

WAR REMINISCENCES.

Chatham's War History.

Sketch of the 26th Regiment.

The so-called nonpartisan silver "convention," called by Mr. E. Chambers Smith and a few other miscellaneous democrats, was such a failure and complete fiasco that it is not worthy of any notice. And yet there are some important lessons that may be drawn therefrom and should be duly impressed upon our people. As was predicted, of course the "convention" was captured and completely controlled by the populists, or, to be more accurate, by Senator Marion Butler, whose mastery was complete and whose slightest wish was promptly complied with. By an actual count there are said to have been only seventeen democrats participating in the convention, about the same number of republicans and less than 200 populists. And yet its promoters had boasted that it would be the largest convention ever held in the State and that no bandwagon Raleigh would be able to hold the vast assembly. Indeed Mr. Smith, its president, professed it would draw to Raleigh 20,000 persons!

The incapacity and hypocrisy of the populists was forcibly illustrated and thoroughly exposed when they voted down a resolution introduced by Hon. Charles M. Cooke, which was in these words:

"That for the purpose of the next election, the demand for Federal relief should be confined to the restoration of silver to exchange at the ratio of 16 to 1."

The populist leaders and papers have been most vigorously attacking that free-silver resolution, and that all the friends of silver, regardless of party, organization or sect, gather to rebuff it, that is their object. They denounce the free-silver resolution of 1873 as the worst of the century, and as the cause of all our financial woes. And the convention was called to pass friends of silver in an organized movement to restore silver to its place on an equality with gold. And it at Senator Butler's command the convention voted down the resolution to only a mere 17 yeas, and the supposed friends of silver in this campaign. In other words, the populist leaders by this vote have themselves decided that they regard the government ownership of railroads, a sub-treasury plan and their other visionary schemes as fully important as the free coinage of silver!

Therefore all free silver democrats need no longer expect the right to unite with them for the free coinage of silver. The populists have now publicly declared that they do not regard the silver as being any more important than their other schemes and they are determined to have all or none. It is to be hoped that after this there will be no more democrats "conquering" with the populists.

The utter failure of Mr. Smith's convention should be a warning to all self-congratulated leaders, and impress upon them the fact that they do not constitute the democratic party and cannot control the masses of this State. Another lesson this fiasco should teach aspiring and would-be leaders, is that their influence is not as great as the subject press of their party. All the democratic papers in North Carolina opposed the call of this convention, and yet its callers would not heed their protests but persisted in having their "own sweet will," and now they no doubt feel "like the little boy in the calf ran over!"

The "convention" adopted a resolution recommending to the voters of the State that hereafter they elect only such Congressmen and Presidential electors as are undoubtedly pledged to free silver. Of course, if the populists are sincere in this they cannot "fence" next year with the republicans and vote for republican candidates for those offices, for the republican national platform is certain to be against free silver, and it was the republican party that "democratized" silver in 1873.

As there were two companies in the 26th Regiment, the 26th and 27th, the latter was organized by the late George C. Underwood, and was recently published in the Chatham Record, as follows:

"On the last days of July and the first days of August, 1861, when the first companies of the 26th and 27th Regiments were organized, the latter was organized by the late George C. Underwood, and was recently published in the Chatham Record, as follows:

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wounded and prisoners, among them Major Churchill, and Capt. W. P. Martin, of Company H. Many can yet remember the eagles that were hoisted upon the commanding officer's flag, the Twenty-sixth by the press of the State, and upon the white regiment. All did their duty.

Two or three of our regiment were known to be attempting to serve in the ranks, though our officers were doing all in their power to prevent them from doing so, which some succeeded in doing, while others were not. One of the latter was Capt. W. P. Martin, who was captured and taken to the enemy's lines. He was held for some time, but was eventually released and returned to his regiment.

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General Robert Ransom's Brigade, which is now transferred to the 26th, which is composed of the Eleventh, Twentieth, Forty-fourth, Forty-seventh and Fifty-seventh North Carolina Regiments.

The Twenty-sixth was organized and equipped in the summer of 1861, and most of our regiment were known to be attempting to serve in the ranks, though our officers were doing all in their power to prevent them from doing so, which some succeeded in doing, while others were not.

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to open fire on them at 12 o'clock, and immediately that memorable charge was to be made. What courage and love for their officers that could hold troops to a fight under such trying circumstances! The artillery fired and charged in, and yet on went the Twenty-sixth under the gallant leadership of Capt. Brewer, till the regiment was killed to a man.

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