question whether they have the right and power to prohibit vicious and ignorant people from voting. The proposed amendment unquestionably will do this; and it will prohibit none but the vicious and ignorant, whether they be white or black. All men, white as well as black, are excluded from the ballot box, who come within the inhibitions of the second section. All men, white as well as black, are likewise excluded who are described by the disqualifying clauses of the fourth and fifth sections. When a provision operates on all classes alike, it would be silly in the extreme to say that it operates as a discrimination against one particular class. When the law prescribes the punishment of death for murder, and a negro is executed under the law, it is silly to say that the law punishes him on account of his color. If more negroes than white people are executed, it is because negro criminals are more numerous. If more negroes than white people are disfranchised by this Amendment, it is because convicts and ignorant persons are more numerous among them. But this circumstance does not invalidate the Amendment; nor is it an argument for admitting vice and ignorance to the ballot box.

I am here in a remote part of the Allegheny mountains, where I have no access to law books of any kind, but I am fully convinced from reason and from the recollections of half a century of diligent study of the law that the following propositions are demonstrably true:

First. That the people of North Carolina have never surrendered to the General Government their right to regulate the elective franchise, except so far as the provisions of the Fifteenth Amendment extend.

Second. That therefore they have the right to adopt or reject the proposed Amendment, according to their own will and pleasure.

Third. That, as a further consequence, the Amendment, if adopted, will be part of the organic law, and that no court, State or Federal, has the power to obstruct, delay or defeat it.

A STORY OF MOZART.

The old German professor who lives next door is fond of relating stories—stories flavored with bits of life in dear "Vaterland," bearing good will from soul to soul and tenderness of heart as well, but the story of Mozart and the little wooden shoe is a favorite, and as interesting, if not as wonderful as the mythical tale of Cinderella and the glass slipper. In the days when Mozart was composer to the imperial court at Vienna, there came to the palace a young peasant woman, desirous of seeing the great musician.

Mozart instantly remembered her as a former servant in his father's family, and received her with kindness. But the grandeur with which she found Mozart surrounded awed and frightened her, and it was with much timidity she made known the purport of her visit, recalling to his mind a promise made by him to a little servant maid that on her wedding day he would present her with a gift.

The story says that Mozart was equally touched and amused by the simple faith of the little servant maid, and on learning that her marriage was to take place at no distant day, bade her, with a merry smile, to return to her home and fetch him one of her little wooden shoes.

She departed, wondering much and not a little disappointed, but nevertheless, she brought the little wooden shoe to Mozart.

And then a transformation resulted. It was Mozart's own hands that wrought a wonder out of that little wooden shoe. With file and plane the ugly unevenness was brought to a smooth, delicate perfectness; so perfect that by a touch it gave forth a low, melodious hum. Strings were drawn taut across the polished surface, and with many a light, caressing thrum he tuned and toned, and lo! the little wooden shoe with melody and music rang.

And Mozart gave a great concert, and the vast hall was not sufficient to give standing room to the people who came to listen to the music of the little wooden shoe. And the marriage gift that Mozart presented to the little maid servant was a royal one, indeed—the proceeds of the wonderful concert.

HE HAD A CLAIM.

(Greensboro Reflector.)

Sometime ago Register of Deeds T. R. Moore received a letter from a man in another town that read as follows, except we do not give the names:

Dear Sir:
I have a license to marry Miss _____ and forbid you issuing a license to marry her to anybody else.

The letter was so unusual that the register put it away to keep as a souvenir.

REFLECTIONS OF A BACHELOR.

(New York Press.)

If a girl can't find any other excuse for getting married she'll say she ought to do it because her angel mother did it. If a girl knows how to darn stockings and make chocolate candy she never has any doubts about her fitness to be the mother of nine children.

One way a woman has of making a man feel sorry for what he has said is to sit down suddenly in the wet grass and then ask him if he isn't ashamed of himself for making her do it.

If women were as keen about knowing when they don't love a man but think they do as they are about knowing when a man loves them but doesn't think he does they would never marry anybody.