The Chatham Record

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H. A. LONDON, Editor.

It may seem strange to say, but it is none the less true, that a custom or ceremony of a heathen nation may some times be commended to a Christian people for imitation. For instance, the ceremony of naming a ship is much more appropriately observed by the heathen people of Japan than by the cultered, civilized and Christian people of the United States.

In this Christian country when a ship is named, or "christened," the ceremony consists of a lady breaking a bottle of wine or whiskey over its prow. In heathen Japan, however, this ceremony consists of a lady releasing a white pigeon from a silk bag. As ships are poetically called the "white winged birds of commerce," this Japanese custom of ceremony would seem much more appropriate than our Christian custom.

Today at Cramp's shipyard, at Philadelphia, a warship built for Japan is to be launched and the ceremony of naming it will be conducted according to the Japanese custom by the daughter of the Secretary of the Navy. We commend this ceremony in the future naming of all American ships.

THE Reunion of ex-Confederate soldiers at Charlotte, on the 10th of May, promises to be a most notable and pleasant occasion. On that day a monument is to be delivered to the signers of the Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence, and it is peculiarly appropriate that the survivors of the great Civil War meet then and there for paying the memory of those Revolutionary heroes.

At the meeting of the North Carolina ex-Confederates, when it was decided the great reunion at Nashville last June, it was decided that the proposed reunion at Charlotte should be held and all the old soldiers in this State were cordially invited and earnestly urged to attend it. And the ex-Confederates of Charlotte are making all necessary arrangements for the comfort and pleasure of their visitors. Committees have been appointed and we doubt not that every possible preparation will be made for insuring a grand time for the veterans of the "Lost Cause."

THE County Alliance of Mecklenburg county adopted a resolution, last week, urging the managers and editors of their State organ, the *Progressive Farmer*, "to be less partisan in political discussions and devote more space to advancing Alliance principles."

It might not be improper for other county alliances to adopt a very timely and sensible resolution. While several newspapers in this State pretend to be organs of the Alliance, yet in fact they are simply the organs of certain office holders. Nearly all the editors of these "organs" are office holders themselves and some of them are not content with *one* office but grab all they can get. And all of them are intensely partisan in politics, more bitter, abusive and partisan than any purely political papers heretofore published in this State. And yet they call themselves the "reform" press!

AN important conference or convention of the Tom Watson wing of the Populist party was held last week at St. Louis, at which forty states were represented. This faction is opposed to the policy adopted in the last campaign by Chairman Marion Butler and the national committee. This conference or convention issued an address, in which an appeal is made to the members of the Populist party to prevent the disruption of their party. The address says that "Under present conditions our beloved organization is slowly but surely disintegrating."

RALEIGH is said to be swarming with a horde of applicants for office under the new Marshal and Internal Revenue Collector of this district. These two officers will take charge in a few days, and will be besieged by day and night by the ravenous office seekers who have already been kept waiting much longer than they had expected. We hope that Chatham will get her just share and that many of our county men will get choice pieces of the political pie.

THE civil service law is now being most bitterly denounced by disgruntled Republicans, who are ravenous for the pieces filled by Democrats and protected by this obnoxious law. It must be mighty tantalizing to a hungry Republican, standing on the outside, to see a Democrat inside the government corral!

Wilson on Butler.

Not only has Tom Watson, the Populist candidate for Vice-President, published Butler as a liar and a traitor, but even his old and intimate associate, Otho Wilson, has published some equally hard things about him. In his last week's issue of the *Hornsnecker*, Otho Wilson published an open letter to Marion Butler, and closes it as follows:

"Your political history is full of treachery and abuse and misrepresentations of all your former friends and associates who refused to be dominated by you.

"You stole the State from Mary Lease, Jerry Simpson and Newton Booth, but not one of them, your equals and as they have gone or will you follow, and may an honest man take your place. The day is close here and a change is all the people want and you will know it soon to your unmerited obscurity."

When Abuse is Flattery.

From the Greensboro Patriot and Union.

Not a little ridicule has been showered on Senator Butler because of his alleged abuse of Senator Pettigrew, and it is generally admitted that Senator Pettigrew is a Russian bear, especially when the poor are concerned. But not so. Should the weather continue at the present temperature for three days, would be good but be the signal which Lodge the first would certainly be killed by frost. Only a few days ago he had proclaimed his damage to Florida orange and lemon groves, and pass unnoticed his homage through the medium of letter words.

In view of the Senator's learned discussion of the silver question, it would seem that he was not