The Chatham Record

THURSDAY, June 3. . . . . . 1880.

H. A. LONDON, Jr., Editor.

POLITICAL CONVENTIONS.

This may truly be termed "the month of Conventions," for during June there will be held the National Conventions of both parties, the State Convention of the democratic party, and several of our District Conventions. Politics begin to warm up, as the weather does, and the coming campaign will be exciting and closely contested. The Republican National Convention met yesterday at Chicago, but at this writing we have not heard who were nominated, although we have no doubt but that Grant is the nominee for the Presidency. The Democratic National Convention will be held at Cincinnati on the 22d of June, so that before the close of this month both parties will have placed their candidates on the track and the race will fairly begin. On the 17th inst., the democrats of this State will name their candidates for the State offices, and on the 7th of July the republicans will name theirs. The democrats of the Third Congressional District met at Fayetteville yesterday, the 2d inst., to nominate their candidate for Congress, but we have not heard the result. On the 8th inst., the Convention in the 6th District will be held at Rockingham. On the 15th the Convention to nominate a candidate for Judge of the Fifth Judicial District will be held at Durham. The Convention for this (the Fourth) Congressional District will be held at Raleigh, on Wednesday, the 16th inst. We presume it will be several weeks before the candidates for the Legis'ature and the various county offices are nominated.—They will come out when cotton begins to open, and will be the "fall crop" of candidates.

When all the candidates are nominated and begin to go out among the people canvassing, and the papers are filled with politics, every body will become stirred up and every quiet citizen become a busy politician and zealously advocate the claims of his party candidates. The excitement will, as usual, become so intense that it would seem certain that only a bloody appeal to arms could decide the contest, but when the election is over—everything and every body will at once quietly settle down and the country still be safe.

MALICIOUS DEFAMATION.

In their zeal to secure the nomination of their favorite, many of the friends of Gov. Jarvis and Judge Fowle have spoken and published very unkind, and we think unjust, charges against the other. Crimination and recrimination have been too much indulged in. While it is all right and proper for the friends of an aspirant for the nomination to use all honorable means to secure his nomination, yet all good men should denounce malicious and false attacks upon the private character of other aspirants. Especially should democrats denounce these false attacks, when made upon the leaders of their party by other democrats simply to advance the cause of another leader. We do not believe that either Judge Fowle or Gov. Jarvis approve of these attacks upon each other that are being made by their respective adherents. Instead of these two distinguished democrats being traduced by the friends of the other, all should join in praise of them both, for they deserve well of the State, and are both sons, of whom North Carolina may well feel proud. Both of these gentlemen have been honored and trusted leaders in our party too long, for democrats now to assail their past records. They have both been too long and highly endorsed by the party for democrats now to condemn what either may have done in the past. As the lawyers would say democrats are "estopped."

Such false and malicious charges against Gov. Jarvis have been made by certain correspondents of some newspapers, that he has been compelled to publish a card in denial of them. While we have not space to publish his card we gladly state that he entirely refutes all these bitter assaults upon him and in our opinion fully exonerates his character. We think it rather remarkable that these charges against Gov. Jarvis should have been made at this late day—nearly twelve years after the alleged occurrences took place—and made by men of his own party! All those long years has Gov. Jarvis been in active political life, campaign after campaign conducting heated canvasses with able republican competitors, and yet not once was his private character assailed. Even radical malice dared not assail the integrity of his character. This has been reserved for pretended democrats to do!

We write this not for the purpose of urging the nomination of Gov. Jarvis, for as between him and Judge Fowle THE RECORD has expressed no preference, but simply to express our entire confidence in his character and to denounce the disgraceful aspersions cast thereon. As a personal friend of many years acquaintance we take pleasure in denouncing such attacks upon Thomas J. Jarvis: as a democratic journalist we denounce such assaults upon one of our most trusted leaders: and as a citizen of North Carolina, we indignantly repel such aspersions upon the character of our Chief Magistrate.

Changing Votes.

We would call attention to a practice too frequently prevailing in our nominating conventions, and that is the changing of a county's vote before the result is announced. It nearly always happens in our conventions that after the roll of counties is called, that many counties change their vote before the result is announced. In this way much confusion is caused, and dissatisfaction produced. Why not let every county give its vote and stand by it until the next roll-call? Why the necessity of these frequent and confusing changes? When a county gives its vote for any man it should be so counted, and no changing allowed. We have known of instances when a majority of the votes were given for one candidate, and before the result could be announced enough counties would change to nominate some one else. This practice of changing allows too good an opportunity for swapping votes, trading, &c., and should be stopped. What say our brethren of the Press?

Battle of Alamance.

Last Saturday an immense concourse—estimated as high as five thousand—was gathered on the old battle field to celebrate the battle of Alamance. Speeches were delivered by prominent gentlemen, a large dinner was enjoyed, and all had a good time generally. We have not yet learned whether the celebration was to commemorate the deeds of the Regulators or of the victors in that unfortunate struggle; or whether it was intended as a "boom" in the interests of certain political aspirants.

Difference in Temperature.

Last Friday, when the people of this section were sweltering with the oppressive heat, and in the large cities many died from sunstroke, there was a snow storm raging at Leadville in Colorado! This shows what an extensive territory is embraced in this great Lepublic, and what a varied climate is ours!

The West Point Outrage.

We have heretofore alluded to the alleged "outrage" perpetrated upon the negro cadet at West Point. An attempt was made by prominent Republicans to make political capital out of it, but it has turned out, as was suspected, that Whittaker "outraged" himself. From the New York Herald of the 30th of May we copy the following:

"The Court of Inquiry in the Cadet Whittaker case concluded its labors to-day, and the result was as generally anticipated—complete, explicit and unqualified findings against Whittaker, branding him with deep and lasting disgrace, unless, of course, which hardly seems possible, the Secretary of War and the President disapprove of the findings, or a court martial, should one be ordered, upon a re-investigation of the facts, come to a contrary conclusion. At the meeting of the Court in secret session last evening, the opinion of its members was found to be unanimous as to Whittaker's guilt. All that remained was to prepare its formal findings, and, as further required under the order convening it, accompany the same with a written opinion. This was done at a meeting at 3 p. m. to-day, and the same at 5 p. m. placed in the hands of General Schofield. From the official document it will be discovered that the Court is unable to see how such slight wounds as those received by Whittaker could have been inflicted in the manner described; how he could have submitted to the assault without summoning assistance, how it is impossible that he could not have released himself, and how it is equally impossible to believe from the testimony of the surgeon and others that he was not, when first discovered, feigning insensibility. The Court, as will be further seen, is also of the opinion that no motive has been shown on the part of any other person to commit the assault; that he cut his hair and ears and otherwise mutilated himself; that he wrote the note of warning; that in addition to the untruthfulness of his original story he showed lack of veracity in other statements; and, in short, that the imputation on his character on account of which he demanded a Court of Inquiry is fully sustained."

The Proper Policy.

We have observed with much regret that many correspondents of our papers in their advocacy of the claims of one aspirant for office too often write unjustly of others, and thus a bitter personal feeling is aroused. Upon this subject the Raleigh News very properly has this to say: "No one can be permitted in these columns to denounce respectable gentlemen, representative North Carolinians, as fit subjects for the Penitentiary in advance of the Convention, and after the Convention hold them up to the people as models of patriots, worthy of highest praise. All the good that occurs to the industrious writers about candidates may be said; but falsehoods, whether direct or by innuendo, about their competitors, may not be said. This is a democratic newspaper, not a personal organ, and it is no part of its mission to destroy public confidence in the party or in its leaders, and so far as it can it will prevent injustice to any of them. The man who wishes to call Governor Jarvis a thief or a conniver at theft, or denounce Judge Fowle as a traitor to his people or as a receiver of stolen goods, will please take his wares to some other market."

Instructing Delegates.

We have heretofore expressed our objections to county conventions instructing their delegates to vote for any particular candidate. This question has elicited considerable discussion throughout the State, and we are pleased to observe that nearly all our papers take the same view as THE RECORD does. We copy the following extracts from a few of our contemporaries:

"If the minority of a county are not worthy to be heard in a State Convention, they may well deem themselves worthy to go to the polls to vote."—Raleigh Post.

"If the instruction business is to be practised in the future by township meetings and county meetings, then many Democrats will refuse to vote for and support nominees on the ground that nominations were procured by packed meetings and conventions. The [illegible] the danger to our party in this and other counties. Why not do right?"—Charlotte Democrat.

"Suppose there were only 1,000 voters in Rowan. Suppose 501 of these voters favored the nomination of Judge Fowle, and only 499 favored Governor Jarvis' nomination! Would not the Jarvis men, although in the minority, claim that they should be heard in the State Convention? If every Democrat in the county, except one, were on one side, and that one stood alone on the other side, he, as a citizen and a Democrat, has a right to be heard. The minority have rights that must be recognized, or the majority will be made to recognize them."—Salisbury Democrat.

"As to the right of the county to instruct her delegates there can be no question, although the State convention never has enforced it, and probably never will. It is not enforceable. As to the expediency of exercising the right, that must always be determined by the counties themselves. Generally, in our individual opinion, it is not desirable. The delegates ought, in most cases, to come unfettered and free to represent their people according to their judgment, and to vote as circumstances shall seem to render expedient and proper."—Raleigh Observer.

"It is wrong to give cast-iron instructions to the county delegation. It is proper and right for the county convention to express its preference—if it has any—for any particular aspirant, but arbitrary, unchangeable instructions are not consonant with the genius of our institutions. There is no use in sending delegates if they are to be bound hand and foot in their actions. The delegates themselves, knowing the wishes of the people at home, and the preferences of their county convention, are best able to do their duty to the State and their section, after mingling and consulting with the delegates from all over the State."—Kinston Journal.

"Most usually these instructions are inspired by a few men who, not expressing the voice of the people, give their own preference in its stead, and pass resolutions of 'instruction' when really but few know anything about the meeting or its purposes. Delegates, as a general rule, reflect the wishes of those whom they represent, and very seldom mistake public opinion. Very many times when on the field, when circumstances not expected arise, it becomes necessary in shaping the policy of a party and naming candidates, a free exercise of sound judgment is very desirable and essential to success, and when not hampered with instructions, the best results may be secured. But when tied hand and foot, without discretion, without the power of choice, and deprived of the exercise of judgment—when judgment should be exercised—they become machines, with no influence, simply animated automatons to register their instructions, as it were. It sometimes arises, when great public issues are involved and a crisis is upon the country, that instructions for men and measures are not only desirable but necessary to the best interests of the community or a whole people, but we recognize no such emergencies in the present campaign."—Greensboro Patriot.

Western Railroad Affairs.

We are glad to be able to state authoritatively that the grantees of the Western North Carolina Railroad have organized in accordance with the act of sale by electing a board of directors composed of the following named gentlemen: W. J. Best, T. M. Logan, F. F. Miller, John Hoey, W. T. Dortch, R. B. Vance, A. B. Andrews, A. C. Avery and W. E. Anderson. They have paid to the Treasurer $4,958,32, the interest on the first mortgage bonds of the company, guaranteed by the State, which they were to pay and have paid from the ratification of the act. They have also deposited with the Treasurer $10,041,67, which is more than sufficient to reimburse the State for the other expenditures since the ratification of the act. They have announced their readiness to take possession of the road to-day in accordance with their contract, and to proceed with the work. Mr. Best is expected here on Sunday and will go vigorously to work next week.—Raleigh News.

The Census.

Desiring to do what we can to advance the work of taking the census of North Carolina, we feel that it is incumbent upon us to urge every head of a family to make himself familiar with what he has to give in before the day arrives when the census taker comes around, which will be early in June. We want the census to be correctly and accurately taken, and with this view we call attention to the following matters, relative to which information will be desired:

In agriculture, for the person who conducts a farm is to state if he is the owner, or if he rents for money or a share of the products; what part of his farm is improved, and what unimproved; the value of his farm, including land, fences, buildings, farming implements, machinery and live stock; the cost of building and repairing fences, the cost of fertilizers, the amount of farm wages, the number of weeks of hired labor, excluding house-work, the estimated value of farm productions, and the average of grass lands mown and the products harvested in 1879; the horses, mules and neat cattle, and their products on hand June 1, 1880; the milk disposed of, and the butter and cheese made in 1879; the number of sheep and lambs on hand June 1, 1880, and the number born, disposed of, slaughtered, or lost from different causes in 1879; the amount of fleeces, the number of swine on hand June 1, 1880; the eggs produced in 1879; a statement of the crops in 1879 of barley, buckwheat, Indian corn, oats, rye, wheat, Canada peas, beans, flax in its different forms, hemp, sorghum and maple sugar and molasses, broom corn, hops, Irish potatoes, sweet potatoes, apples and peaches, with the total value of orchard products of all kinds; the value of produce sold from nurseries, the grapes sold and the wines made, the value of produce sold from market gardens, the honey and wax produced, the amount of wood cut in forests, and the value of all forest products.

In regard to population, June 1, 1880, being the date, the census taker will want to know the name of each person in family; the color, sex and age of each person; the relationship of each person to the head of the family; what persons are single, married, widowed or divorced, and who, if any, were married during the census year; the occupation of both males and females, the number of months any person has been unemployed during the census year; a statement of the sickness or temporary disability of any person at the time of the enumerator's visit; if there are any blind, deaf and dumb, idiotic, insane, crippled or bedridden persons in the family; how many attended school within the census year; if there are any who cannot read or write; the place of birth of each person and the places of birth of his or her father and mother. All persons will be included in this enumeration who are living on June 1, 1880, as well as members of families who may die after that time, but children who may be born after that date will be omitted. The questions as to occupation and the ability to read and write are not to be asked with regard to children under ten years of age.

In regard to mortality, the census year begins June 1, 1879, and ends May 1, 1880. The important point in this schedule is as to disease or cause of death, including the primary disease and the complications it any. Especial inquiry is to be made as to infants born dead. Distinction is to be plainly made between apoplexy, epilepsy and paralysis, and in cases of suicide the means employed is to be stated. The general questions of the schedule relate to age, sex, color, condition as to marriage, nativity of the person enumerated and of his or her father and mother, the occupation, month and cause of death of the person, the length of time of his or her residence in the county, the place where the disease was contracted and the name of the attending physician.—Rleigh Observer.

A War Relic.

[illegible]

A short time since we published a letter from Sheriff Talbot, of Essex county, New York, enquiring of our sheriff if any of the relatives of Rufus L. Bynum was living and known to him.

Our friend, B. H. Woodell, seeing the letter, informed Sheriff Nowell that he knew Bynum well, and also knew where his mother and a brother and sister now lived. Sheriff Nowell immediately wrote Sheriff Talbot, referring him to Mr. Woodell, and the consequence was the testament reached Mr. W. on yesterday, and will be forwarded at once to his mother.

The letter accompanying the book says that Bynum, who was in the cavalry service, was dismounted on the skirmish line at a place called Poplar Grove Church, in Virginia, on the 28th day of September, 1864, when the company to which Sheriff Talbot belonged (Co. C, 93d New York), was on the skirmish line on the Federal side. When the advance was made by the Federal skirmish line, Bynum stood at his post until shot down, at which time the enemy was within thirty steps of him.

Sheriff Talbot, seeing him fall, went to him, took the testament and his breech-loading carbine, and carried it until he was discharged.

The book shows that it had been much used, and on the fly-leaf is written in his own hand his name, date of birth, date of enlistment, where from, &c.

Cannot be a Legislator.

[From the [illegible]]

We are again solicited to run for the Legislature. We prefer to run from it. It would take a mighty big mule to kick us in that direction—because we wouldn't suit this generation of fallen humanity.

You see we have a mind of our own. We believe in taxing Dogs instead of Sheep. And that wouldn't suit the people. We believe in sure-enough Public schools to educate the children of all classes, even at the expense of a tax on Dogs—and that wouldn't suit. We believe in offering inducements to Farmers to reclaim worn-out lands and that wouldn't suit.—We believe in a State Fertilizing manufactory to be worked by Penitentiary convicts which will give the farmer fertilizers at one-third the present price—and that wouldn't suit. We believe in the county commissioners allowing home-kept paupers two mouthfuls of meat and bread a day instead of one,—to keep them alive, and that wouldn't suit. We believe in making these commissioners bury the dead (paupers), instead of leaving the dead to dig their own graves. And that wouldn't suit. We believe in a law compelling these commissioners every where, except [illegible], in counties where a paper is published, to publish annually an exhibit of the financial standing of the county showing the taxpayers how their money went—who got it and for what. We would except [illegible], because [illegible] is opposed to it, for the reason that it would cost a trifle—say [illegible] a year to the tax payer—and that wouldn't suit. We would get [illegible] to establish [illegible] courts to try all dog-fights, petty thefts, &c., and leave the Superior court to try only criminal cases involving [illegible] to give the Superior court [illegible] chance to dispose of the civil docket, or we would go for holding one term of the Superior court expressly to try criminal cases and another expressly to dispose of civil cases. But none of these things would suit the people any more than going to the Legislature would suit us, and you may count us out of the cases.

Take Care of the Boys.

[From the New York Herald.]

Three boys were arraigned in New Jersey recently for complicity in a murder that reflected unusual disgrace upon all persons concerned, jealousy of the attentions of the victim to a dissolute woman being the apparent cause of the crime. What the position of the alleged murderers were we do not know, but it is safe to say that had they received proper attention from their relatives and acquaintances they would never have reached their present disgraceful status. But in the hurry and drive of American life the boy, whether his parents are rich or poor, prominent or humble in station, is generally left to his own devices at a period of his life when personal association has more influence than all the teachings that money can pay for. The parent who is friend and companion to his boy as well as legal guardian and provider is never disgraced by his offspring. The man may be poor illiterate, and kept from home the greater part of the day by his work, but if he will give his leisure moments to his children and conform his acts and conversation to their capacity he need not fear the worst temptations that are spread before the young. The drifting apart of husband and wife is a misfortune that has been deplored thousands of times in prose and verse, but a far sadder spectacle is the enforced divorce of helpless, impressionable children from parents who once seemed to them almost gods. The boy whose parents, through disinclination, carelessness or selfishness, cut him adrift from their society is practically ruined even before he finds other associations; schools and churches never can make good his loss.

Revenue Taxes.

The stamp tax paid on manufactured tobacco alone, in the county of Orange, from the beginning of the year to the 30th day of April inclusive, is $314,897 98.

The special taxes and the tax on spirits and other sources, amount to no little sum. Of these we will speak hereafter. The town, and we were about to say the city, of Durham (since from its enterprise, thrift and government she is entitled justly to the cognomen), has paid mainly the above tax.

We make bold the assertion, without fear of successful contradiction, that Orange county pays more tax to the United States Government, than all the counties composing the Fourth Revenue District; nearly as much as the Fifth Revenue District, and more than all the other Revenue Districts in the State, and that too, under the general management of only one Deputy Collector.

We have said nothing of the large State and county and municipal taxes arising from the increase of wealth and population. The people of the State should be proud of Durham and should feel willing to accord to her that recognition she so worthily merits.—Durham Plant.

Exciting Court Scene.

There was great excitement in the Court of General Sessions, at Kingstree, S. S., on the 26th. A man named Ward was found guilty of forgery, and as soon as the verdict was announced he arose from his seat within the bar drew a pistol, and fired deliberately at two men named Harper and Lane, the principal witnesses against him. Harper is unhurt, but the second shot wounded Lane in both hands. Ward is in jail.

Old Physician Dead.

Dr. F. B. Haywood, Sr., an old and distinguished physician of this city died last Sabbath. Raleigh [illegible] at [illegible]

Tons of Money.

One hundred and thirty tons of gold coin and six hundred and twelve tons of silver coin now lie in the Sub-Treasury vaults in New York City. What a pile of money to remain idle!

Hot Weather.

The heat in New York city has been fearful. On Thursday there were thirty-four cases of sunstroke and eleven deaths. At 3 p. m. the thermometer stood at 93. It was the hottest May day in 10 years.—Observer.

Terrible Tornado.

A dispatch from Bonham, Texas, dated May 29, says: "A terrible tornado visited Savoy, on the Texas Railroad, last night, and totally destroyed the town, killing nine persons and wounding sixty more, some of whom will die. Nineteen business houses, a depot and twenty dwellings were destroyed, there being only five houses in the place not damaged. Physicians, nurses, medicine, coffins, provisions, and everything necessary were furnished them by the people of Bonham and a train of cars placed at their disposal. The scene beggars description. The earth is covered with the debris, and the groans of the sufferers are heart rending."

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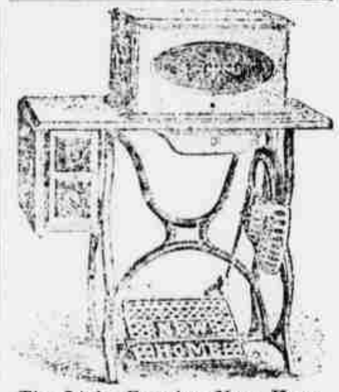

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All that I ask is that my customers and friends and the public will give me a call before purchasing elsewhere, as it will be to their advantage. Thanking my many friends for past favors and soliciting the same in the future, I am very respectfully,

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