The Chatham Record

THURSDAY, JULY 8, 1880.

H. A. LONDON, Jr., Editor.

THE PRESS CONVENTION.

We had the pleasure of attending last week the eighth annual Convention of the N. C. Press Association, which was held at Asheville. There was a larger number in attendance than at any previous convention, there being fifty three newspapers represented. The sessions of the convention were held in the court house beginning on the 30th of June and continuing two days. It has often been our pleasure to attend all kinds of conventions—political and otherwise—and it is with much pleasure and with a feeling of pride in our editorial brethren that we unhesitatingly assert that never before have we witnessed such courtesy in debate, such consideration of the feelings and toleration of the opinions of others, and such harmony as prevailed in the deliberations of this convention of the N. C. Press Association.

The most important business transacted was the appointment of a committee of three, consisting of Messrs. Cameron of the Durham Recorder, Bonitz of the Goldsboro Messenger, and London of the Chatham Record—to memorialize the next Legislature upon the subject of legal advertisements. In many States of the Union the law requires certain notices to be advertised in the county newspaper, instead of being stuck up on trees about in the country, and it is desired to have such a law enacted in this State. Quite a number of amendments were made to the constitution of the association, and its organization perfected. Steps were taken to prevent further imposition upon the courtesy of railroad officials by persons pretending to be members of the association.

The annual address was delivered by Col. R. B. Creecy, of the Elizabeth City Economist, and was a chaste and eloquent production—well worthy of the reputation of so gifted a writer. The annual poem was written and read by North Carolina's most gifted poetess—Mrs. Mary Bayard Clarke—and we are at a loss which to admire more, the beauty of the poem or the manner in which it was read—the one was only equalled by the other.

Dossey Battle Esq. was re-elected President and Jordan Stone Esq. was re-elected Secretary—most fitting compliments to two most estimable gentlemen and excellent officers—and each of whom seemed to be "the right man in the right place." Messrs. Creecy, Gosling and Green were elected Vice-Presidents and Messrs. Harper, London, Davis, Edwards and Robeson were elected the executive committee. An invitation was received from the authorities and citizens of Winston to hold the next convention at that place, which was accepted. Capt. S. A. Ashe, of the Raleigh Observer, was elected to deliver the annual address at the next convention. Ex-Gov. Holden was unanimously selected to write a history of Journalism in North Carolina. An invitation was received to make an excursion to Atlanta, but was declined for the want of time.

The citizens of Asheville did all within their power to promote the comfort and pleasure of the members of the convention and fully sustained the proverbial hospitality of mountaineers. On Wednesday night, at the commodious chapel of the Asheville Female College, a public reception was given the association by the citizens, when eloquent and appropriate addresses were delivered, at the conclusion of which a sumptuous banquet was enjoyed in the large dining room of the college. The next night a grand dress ball was given at the opera house, where the lovers of the terpsichorean art sported themselves. This was to many the most enjoyable occasion of the week, and even some of our more venerable brethren participated with all the zest of their younger days.

The town of Asheville is said to be the best advertised place in the United States, but a visit to it will convince any one that "the half hath not been told." In the past ten years its population has doubled—numbering now about three thousand—which will no doubt be again doubled during the next decade. The air is so salubrious and health-restoring—the town being situated 2,250 feet above the level of the sea—that Asheville is a popular resort for invalids, especially those affected with lung diseases, and is becoming a regular sanitarium. And while invalids go there to recover their health, hundreds of pleasure seekers annually resort there to enjoy the magnificent mountain scenery and the many other attractions of this, our "Queen city of the West." Large and well kept hotels and numerous private boarding houses comfortably entertain the numerous visitors. It was our good fortune to be entertained by Col. Nicholls, of the Swannanoa Hotel and we still have a yearning for his good things—tender mountain beef, fat mutton &c., &c.—upon which we feasted during our brief visit. There are quite a number of livery stables that keep numerous handsome equipages for pleasure drives, for no one can go to Asheville without driving out to Richmond Hill, Connelly's View, Beaucatcher and other prominent points of interest. There are many handsome residences in Asheville, and the court house is decidedly the best in the State, being recently built at a cost of thirty thousand dollars.

The railroad is graded all the distance to Asheville, or rather to where the depot is located, and the track is being rapidly laid, so that in a week or two the cars will run there. The ride on the railroad over the mountains is attended with an exciting pleasure, and affords a view of scenery nowhere surpassed. The grandest views are obtained in going up the mountain on the eastern side. Starting from Henry's—a station near the base of the Blue Ridge—the railroad meanders with tortuous windings to the summit, a distance of nine miles, while the dirt road between the same points is only three miles long. In this distance the railroad ascends a grade of 1,000 feet, and up this steep incline the iron horse snorts and puffs like a weary animal to pull the lightest load. While it must necessarily be dangerous to ride on this railroad, traversing lofty trestles, dashing over high embankments, piercing the darkness of rock-ribbed tunnels and thundering through mountain gorges, yet the scenery is so grand, so indescribably magnificent, that the mind forgets these dangers and becomes absorbed and enraptured in the sublimity of Nature's grand panorama spread out before the bewildered eye. The skillful engineering displayed in the construction of this road is almost marvellous, and will be a permanent monument to James W. Wilson. There are seven tunnels, the longest of which is at the summit, and is about one third of a mile in length. In entering it we seem to bid farewell to the world and descend into that oft described region where His Satanic Majesty reigns supreme. We safely passed through the dreaded dangers of the famous "road cut," which are not so dangerous as described.

The ride over the mountains is of itself well worth the long journey to Asheville, and we advise all our readers who can do so to join the first excursion party to the mountains, and enjoy such scenery as can be found nowhere else. The people of North Carolina can never realize what a grand State they live in unless they travel over its vast extent and see for themselves its greatness and glory, and in no part will they find that greatness and glory better displayed than among the mountains of the great West.

Preparing for the Contest.

The Republicans of Wake county held their County Convention at Raleigh on the 3d inst. for the purpose of appointing delegates to attend their District and State Conventions. We happened to be in Raleigh at the time, and, passing along Fayetteville street, we heard such yells and shouts in Metropolitan Hall that curiosity prompted us to enter and see the sight. Our first thought was, what a contrast this motley crew presented to our late State Convention! In one dense mass we saw a mixed and motley throng of black and tan voters, interspersed with a few whites, and all greatly excited, and half a dozen attempting to speak at the same time. Many of the faces involuntarily reminded us of the dark days of Radical rule and ruin—of the time when fraud and corruption were rife in high places—and we shuddered to think that these men were attempting to regain their lost power. Yes, we there saw such men as Tim Lee, the defaulting sheriff, and Albert Magnin, the defaulting treasurer of Wake county. There was James H. Harris, the bribe taker, who became so notorious in the days of Littlefield and Deweese. There were many others of less note, and we allude to this for the purpose of putting Democrats on their guard, and to warn them that the same men who so well nigh ruined our good old State in 1868 and '69 are again plotting and planning to regain their long lost power through divisions in our ranks. These men, instead of being abashed by the rebukes of an indignant people, are again striving to re-enact the disgraceful scenes that were witnessed here in the dark days of Radical rule. It is said that eternal vigilance is the price of liberty, and so if Democrats desire to retain the supremacy of their party they must preserve intact their organization, present a united front to their opponents, and prevent any divisions in their ranks, otherwise their watchful foe will overcome them, and our necks once more bend under the galling yoke of Radicalism.

OUR NEXT PRESIDENT AND VICE-PRESIDENT.

We give our readers life-like portraits of H[illegible] the faces of their next President and Vice President. [illegible] but we are determined that the people of Chatham [illegible] Make up campaign clubs for The Record.

The Vice-President.

Last week we gave a sketch of our Presidential candidate, and now we copy from the Raleigh News the following biography of our next Vice-President:

"William H. English, of Indiana, was born August 27th, 1822, at Lexington, Scott county, the son of Major Elisha G. English, a Kentuckian by birth, who emigrated to Indiana in 1818, and during a long and honored life filled several positions of important trust in the gift of the people and of the Government. Major English was one of fourteen children; his wife, Mahala Eastin, a Kentuckian by birth, but of Virginian descent, had sixteen brothers and sisters; she still survives at the age of eighty-two. Their son William, after obtaining such educational advantages as the common schools of that newly settled region afforded, took a three years' course of study at South Hanover College, studied law and was admitted to practice in the Circuit Court at the early age of eighteen. Politics, however, had for him more attraction than his profession, and at an early age engaged his attention, for while in his teens he was a delegate from Scott county to the Democratic State convention at Indianapolis, the round trip in those times, when there were no railroads, occupied six days,—and in the famous "hard cider and log cabin" campaign of 1840 he took a very active part as a stump speaker. Under Tyler the young politician obtained his first office—the postoffice of his native village, Lexington. In 1843 he was chosen Clerk of the Indiana House of Representatives, and after the election of Polk spent four years in the Treasury Department at Washington. Democracy, it may be said, was prevalent in the English family; the father and uncle of Mrs. English were Vice-Presidents in the National Convention of 1848, and two other uncles delegates, all four brothers being members of Legislatures in different States.

In 1850 Mr. English was elected Secretary of the Constitutional Convention; a year later he was sent to the first Legislature that met under the provisions of the constitution then adopted, where a signal honor awaited him. In the Democratic caucus on the Speakership Mr. English received 22 votes to 31 for John W. Davis, who had been Speaker of the Twenty-ninth Congress, and when a few days later Mr. Davis resigned owing to a disagreement with the House, his young rival was chosen as his successor, and discharged so well the duties of his office that though it was the first session held under the provisions of the new constitution, not a single appeal was taken from his decisions. In 1852 Mr. English was elected to Congress, defeating John D. Ferguson by 488 votes; being re-elected in 1854, defeating Judge Thomas C. Slaughter by 588, and again, in 1856 and 1858, his majority on the last occasion that he consented to run being 1,812.

The eight years during which Mr. English sat in Congress were crowded with exciting and important events, and he had his full share in the work of making history. As a member of the Committee on Territories at the time of the introduction of the Kansas-Nebraska bill, he submitted a minority report sustaining the "popular sovereignty" idea, which Mr. Greeley says in his "American Conflict" could not have been defeated but for the parliamentary manoeuvre which cut off all amendments but the substitution of the Senate bill. Mr. English, it may be added, was one of the three or four members from the Free States who survived the storm that descended on the supporters of the bill. Later he steadily and firmly opposed the admission of Kansas under the Lecompton constitution until that instrument had been ratified by a vote of the people, and at the time of the dead-lock between the Senate and House moved the resolution to concur in the proposition of the Senate for a committee of free conference, which was carried by the casting vote of the Speaker. The committee was composed of Mr. English, Mr. Alexander H. Stephens and the late Mr. W. A. Howard, of Michigan, on the part of the House, and of Senators Green, of Missouri, R. M. T. Hunter and Seward. The conference resulted in the adoption of the Kansas compromise measure, commonly known as "the English bill," which finally passed both houses of Congress and became the law. "I consider," wrote President Buchanan to its author, "I consider the present occasion the most fortunate of your life. It will be your fate to end the dangerous agitation, to confer lasting benefits on your country and to render your character historical. I shall remain always your friend."

On the eve of the Democratic split of 1861 Mr. English, who was a member of the National Campaign Committee, [illegible] to the Charleston Convention, made an earnest appeal for harmony and concession. [illegible] and he retired from political life, declining a renomination to Congress, to attend to his private business. He was offered the command of a regiment by Gov. Morton, but declined it, though he was throughout the war a firm and consistent supporter of the Union. Removing to Indianapolis in 1863 he founded and became President of the First National Bank of Indianapolis, one of the first organized under the National Banking Act and the first to put out its circulation. Over the fortunes of this successful institution he presided until 1877, when he retired, receiving a handsome testimonial from directors and stockholders in commemoration of [illegible] The [illegible] magnitude of his private business operations was the cause of his retirement. Since 1861 Mr. English has taken no active part in politics, though [illegible] interest in the [illegible] He [illegible] four years [illegible] when he made an earnest plea in favor of sound financial doctrine. His own views on the financial question were thus expressed [illegible] as follows:

"I am for honest money, as in politics and morals, and think the great material and business interests of this country [illegible] the most solid [illegible] and as far as possible from the [illegible] of demagogues. At the same time I am opposed to [illegible] legislation and in favor of [illegible] the interests [illegible] way [illegible] protect the liberty of the [illegible] the property of the people without [illegible] the rights of the States [illegible] usurped powers [illegible] the limits of the Constitution [illegible] think the Democracy [illegible] stand.'

Mr. English was married in 1847 to Miss Emma M. Jackson, of Virginia, by whom he had two children, [illegible] sitting in the Indiana House of Representatives as a Democrat, his father and grandfather before him, and a daughter, the wife of Dr. Willoughby Walling, of Louisville, Ky. Mrs. English died four years ago. A contemporary writer thus described the subject of this sketch:

"As a speaker Mr. English is logical rather than ornate; in business he is a man of action rather than of words. His efforts as a debater are more remarkable for practical common sense than for brilliancy of oratory; his mind is strictly practical in all its scope and bearings. Energy of character, firmness of purpose and an unswerving integrity are his chief characteristics. In personal intercourse he is inclined to be retiring and reserved, which might be attributed to haughtiness or pride by a stranger, but to an acquaintance and friend he is open, candid and affable. In the private and social relations of life he stands without blemish and above reproach. As a business man he has most valuable qualities. Without being too cautious, he is prudent and conservative. He looks searchingly and comprehensively into the nature and probable results of all schemes, and when he once puts his shoulder to the wheel it is with a strength that carries all before it. He is not demonstrative in anything that he does, but there is a quiet, determined and unceasing application of his whole resources of mind and energy to the end in view."

Two Families Starving.

Intelligence was received at the Signal Office in this city yesterday to the effect that two families on Stump Point, on the north side of Bogue Inlet, at about 35 miles south of Fort Macon, are in an actual state of starvation. The families stricken down consist of George Gilliam, wife and six children, and Ford Lewis, wife and two children. This discovery was made in this wise: Mr. Corbett, formerly stationed at Stump Point, below this city, but now in charge of the office at Fort Macon, [illegible] of his wire and [illegible] a boat in which to cross Bogue Inlet, accidentally came [illegible] families in a [illegible] of them [illegible] fever, and almost [illegible] order of the [illegible] the remainder of them being without money, or provisions, or the means of getting them, and none of their number being able to go over to the main land for help. When Mr. Corbett arrived they had not had a mouthful of anything to eat in three days, and were actually on the verge of starvation, besides being worn out with sickness and want of rest. Mr. Corbett had a pocket instrument with him, by means of which he succeeded in transmitting the information of the destitute families to the office here, and we learn that a telegram has been forwarded to Morehead City, so that help may speedily reach these sorely afflicted people.—Wilmington Star.

Three Good Omens.

The last Democratic President of the United States was James Buchanan. He was a Pennsylvanian and was nominated at Cincinnati.

In the history of this country no man has ever gone from the United States Senate to the White House. Mr. English [illegible] has never undertaken to do so. [illegible] United States Senator.

There never has been an instance in this country where a political party, after getting control of the House of Representatives, has failed at the next general election thereafter to elect its candidate for President. Since 1876 the Democrats have gained control of the House.—Statesville Landmark.

A Spider's Bite.

Last Monday week Miss Mag Gaut, who lives at Reynold's mill in Sutton township, was out blackberry hunting and, taking off her gloves, laid them on a fence until she had finished, when she drew them on and immediately felt a sting on the back of one hand. She pulled off the glove and a small speckled spider fell out. After getting home she began to experience violent pains in the arms, extending from thence to her legs and all over her body. At first she was unable to account for the sensation, but finally, remembering the spider bite, told those who attended her of it, when they began to give her whiskey. The pain continued to increase [illegible] she was suffering agony. Dr. Quint Little, of Catawba, was sent for, and found her in a most distressing state. She fell about the room as if she had no control of herself, her knees and other parts of her body were rendered [illegible] by the manner in which she threw herself over the floor; she besought those present to give her something with which to kill herself, and all in all presented a most pitiable spectacle. Her sufferings continued all of that night and with more or less severity throughout several succeeding days, but she gradually began to grow more comfortable until the latter part of the week, when the pain had entirely left her.—Statesville Landmark.

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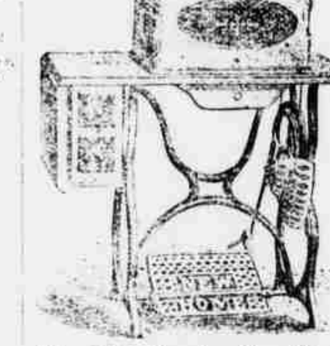

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[illegible]

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