The Chatham Record

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 1895.

H. A. LONDON, Editor.

THE allotted time of the Legislature will expire on the 10th day of March, and we may safely predict that it will then adjourn. According to our State constitution the Legislators are paid for a session of sixty days, and if they remain in session longer, they must serve without compensation. Their sixty days will expire on the 10th, and therefore we can very safely predict that their session will expire, with their pay, on the same day. And we may also venture to predict that they will not adjourn before the 10th, but remain in session every day for which they can draw their pay. It is the first time, and will undoubtedly be the last time, that most of them have ever had a chance at the public crib—have ever had their hands in the public treasury—and you may be sure that they will make the most of their present opportunity. And by the way we have not seen any bill introduced to reduce their pay. Twenty years ago, when the Constitution fixed the legislator's pay at $4 a day, cotton was about 15 cents a pound, wheat $1 a bushel and everything else much higher than now. Of course, therefore, it was naturally expected that when this "reform" Legislature met, the very first thing they did would be to reduce their own pay?

Most of the members took a trip to the New Bern Fair, last week. They voted down a resolution to adjourn so that all could go, but went, of course drawing mileage all the same. And strange to say—*incredible dictu*—what do you think they were accused of? Why actually of travelling on free railroad passes! The idea of a "reform" legislator accepting a railroad pass! Of course this must be a horrid democratic campaign lie? No, not at all; but it is a public accusation made in open debate in the Senate by a "reformer" himself, Starbuck of Guilford, who strongly denounced it and declared it outrageous for populists and republicans to accept passes over railroads, which democrats had been having.

Considering that this is a Legislature of "reform and retrenchment" they have a queer way of retrenching. For instance, on last Thursday the Senate passed a bill to pay Rev Solomon Pool $2.50, as mileage money that was said to be due him from the State Guard, of which he was president of that date, and almost ruined it. The Legislature of 1887 passed a bill to pay him $4,000 in "full for all claims" against the State and that sum was duly paid him; but now since the lapse of a year or so applies to this "reform" Legislature to pay him $2.50 additional on the same claim, and they make the taxpayers of North Carolina pay it!

The election law which is designed to perpetuate republican rule, was rushed through the House one day last week, after allowing only one hour's debate on it. If it is a good bill, surely it could have stood the test of a thorough examination and discussion, and common fairness required a reasonable time for that. But no, the fusion leaders determined that it should not be exposed and applied the gag to the democrats. But thank the Lord they cannot gag the press and the Record will thoroughly expose this measure as soon as it becomes a law. To illustrate how determined the "reformers" were not to allow any democratic amendment to this bill, they actually voted down an amendment (offered by a democrat) requiring the registrars and poll holders to be men of *good moral character!* What do all honest men think of this? The idea of "reformers"—men who claim to be in favor of "a free ballot and fair count"—voting against an amendment that requires our judges of election to be men of good moral character! But that which will forever brand this Legislature with infamy was the action of the House, on last Thursday, in passing a resolution to adjourn in respect to the memory of old Fred. Douglass, who died the night before. Yes, a negro Representative from Granville county, named Crews (for whom the fusionists had unseated a white democrat) introduced the following preamble and resolution:

"WHEREAS, The late Fred. Douglass departed this life on the 20th inst., and whereas we greatly deplore the same: now, therefore,

Resolved, That when this House adjourn, it adjourn in respect to the memory of the deceased.

Of course the democrats vigorously opposed the adoption of this disgraceful resolution, but all in vain, and it was *adopted*, every democrat (of course) voting against it and the republicans and populists voting for it. While this shameful action may supriso many persons, yet it should not, because Fred. Douglas was the most noted negro in America and the negroes compose the majority of the voters who elected these "fusionists" to the Legislature. They were simply carrying out the same principle, the same idea, that influenced them to elect an absconding negro dive keeper over a crippled Confederate soldier. We cannot believe, however, that the honest white men of North Carolina—even those who voted the ticket—can approve such action? They do not believe in miscegenation or the intermarriage between whites and negroes—and they are not willing to have endorse Fred. Douglass for marrying a white woman?

But while the actions of this "reform" Legislature was only more or less what we might have expected, we confess that we were not prepared for the storm of indignation that has been aroused throughout the State by the action of the House in adopting the Douglass resolution. We were under the impression that after waiting three days, they determined to study the record and try by falsehoods to explain away the matter; and so on Monday last, introduced his favorite series of resolutions. To the credit of Chairman Connelly in it be said that one of our representatives (Mr. Sole) was present enough to refuse to vote by ayes, lobelooie, and asked to be excused from voting!

On last Saturday the Senate debated by a vote of 29 to 18 to adjourn from 2 p. m. that day to make the Ladies Memorial Association at 3 p. m. the occasion of completing the contribution at Raleigh. This course was expected. When a negro has Legislature to honor the memory of the white people, that body will seldom hesitate to do so.

And it was in respect to the memory of a fugitive—this runaway slave—this accomplice of old John Brown—this miscegenationist—that the "reform" Legislature of North Carolina adjourned!

Who would have dreamed such a thing possible thirty five years ago? Did the wildest fanatic—the most violent abolitionist—imagine that any Southern Legislature would ever adjourn in respect to the memory of Fred. Douglass?

No wonder it has created quite a sensation throughout the North and aroused such a storm of indignation throughout the South!

If there was anything lacking to disgrace this Legislature in the minds of all decent persons surely this act should sink it so low that the hand of resurrection would never reach it.

Senator Ransom was, on last Saturday, appointed Minister to Mexico. The manner of his appointment is especially gratifying to his many admirers. As soon as the President sent his appointment to the Senate, that body immediately confirmed it by a unanimous vote. No officer has ever been appointed by President Cleveland in a more complimentary manner, and no one deserved such a compliment more than our distinguished fellow-Carolinian, and no appointment could have been more fit and appropriate. We are truly rejoiced that such a high honor from such a high source has been so gracefully conferred upon North Carolina's most eminent living son. It is in such striking contrast to the election of Marion Butler in his place by the fusion Legislature, which body also endorsed Fred. Douglass by adjourning in respect to his memory!

OUR "reform" legislators may squirm and wriggle as much as they please; they may protest and deny; they may resolve and resolve, but there is no wiping out the fact that, on last Thursday, they adopted in the House the following preamble

"WHEREAS, THE LATE FRED. DOUGLASS DEPARTED THIS LIFE ON THE 20TH INST., AND WHEREAS, WE GREATLY DEPLORE THE SAME; NOW, THEREFORE,

"*Resolved*, That when this House adjourns, it adjourn in respect to the memory of the deceased."

Now, let there complete their infamy by electing John Brown's birthday a legal holiday!

MISCEGENATION, or the intermarriage between the whites and blacks, is abhorred and detested by all decent white persons, and is forbidden by the laws of North Carolina. And yet a North Carolina Legislature adjourned in respect to the memory of the most [illegible] miscegenationist in this country, a negro who prided himself upon his open defiance of public opinion and common decency by marrying a white woman!

THE tirade in last Sunday's *News and Observer* very forcibly illustrated the sentiments of our "reform" legislators, who refused to honor the Confederate dead by adjusting the monument to their memory, but gladly honored the memory of Fred. Douglass.

Could the Pharaoh of Fred. Douglass were intimate friends and were engaged in the same cause, and since our "reform" Legislature has so greatly honored Douglass, ought they not to honor Brown also by making his birthday a legal holiday?

Even the Charleston *News and Courier* is shocked at the Legislature for adjourning in honor of Fred Douglass" and says its action was "silly and "forbids that the action was an unfortunate blunder."

Did our "reform" legislature send a copy of their resolution to the white widow of Fred Douglass? If not, why not? It is customary in such cases.

Locke's resolutions fully outline on the opinions and opposition of the Democratic party.

Can Locke Legislature should be known in history as the "Douglass" Legislature.

Attempt to Assassinate.

EXPRESS SPECIAL TEXAS, Feb. 25.—Rev. J. M. W. Dishong, a colored preacher, was shot in while sitting in his room listening to a sermon preached by Rev. Dishong has been active in the work of clearly [illegible] and [illegible] the [illegible] from [illegible] Since the [illegible] down to the latter class [illegible] very recently he received a letter, which was [illegible] The letter [illegible] supposed to have grown out of this [illegible].

Joe Lee, a Chinaman, and Ella Moses, a pretty young Jewess, were married in Atlanta, Ga., on the 20th inst. The ceremony was performed by Judge Lumpkin. The groom would the ceremony performed in open court, but the bride objected because of the crowd of curious spectators. So they substituted the grocer's laundry for the temple of justice.

Washington Letter.

FROM OUR REGULAR CORRESPONDENT.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 22, 1895.

Whether intentionally or not matters little, but that President Cleveland has, by a few remarks made to several gentlemen who called at the White House to pay him their respects, badly frightened the republican leaders in Congress is certain. The callers in question were Representatives elect Smith and Corliss, of Michigan, and Towne, of Minnesota. After chatting awhile the President significantly said: "How would you gentlemen like to begin your Congressional duties as early as March 15?" They declared they were perfectly willing to wait until December, and were told by the President that conditions and not personal considerations must determine the time of the meeting of Congress. Within an hour the conversation was known at the Capitol, and the republican leaders in both Senate and House had their heads together. Although they have professed indifference, it is known that they dread an extra session beyond everything, as it will quickly demonstrate their inability to legislate upon financial subjects. They have been hoping that the gold received for the last issue of bonds, which they have so loudly and hypocritically denounced, would enable the Treasury to pull through without an extra session and that by next December there would not be such pressing need for legislation. This scare is having one good effect. It is making the republicans assist in pushing the appropriation bills through, because they have an idea that the President would not object to Congress forcing an extra session by failure to pass them all.

The man who "objects" is now in his glory in both House and Senate. He can block small legislation at will, as unanimous consent is needed to get action upon any bill not having the right of way under the rules. There is little probability of any more important legislation, except the appropriation bills.

Senator Vilas, of Wisconsin, who made one of the greatest speeches of his life—he spoke nearly four hours—in reply to the [illegible] republicans [illegible] Carolina [illegible] Senator Carlisle [illegible] and [illegible] the [illegible] Vilas [illegible] Democrats [illegible] Democrats [illegible] Democrats