The Chatham Record

THURSDAY, NOV. 28, 1889.

H. A. LONDON, Editor.

CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION.

It was our pleasure to attend last week the celebration at Fayetteville of the one hundredth anniversary of the ratification of the Federal Constitution by the State of North Carolina, and it was beyond all doubt the greatest occasion ever known in our good old State. It was a great success both in the character of its commemorative exercises, and in the quantity and quality of the visitors attending it, notwithstanding the very inclement weather which interfered so greatly with its full enjoyment. Never before have we seen in this State so many persons assembled—a very reasonable estimate placing the number at 20,000—and seldom if ever before have so many of our distinguished officials been seen together, there being present our two Senators, several Representatives, the Governor and all the State officers, except the Secretary of State, and several Judges. There was also a large attendance of the military, several companies of the State Guard being present, together with the Adjutant General and his staff. A national character was given the celebration by the presence of the famous Marine Band from Washington City, and the innumerable flags which decorated the streets were loaned for that purpose by the national government. Not one of the expected visitors from other States was present.

The celebration began on Wednesday and closed on Friday. The Governor arrived at 11.30 o'clock Wednesday morning, and was met at the railroad station by a committee in carriages, and escorted down the main street of the town by a long procession consisting of Chief Marshal Carr and his numerous assistants all mounted and resplendent in their regalia, several military companies, and the Marine Band. Arriving at a large stand that had been erected nearly opposite the La Fayette Hotel, the Governor and other distinguished persons ascended the same and reviewed the procession as it passed. The celebration exercises were then formally opened by the Mayor of the town (N. W. Ray, Esq.) introducing Gov. Fowle, who made a short but very eloquent speech. At its conclusion Mayor Ray announced that the Governor would now hold a reception at the Hotel where a large number of persons at once called and paid their respects. At 4 o'clock in the afternoon the Marine Band, seated on an immense stand that had been erected at the market house, gave an open air concert which was greatly enjoyed by the thousands that thronged around. Again that night the same band gave another concert in the large building, in which the centennial ball was held, and the music furnished was thought to be the most delightful feature of the whole celebration. At the conclusion of this concert the ball was opened and about 200 handsomely dressed young ladies and gentlemen were soon enjoying the delights of the dance.

Thursday was to be the big day of the celebration, but to the dismay and disappointment of the many thousands who had hoped for fair weather, the rain began to fall before daydawn and poured down until about midday, when there were signs of its ceasing. It was then announced that the centennial exercises would begin at 2 o'clock, but that the grand parade would be postponed until next day. At 12 o'clock in the hall of the hotel two bronzed plaques were presented to Chief Marshal Carr by his assistants, the presentation speech being made by ex-Congressman L. C. Latham most eloquently and appropriately. Mr. Carr's speech of acceptance was one of the most appropriate that we have ever heard. It was short and eloquent, and delivered with much grace and expression. At 2 o'clock the Governor, Senator Ransom and other distinguished persons were escorted by the marshals from the hotel to the stand at the market house, that being the identical spot where the Federal Constitution had been ratified exactly one hundred years before. The exercises were then opened with prayer by Rev. J. C. Huske, D.D. Chief Marshal Carr next introduced Mayor Ray, who made a speech of welcome and introduced Gov. Fowle, who presented a United States flag to each of the four regiments of the State Guard, preceding the presentation with an eloquent eulogy to the flag of our Union. Letters from President Harrison, ex-President Cleveland and ex-President Davis were then read by Hon. W. J. Green. The letters of the two former were short, merely expressing their regrets at not being able to be present. When Cleveland's letter was read and his name announced a mighty cheer arose and great enthusiasm was manifested—a proof of his popularity with that vast concourse. The letter of Mr. Davis was a true and just tribute to North Carolina, and should be read by every citizen of this State and its valuable historical statements be taught to every child. The readers of the RECORD will find it published in this issue. During the reading of Mr. Davis's letter two old ex-Confederate Colonels (De Rosset and Parker), in token of their respect for him, arose and stood with uncovered heads. Gov. Fowle then introduced Senator Matt. W. Ransom as the orator of the day. It had been expected by Gen. Ransom's friends that on this historic occasion he would make the greatest speech of his life, nor were they mistaken. It was our privilege and pleasure to be seated within a few feet of the distinguished speaker, and thus heard every word uttered and saw every gesture made by him. His manner was the personification of grace, his gestures natural and expressive, his enunciation clear and distinct, his diction ornate, his words happily chosen, his sentences well rounded and eloquent and his subject matter historical, instructive and entertaining. The oration occupied exactly two hours in its delivery and was made without reference to notes or manuscript. At its conclusion loud calls were made for Senator Vance, who in response thereto arose and briefly excused himself and stated that according to the programme he would speak next day. The most enthusiastic cheering of the day greeted this favorite of all North Carolinians. The immense crowd then dispersed.

Expensive preparations had been made for the grandest pyrotechnic display that night ever seen in this State, but on account of the rain it was postponed until the next night, greatly to the disappointment of the thousands who were anxious to see it.

Friday morning the sun arose bright and clear, and soon after breakfast the streets were thronged with an expectant crowd of sight-seers. At 10 o'clock the marshals (about 60 in number) formed in double column in front of the hotel and rode to the military camp, where the soldiers were in readiness to join in the grand procession that was then formed and paraded the principal streets of the town. The most attractive feature of the parade was the floats, thirteen in number and each representing one of the original thirteen States. Each float was drawn by a pair of horses all gaily caparisoned and with jauntily dressed postilions walking at their heads. All the floats were artistically decorated and presented a very handsome appearance, and mounted on each was a beautiful young lady appropriately dressed to personate the State represented by her. This procession was the most brilliant and attractive pageant that we have ever beheld in this State, and the many thousands of persons who thronged the streets and balconies on its route made the welkin ring with their tumultuous cheers, while the soul stirring music of the brass bands aroused their enthusiasm to the highest pitch. On arriving at the fair grounds the procession paraded around the race track, and then disbanded.

We regret not having heard Senator Vance's speech, which was delivered at the fair grounds soon after the close of the parade, but we know that it was an able effort, as he has never failed to be equal to any occasion nor has ever disappointed the expectations of his friends. A very interesting competitive drill took place, after Vance's speech, between some of the military companies, in which the first prize was awarded to the Governor's Guards, of Raleigh, and the second to the Wilmington Light Infantry. And just here it gives us pleasure to note the gentlemanly behaviour of our citizen soldiers. When on duty they all acted and looked every inch as true soldiers, and when off duty they were as courteous and polite as any gentlemen could be. We saw only one of their entire number at all intoxicated, and [illegible] to say that one was the Brigadier General—a disgraceful example to set his men.

Altogether this Centennial Celebration was an occasion long to be remembered, and the only drawback to its complete success was the very inclement weather on Thursday, which would have entirely destroyed the success of any ordinary occasion. We heartily congratulate the patriotic and public spirited citizens of Fayetteville upon the many compliments paid them and their good old town, all of which we are pleased to say were well deserved.

THE REPUBLICANS in North Carolina will probably attempt in the next political campaign to use the Farmers' Alliance as a catspaw in trying to defeat and disrupt the democratic party, but we [illegible] predict that they will not succeed in any such scheme. In last week's Raleigh Signal, one of the leading republican papers of this State, appears a long communication strongly urging that such an attempt be made. The communication urges the republicans to "disband and join the Farmers Alliance and force issues between that organization and the democratic party". Mark the words, and let the democratic members of the Alliance be on their guard!

After the Prohibition campaign in 1881 the republicans attempted to defeat and disrupt the democratic party in this State by trying to arouse the passions and prejudices of anti-prohibition democrats, and to get them to join the so-called "Liberals". But they signally failed, and we confidently predict that they will also fail in their next similar scheme.

The principles and interests of the Farmers' Alliance and of the democratic party are identical—are one and the same—and it would be criminal folly in any man or set of men to attempt to antagonize them. The Farmers' Alliance saved North Carolina at the last election from republican rule, and it will be the last [illegible] deliver over our good old State to republican rule at the next election, and don't you forget it!

Justice to North Carolina.

Beauvoir, Miss., Oct. 30th, 1889.

[illegible]

GENTLEMEN:—Your letter inviting me to attend North Carolina's Centennial, to be held at Fayetteville on the 21st of November next, was duly received, but this acknowledgment has been delayed under the hope that an improvement in my health would enable me to be present as invited. As the time approaches I find that cherished hope unrealized and that I must regretfully confess my inability to join you in the commemorative celebration. It has been my sincere wish to meet the people of the "Old North State" on the occasion which will naturally cause them with just pride to trace the historic river of their years to its source in the colony of Albemarle. Along that river stand monuments of fidelity to the inalienable rights of the people, even when an infant one resistfully resisting executive usurpation, and in the defence of the privileges guaranteed by charter, boldly defying Kings, Lords and Commons. Always self-reliant, yet not vainly self-asserting, she provided for her own defence, while giving material aid to her neighbors, as she regarded all of the British colonies of America. [illegible] she sent troops armed and equipped for service in both Virginia and [illegible] Carolina also despatched a ship from the port of Wilmington with food for the sufferers in Boston, after the closing of that port by Great Britain. In her declaration that the cause of Boston was the cause of all, there was not only the assertion of a community of rights and a purpose to defend them, but [illegible] of the commercial advantages which would probably accrue from [illegible] a rival port.

With [illegible] of regard for the great [illegible] men of the other colonies, I have been led to special veneration for the men of North Carolina, as the first to distinctly declare for State independence and from first to last to uphold the right of a people to govern themselves.

I do not propose to discuss the vexed question of the Mecklenburg resolutions of May, 1775, which from the similarity of expression to the great Declaration of Independence of July, 1776, have created much contention; because the claim of North Carolina rests on a broader foundation than the resolves of the meeting at Mecklenburg, which deserve to be preserved as the outburst of a brave, liberty loving people on the receipt of news of the combat at Concord between British soldiers and citizens of Massachusetts. The broader foundation referred to are the records of [illegible] preceding and succeeding the meeting at Mecklenburg, and the proceedings of the Provincial Congress which met at Hillsboro in August, 1775. Before this congress convened North Carolina, in disregard of opposition by the Governor, had sent delegates to represent her in the general congress to be held in Philadelphia, and had denounced the attack upon Boston, and had appointed committees of safety with such far-reaching functions as belong to revolutionary times only. The famous Stamp Act of Parliament was openly resisted by men of highest reputation, a vessel bringing the stamps was seized and the commander bound not to permit them to be landed. These things were done in open day by men who wore no disguise and shunned no [illegible]. Before the congress of the [illegible] had assembled the last royal governor of North Carolina had fled to escape from the indignation of a people who, burdened but not bent by oppression, had resolved to live or die as freemen. The Congress at Hillsboro went earnestly to work not merely to declare independence but to provide the means for maintaining it. The Congress feeling quite equal to the occasion, proceeded to make laws for raising and organizing troops, for supplying money, and to meet the contingency of a blockade of her seaports, offered bounties to stimulate the production of the articles most needful in time of war. On the 12th of April, 1776, the Continental Congress being then in session and with much diversity of opinion as to the proper course to be pursued under this condition of affairs, the North Carolina Congress resolved "that the delegates for this Colony in the Continental Congress be empowered to concur with the delegates of the other colonies in declaring independency and forming foreign alliances, reserving to the Colony the sole and exclusive right of forming a constitution and laws for the Colony," etc., etc.

This I believe was the first distinct declaration for separation from Great Britain and State independence, and there is much beside priority to evoke admiration. North Carolina had by many acts of resistence to the British authorities provoked their vengeance, yet she dared to lead in defiance, but no danger however dread in the event of her isolation could make her accept co-operation, save with the reservation of supremacy in regard to her own constitution and laws—the sacred principle of "community independence" and government founded on the consent of the governed. After having done her whole duty in the war for independence and become a free, sovereign and independent State, she entered into the Confederation with these rights and powers recognized as unabridged. When experience proved the articles of Confederation to be inadequate to the needs of good government, she agreed to a general convention for their amendment. The convention did not limit its labors to amendment of the articles, but proceeded to form a new plan of government, and adhering to the cardinal principle that governments must be derived from the consent of the governed, submitted the new plan to the people of the several States, to be adopted or rejected as each by and for itself should decide. It is to be remembered that the articles of Confederation for the "United States of America" declared that "the Union shall be perpetual," and that no alteration should be made in the said articles unless it should be confirmed by the legislatures of every State. True to her creed of State sovereignty, North Carolina recognized the power of such States as chose to do so to withdraw from the Union, and by the same token her own unquestioned right to decide whether or not she would subscribe to the proposed compact for a more perfect Union, and in which it is to be observed the declaration for perpetuity was omitted. In the hard school of experience she had learned the danger to popular liberty from a government which could claim to be the final judge of its own powers. She had fought a long and devastating war for State independence and was not willing to put in jeopardy the priceless jewel she had gained. After a careful examination it was concluded that the proposed constitution did not sufficiently guard against usurpation by the usual resort to implication of powers not expressly granted, and declined to act upon the general assurances that the deficiency would soon be supplied by the needful amendments. In the mean time State after State had acceded to the new union, until the requisite number had been obtained for the establishment of the "Constitution between the States so ratifying the same." With characteristic self reliance North Carolina confronted the prospect of isolation, and calmly resolved if so it must be to stand alone rather than subject to hazard her most prized possession, community independence. Confiding in the security offered by the first ten amendments to the Constitution, especially the 9th and 10th of the series, North Carolina voluntarily acceded to the new union. The 10th amendment restricted the functions of the Federal government to the exercise of the powers delegated to it by the States, all of which were expressly stipulated. Beyond that limit nothing could be done rightfully. If covertly done, under color of law, or by reckless usurpation of an extraneous majority which, feeling power, should disregard right, had the State no peaceful remedy? Could she as a State in a confederation, the bed-rock of which is the consent of its members, be bound by a compact which others broke to her injury? Had her reserved rights no other than a paper barrier to protect them against invasion?

Surely the heroic patriots and wise statesmen of North Carolina by their sacrifices, utterances and deeds have shown what their answer would have been to these questions, if they had been asked, on the day when in convention they ratified the amended Constitution of the United States. Her exceptional delay in ratification marks her vigilant care for the rights she had so early asserted and so steadily maintained.

Of her it may be said, as it was of Sir Walter Scott in his youth, that he was "always the first in a row and the last out of it." In the peaceful repose which followed the Revolution all her interests were progressive.

Farms, school houses and towns rose over a subdued wilderness, and with a mother's joy she saw her sons distinguished in the public service by intelligence, energy and perseverance and by the integrity without which all other gifts are but as tinsel. North Carolina grew apace in all which constitutes power. Until 1812 she was required as a state of the Union to resist aggressions on the high seas in the visitation of American merchant vessels and the impressment of American seamen by the armed cruisers of Great Britain.

These seamen generally belonged to the New England states; none probably were North Carolinians; but her old spirit was vital still—the cause of one was the cause of all, as she announced when Boston was under embargo.

At every roll call for the common defence she answered, "Here." When blessed peace returned she stacked her arms for which she had no prospective use. Her love for her neighbors had been tried and not found wanting in the time of their need; why should she anticipate hostility from them?

The envy, selfish jealousy and criminal hate of a Cain could not come near to her heart. If not to suspect such vice in others be indiscreet credulity, it is a knightly virtue and part of an honest nature. In many years of military and civil service it has been my good fortune to know the sons of North Carolina under circumstances of trial and could make a list of those deserving honorable mention which would too far extend this letter, already I fear tediously long.

Devotion to principle, self reliance and inflexible adherence to resolution when adopted, accompanied by conservative caution, were the characteristics displayed by North Carolina in both her colonial and State history. All these qualities were exemplified in her action on the day of the anniversary of which you commemorate. If there be any, not likely to be found with you, but possibly elsewhere, who shall ask "how then should North Carolina consistently enact her ordinance of secession in 1861?" he is referred to the Declaration of Independence of 1776; to the articles of Confederation of 1777, for a perpetual union of the States, and the secession of States from the union so established; to the treaty of 1783, recognizing the independence of the States severally and distinctively; to the Constitution of the United States, with its first ten amendments; to the time honored resolutions of 1798-1799; that from these one and all he may learn that the State having won her independence by heavy sacrifices, had never surrendered it nor had ever attempted to delegate the unalienable rights of the people. How valiantly her sons bore themselves in the war between the States the lists of the killed and wounded testify. She gave them a sacrificial offering on the altar of the liberties their fathers had won and had left as an inheritance to their posterity. Many sleep far from the land of their nativity. Peace to their ashes. Honor to their memory and the mother who bore them.

Faithfully,

JEFFERSON DAVIS.

A dispatch from Rio de Janeiro states that universal suffrage has been established throughout the new Republic of Brazil.

A company of Northern capitalists from Buffalo, N. Y., are about to purchase a large body of land near Moyock station, in Currituck county, amounting to some 20,000 acres to settle up with small farmers and manufacturers.

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W. L. DOUGLAS

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$3 SHOE FOR LADIES.

[illegible]

W. L. DOUGLAS, Brockton, Mass.

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W. L. LONDON,

PITTSBORO', N. C.

April 18, 1889.

MORTGAGE SALE.—BY VIRTUE of two mortgage deeds executed to the undersigned by W. D. Hocker and wife, [illegible], the first dated December 12th, 1888, and registered in Chatham county, book [illegible], and the second dated April [illegible], 1889, and duly registered, I will, on the [illegible] day of December, 1889, at the court house door in the town of Pittsboro, sell at public auction for cash the lands as described in said mortgage deeds, viz: three tracts containing in all 217 acres lying on the [illegible] side of Deep River, [illegible] miles below [illegible], Chatham county, and known as the "[illegible] place."

This Nov. 7, 1889. J. D. SMITH, Mortgagee.

A. T. GILBERT, Attorney.

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[illegible]

NOTICE! [illegible]

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