The Chatham Record.

THURSDAY. May 28, 1903.

H. A. LONDON, Editor.

THE thirteenth annual Reunion of the United Confederate Veterans was held last week at New Orleans, and it was an occasion that will never be forgotten by any who were so fortunate as to be present. Although the Federal fleet captured that city in April 1862, and held possession of it the remainder of the war, yet last week it was surely recaptured by the Confederates, and that too without firing a gun or shouldering a musket. And, strange to say, no one objected to this recapture but all most warmly welcomed their return. Everything possible was done for their comfort and pleasure, and the city was completely surrendered to their enjoyment.

While not as many veterans attended this reunion as some previous ones, yet there were more visitors than had ever before attended a reunion, the number being estimated at 150,000. These visitors with the inhabitants of the city (300,000) made an immense crowd and everywhere that any one went it seemed as if everybody else was there. The city fed free all veterans who applied for meals. And these meals were not scant like army rations. These free meals were served on long tables in a building at which 2,500 persons could eat at the same time. It was estimated that 15,000 persons were thus fed every day for four days. At every State headquarters badges were furnished which entitled the wearer to free meals.

The exercises were held in an immense building constructed for the occasion, on the fair grounds, about three miles from the centre of the city, and reached on four lines of electric cars. There were so many of these cars that there was very little discomfort, less than we have ever had at any previous reunion. Near this building were the headquarters of every State, at which all veterans were registered. In this way one could ascertain whether or not any friend whom he might wish to meet was present. This enabled many long separated friends and relatives to meet.

The North Carolina headquarters were crowded every day particularly by former residents of this State now living in other States. They all were so glad to meet again some of their old Tar heels. Among the most prominent of these were Dr. Edwin A. Alderman, the distinguished president of Tulane University, and ex-Governor Joe Johnston of Alabama. Both of them were delighted to meet with their old tar heel friends and renew pleasant acquaintances. But the visit that gave the greatest pleasure at our headquarters was that of Mrs. Stonewall Jackson, who aroused the wildest enthusiasm and everybody was eager to shake her hand. One grizzled veteran fell upon his knees and grasping her hand sobbed like a child.

Every North Carolinian and many others wanted one of the artistic "tar heel" badges, which had been designed and furnished by Gen. Carr. No other badge was in such demand as this. It represented a foot with tar on the heel, and on this foot was the inscription: "1861-1865. 115,000 voters Tar Heels 127,000 soldiers." Suspended from the heel was a medallion, shaped like a Maltese cross, with a Confederate flag in the centre, and with the following inscriptions: "First at Bethel, Foremost at Gettysburg, Farthest at Chickamauga, Last at Appomattox." These badges attracted much attention and were quite an advertisement of our State's proud war record.

Our headquarters were enlivened with music, both vocal and instrumental, which always attracted a crowd. "The Old North State" was sung quite often and always aroused much enthusiasm. The ... an orchestra of four veterans played their soul-stirring airs that reminded the soldiers of war times and army life. No other State headquarters had so much music.

Several excellent speeches were made at the business meetings. We were particularly pleased with the address of welcome by Hon. E. B. Kruttschnitt, of New Orleans, who is a nephew of Secretary Judah P. Benjamin. It is well worthy of preservation ... The ... address was delivered by Judge ... Rogers of Arkansas, which will be published in pamphlet form and a copy should be in every Southern family. It is ... and is a complete vindication of the South's ... It is an argument simple ... [illegible] ... England.

The grand feature ... [illegible]

Will Murphy, a colored ... of the Seaboard ... [illegible]

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