The Chatham Record

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H. A. LONDON, Editor.

SOJOURNER TRUTH.

A noted character died last week, being the celebrated "Sojourner Truth," as she was usually called. She was an old colored woman who attained a great notoriety as an Abolition lecturer, for many years before the war. She was also one of the oldest persons who has died during this century, being considerably over one hundred years of age. She was born a slave in Ulster county, New York, and was emancipated in 1817. The abolitionists at the North made her quite a heroine, and she went throughout the Northern cities making abolition speeches, and her fervent denunciations of slavery always produced a stirring effect upon her hearers. She made a good deal of money by her lectures, and having bought a farm in Michigan, she there passed the remainder of her long life in comfort and plenty.

CONGRESS.

The Forty-eighth Congress convened on last Monday, and a quorum was present in both branches. The Senate was called to order by Senator Edmunds, and the House was organized by the election of Hon. J. G. Carlisle, of Kentucky, as Speaker; Hon. J. B. Clark, of Missouri, as Clerk; Hon. J. P. Leedom, of Ohio, as Sergeant-at-arms; Mr. J. G. Wintersmith, of Texas, as Doorkeeper; and Mr. L. Dalton, of Indiana, as Postmaster. The election of Mr. Carlisle is received with much satisfaction and is taken as an indication that the House of Representatives will attempt to reform and revise the existing unjust and oppressive tariff.

The members of the House of Representatives, who took their seats last Monday, were elected over a year ago, but their terms of office began on the fourth of last March. In order that their Representatives might better reflect the sentiments of their constituents, they should come fresh from the people, that is, should run their seats in a short time after their election, instead of waiting over a year. As it is, before a congressman takes his seat he is busy electioneering to retain it, and others are busy trying to succeed him.

As the Senate is republican and the President (who can veto bills) is a republican the democratic House will not be able to afford much relief to the people. But if they cannot pass or repeal a law, they can at least prevent the passage of any more bad laws, and this is worth something. Our people cannot expect a democratic House to control a republican Senate and President and therefore we must not look forward to accomplishing now that which we can and will do when we have a democratic Senate and President as well as a democratic House.

A CORRECTOR CORRECTED.

When one paper attempts to correct another the corrector should be sure of being right. We are reminded of this by seeing in a recent issue of the Charlotte Observer the following editorial paragraph:

"The Pittsboro Record, published by H. A. London, Esq., member of the last legislature, states that the Western North Carolina railroad company has promised to pay the State $600,000 by the first of next May, and that the legislature passed a resolution that no taxes would be levied next year to support the state government. We understand from a high officer on the Western N. C. Railroad that the amount is not due until September 1st, 1884, and that it will be paid at maturity. As the State taxes will have been levied before that time, we suppose the Record is in error in stating that no taxes are to be levied."

In attempting to correct us our esteemed brother of the Observer has himself fallen into three errors in the above paragraph, as follows:

1. The editor of the Record was not a "member of the last legislature."

2. The Record did not state that, "the legislature passed a resolution that no taxes would be levied next year, &c." But we did state that the legislature had passed an act declaring that, IF this payment of $600,000 was made, then no State taxes would be levied next year, and for the correctness of our statement we refer to the law itself, as contained in section 52 of chapter 136 of the Acts of 1883, which reads as follows:

"If the state treasurer shall have received the sum of six hundred thousand dollars from the Western North Carolina Railroad Company, ON OR BEFORE THE FIRST DAY OF MAY, one thousand eight hundred and eighty-four, the taxes for state purposes shall not be computed on the tax lists for the year one thousand eight hundred and eighty-four, upon the subjects embraced in classes one and two of this act."

3. Notwithstanding the assertion of the chief officer of the Western N. C. Railroad" upon whose authority our contemporary corrects us, we insist that the $600,000 is due the 1st of May, and not the 1st of September, and we give as our authority the LAW itself as contained in sections 1 and 2 of chapter 241 of the Acts of 1883, which read as follows:

"Section 1. That the treasurer be and is hereby authorized and directed to sell and transfer to A. S. Buford, Wm. P. Clyde and T. M. Logan, assignees of Wm. J. Best, or their assigns, the five hundred and twenty thousand dollars of the coupon bonds of the Western North Carolina Railroad Company, which were deposited with him under the provisions of sections twelve and twenty-four, of the act of twenty-ninth March, one thousand eight hundred and eighty, entitled "an act to provide for the sale of the state's interest in the Western North Carolina Railroad Company and for other purposes," upon the payment to said treasurer of six hundred thousand dollars in cash.

Sec. 2. That if the said assignees of Wm. J. Best do not purchase the said Western North Carolina Railroad as herein contemplated and in pursuance to the Tennessee deed, above near the mouth of the Nantahala River, in a manner acceptable to the commissioners, provided for in said act of twenty-ninth March, one thousand eight hundred and eighty, to examine and accept the work on said road, on or before the first day of September, one thousand [illegible] dollars of the coupon bonds of the Western North Carolina Railroad Company shall have full authority to sell and convey [illegible] and except [illegible]

Democratic Prospects.

[illegible]

The accession of Mr. Carlisle to the Speakership will make a very great change in the politics of the country. The several trimmers who have so long ruled the democratic party, and dragged it from one defeat to another, have at last been overthrown. For the first time in many years—not for the second time—the party will be something of its own, for its own purposes, and for the welfare of the people. With [illegible] people again [illegible]

[illegible] from to the people when they came into power, they have become in the course of their long, absolute and ill-gotten tenure, the allies of monopolists of all kinds: incapable of reforming the abuses which have in the course of years gathered about the government: intent for those many years only on devices to maintain themselves in power. There is scarcely one of the few and very incomplete reforms which have been made in the last ten years which was not opposed on the republicans by democratic agitation before the country by democratic leaders in Congress. The restoration of self government to the Southern States was opposed by the unanimous demand of the people in 1876. The civil service reform was grudgingly voted by the party and has languished in the democratic Senate. The reduction of the tariff was opposed by democratic demands and arguments in the House. The extreme vicious and ineffective horrors of taxation was the fruit of democratic control.

The democratic party, if it is cast [illegible] party of [illegible] party of [illegible] party of