

The Weekly Raleigh Register

CITY OF RALEIGH, WEDNESDAY MORNING, JANUARY 21, 1857

NO. 10.

THE RALEIGH REGISTER.

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RALEIGH, N. C.

SATURDAY MORNING, JAN. 17, 1857.

LETTER FROM THE EDITOR.

PETERSBURG, Jan. 14, '56.

In spite of late hours last night, at the dinner given me by my old friends, I find myself this morning exulting in the "old arm chair" from which I have so often rattled away to an indulgent public, whose forbearance has so often saved me from "catching" what my short-comings, impertinences, and impudences, have too frequently provoked. But late as the hour—early perhaps should be the word—at which I sought my pillow, and immersed as I am in business connected with my removal, I cannot help catching a moment "between times" just to scribble after my Carolina friends, and particularly those democratic jewels which blaze so brightly in the Legislative casket of the State. As I cannot see a Raleigh paper until next night, I of course do not know what has been done in the Legislature since I left. By this time the tax bill should be reported and on the tapis for amendment and discussion. This bill will be a sort of *pons asinorum* to the majority party, and how they are to get over it without considerable damage, is a perplexing enquiry. Raise the tax, they say, but to what extent must depend on their action on another subject. It seems to be generally admitted that if any important internal improvement bill gets through, it will carry in its train every other improvement bill on the calendar. Should this prove to be the case, not only must taxes be raised on the present subjects, but new subjects of taxation must be sought out, so as to prevent the old subjects from being unduly, and unequally burdened. Now as the Democratic is the internal improvement party, and at the same time the economical party, and withal the majority party, if they do not mind their points and parallels" will they "put their foot in it" as sure as fate. If with their power to do so, they fail to pass improvement bills, can they again bamboozle the people with the idea that they are the internal improvement party of the State? If they do pass such bills, dare they go home without correspondingly increasing taxes, and thus leave the hitherto untarnished credit of the State to "kick for itself"? We have pondered much and painfully on the embarrassed situation of these jewels, and can see but one ray of comfort for them. This ray, though solitary, is yet so intensely bright, that they most look at it through smoked glass, or we let it in upon them, or otherwise they'll have need for the services of an oculist. It is this: Gov. Wise is a great man—a great Democrat, a great and original thinker, and when this State of Virginia was (as she is now) twisting under taxes, and with prospects (before it) of more twisting, he, with a clarity of genius, in the inverse ratio to the subject of his discovery, announced to the "assembled wisdom" of the Old Dominion that her waters contained those bivalent delicacies called oysters, and that they as "fishermen" should be made to contribute to the fund of the State, as well as to the plate of the epicure. Now North Carolina has a "fisherman," and we would suggest to the Democracy in the Legislature the propriety of requesting Gov. Bragg to open a correspondence with Gizzard-Foot on the subject, and thus get the benefit of the latter's discovery. Gizzard-Foot will answer promptly, for he is a fellow who likes to talk and write, and will feel himself highly flattered by the application. He is not only a genius, but a progressive one, and there are ten chances to one, that by this time, he has fixed up his "fundum" with terrapin, clam, and crab variations. I am not prepared to suggest that these crustaceous subjects would do to bank upon, although one of them has long constituted Bank of Deposit, and though frequently "run upon," and broken into, they still continue to meet the demands made on them. I will write to Gizzard-Foot on this subject and get his views before I commit myself on it.

There is nothing stirring here but cold weather, and the skies to-night denote that there is "worse a coming," in the shape of snow. The river here, and James River, are frozen tight, and all intercourse either coastwise, or sea-ward, of course cut off. This will produce inconvenience, and worse than that—suffering—as the supplies of *anthracite* coal are given out, and but for a timely, but temporary, supply of *bituminous*, re-visited by rail-way from the Pitts-to-day, fuel would have been scarce, when it is most want-

ed. Wood, of course, will go up in price, and the poor, or improvident, have occasion to think, if they don't say, "wind of the winter's night, whence comest thou?" I could not close until the Southern mail brought me the Raleigh papers, and most particularly my contemporary "Standard sheet." I see he wishes to let the party-caucusing on the Trustees of the University go in oblivion. He says "Here let it rest." Pious man! He was thinking of "rest" for the weary soul. He wishes things to "rest" just where they are, and abhors the thought of having them "unsettled" from the hard grip of himself and party. He is now "a Trustee," and I count on at least one "friend" at the "Court" of Literature in the State. While I say this, however, I must solemnly protest against his voting for an incumbent of the chair of Moral Philosophy, for sorry was I to see in his paper, an expression of pleasure that there was a prospect that the proved pimp, and subornor, *Forney*, would be elected to the Senate of the United States, and conclude by expressing the hope, that he will be glad on reflection, to learn, that at least that disgrace has been spared a Body, one of the most dignified in the world.

EDITOR OF THE RALEIGH REGISTER.

THE "DARK-LANTERN" DEMOCRACY.

It is amusing to see how tenderly the *Standard* handles the late outrageous conduct of its party in the Legislature, in reference to electing Trustees of the University. It does not, and cannot, deny the fact that they held a "secret night meeting," bolted the doors, posted sentinels, and kept all persons, except Democrats, out; and in that meeting proceeded to nominate Trustees, whom they afterwards elected. But the *Standard* attempts to justify this unprecedented and monstrous proceeding, by saying it was necessary in order to save time in effecting the election. Will it inform the public why it has never before been necessary, for any party in any Legislature that ever assembled in the State, to do such a thing? There had been only one ballot for Trustees before this secret, midnight meeting of the Democracy was held. They were very quick upon the trigger, and swift to act upon a flimsy pretext, to gratify their inordinate voracity for place. It was not safe to risk another ballot, for that might have resulted in an election, and certain Democratic aspirants might have been disappointed.

But the *Standard* knows that even this pretext, the only one it had to offer, was taken away by Mr. Thomas, the Senator from Davidson. The journals show that he offered, in the Senate, a joint resolution proposing that those five names, which received the highest vote on the first ballot, should be voted for upon the next and be duly elected. The *Standard* knows that this would have secured an election at the very next balloting. Does it suppose any man in North Carolina will fail, for one moment, to see that this excuse for a "midnight caucus" is a mere sham? But suppose there was, really, the pretended necessity. Will the *Standard* be so kind as to inform the good people of the State, why every man nominated by that "secret caucus" was a DEMOCRAT? Here is the list:

W. W. Holden—Editor of the *Standard*. Those, Settle, Jr.—Democratic Commander. Dr. R. Dillard—Democratic Senator. R. A. Hamilton—Renegade Buchanan Whig. Dr. Hardy—Renegade Buchanan Whig. Three old line Democratic leaders, and bitter partisans; and two renegade Buchanan Whigs, who have been, for some time, in full fellowship with the Democratic party, and one of whom is now among the most active and uncompromising Democrats in the State. If it was necessary to hold a "secret caucus," even the *Standard* has not the effrontery to pretend that it was necessary to make a strict party nomination, and to deny to the forty-two thousand members of the American party in the State all participation in the management of this institution, which every Legislature heretofore assembled has had the magnanimity to preserve from the pollution of party politics. This proceeding will certainly impair the usefulness of the University, and lessen it in the affections of a large portion of our citizens. We can scarcely imagine anything in the power of this Legislature, to do which would have been so much to be deprecated and so disgraceful to those concerned in it, as this prostitution of our noble University to the corruption of party intrigue—parceling it out as a spoil in payment for services in party warfare. It is a species of Vandalism unprecedented in any civilized State, and finding its equal only among the northern barbarians of the middle ages, who defaced the beautiful edifices of Greece and Rome.

Many of the better thinking Democratic members repudiated this action of their party, and boldly refused to obey it. We call attention to the remarks of WILLIAM EATON, Esq., the Senator from Warren, in another column. If there were a few more such Democrats in this Legislature, the State would

have been spared much of the mortification and shame which has been brought upon it. Here is all the last *Standard* could say in vindication of this disgraceful affair:

"We do not deem it expedient or necessary to offer any reply to the Raleigh Register, in relation to the appointment of Trustees of the University. The attacks of the opposition have already been fully and triumphantly met in the Senate, by Mr. Hill and Mr. Houston. They have placed the whole subject in its true light, and in doing so they effectually silenced General Dockery and Mr. Pool. Here let it rest."

He confesses that it is not "expedient" even to "offer" a reply. He might have said "expedient" or "practicable." What a graceful retreat! How tenderly he handles "the nasty thing!" He says it has been "triumphantly and fully met" by Messrs. Hill and Houston. Will he tell us upon what grounds, and how? We are sure his readers would like to know, for they feel an interest in the honor and prosperity of the University, and if there is any palliation that can be offered, it would be grateful to their feelings to hear it. Will he gratify them? But he says, "they effectually silenced Gen. Dockery and Mr. Pool." Did they silence Mr. Eaton too?

"Here let it rest." No. It shall not rest here. The people intend to take it in hand, and to visit a merited retribution upon the heads of those who would taint the sources of education by thrusting into the public institutions of the State the corrupting influences of party politics. "Here let it rest." No doubt, it would be pleasant to get rid of it so easily. If this were only a small offence, perhaps the *Standard* might be permitted to "beg off" in that way. It is very unpleasant, and hurts one's feelings, to lay on the lash when the victim begins to beg. But individual suffering must be endured for the public good. The *Standard* has abused the American party unsparingly for holding secret political meetings to nominate political officers. And while professing a holy horror at such things, its party in the Legislature has been practicing it here in the nomination of every officer they have elected—and instead of confining it to political officers, have extended it even to Trustees of the University. How can such conduct "rest" in a community of enlightened, honest and patriotic people?

DEBATE ON MEXICAN PREAMBLE RESOLUTION.

The last *Standard* contains a notice of the debate upon Mr. Reeves' resolution to expunge from the record that famous Mexican Preamble. It was our intention to have published this whole debate and commented on it, but our space would not allow it, and we have to defer it until our next. The *Standard's* remarks are not a fair representation of the case. Mr. Forney, instead of coming off second best, got much the better of his opponents upon every point which was discussed. He further challenged any member on the opposite side of the House to meet him and to fairly and openly discuss the merits of the question. No one accepted this challenge! Does this look like he was vanquished? Throughout the whole discussion, the minority, though small in numbers, proved itself to be strong in mind. We have witnessed many a discussion, and we have yet to see one in which a more signal victory was obtained than that in which the Americans of the Legislature triumphed on Thursday. The discussion was a triumph of mind over matter, the vote a triumph of matter over mind.

The *Standard* attempts to ridicule Mr. MAIRD for an error of his. With every fair dealing man this misrepresentation will be of no avail. We need only say that it was an accident on Mr. Mann's part, which he did not notice until the roll was being called, to correct the error. He afterwards introduced a resolution upon which the gentleman from Edgecombe commented. Did time permit, we should like to point out the ridiculous bombast which prevails throughout the article, but we will close with one idea, which suggests itself to our mind. The expense of the House of Commons, per day, is at least \$400. Just exactly that amount has been thrown away by the introduction of the resolution. Ample opportunities were afforded to the Democrats to stop the debate and proceed to the business of the day by laying on the table or indefinitely postponing, but they refused to do it. The discussion continued, and State business was neglected. The resolution passed, and what does it amount to? A mere nothing, an abstraction for which the people generally care not a whit. This money was expended and the session prolonged probably several days, and for what? To gratify the whim of Democrat or the vanity of the Democratic party. The Democratic party were almost unanimous upon the question—whether this is to be attributed to their having cautioned upon it, or that they acknowledge Mr. Reeves as the Democratic leader in the House, we know not, but suppose the latter, as they stoutly deny the former.

ELECTION OF U. S. SENATOR FROM MISSOURI.—The Missouri Legislature on Monday last elected James S. Green, U. S. Senator for the short term. Green received 89, Benton 34, and L. S. Kennett 32 votes.

THE CABINET.—Mr. Buchanan's Cabinet, as now formed by himself, is generally conceded to be made up as follows: Lewis Cass, Michigan, Secretary of State. Howell Cobb, Georgia, Secretary of Treasury. John B. Floyd, Virginia, Secretary of War. J. P. Benjamin, Louisiana, Secretary of Navy. Jesse D. Bright, Indiana, Secretary of Interior. W. L. Yancy, Alabama, Postmaster General. Nathan Clifford, Maine, Attorney General.

THE COMPLIMENTARY DINNER TO MR. SYME.

The public dinner given Mr. Syme, by his personal friends in Petersburg, irrespective of party, came off on Tuesday last. We copy a full account of the sayings and doings around the festive board from the Petersburg Express; and, as Mr. Syme has not yet returned from Petersburg, we also take the liberty of transferring to the columns of the Register the following editorial notice of the dinner from the Express:

THE DINNER TO MR. SYME.—The Syme Testimonial, a hurried account of which appeared in the local department of yesterday's Express, was very brilliant affair and will long be remembered by those who united in it. The entire absence of party feeling, in a demonstration in honor of a gentleman distinguished for his management of a partisan press, was in the highest degree gratifying, and gave proof of the liberality of the citizens of "Little" Petersburg. Though it may seem invidious in us to refer to any particular speaker, among a number of eloquent gentlemen who addressed the dinner party, we cannot help expressing the satisfaction afforded us by the remarks of JAMES ALFRED JONES, Esq. Though it was apparent that Mr. SYME, speaking from the impulse of the moment, and had not had time to prepare for the occasion, what he said came freshly from the heart and touched a chord of sympathy in the heart of every auditor. His tribute to Mr. SYME was couched in the happiest terms, and had his discourse been taken down exactly as it came from his lips, it would be creditable as a specimen of Virginia oratory. We think that every one who was present must have been struck with the universal recognition, by all the speakers of honesty of purpose and sincerity of soul in the character of the eminent editor who is about to leave us. These qualities, above all others, marked the course of Mr. SYME and endeared him to this community. His wit lent brilliancy to the columns of his paper, his humor, a much rarer gift, made every paragraph he wrote read, his strength of argument was felt by all who ever engaged with him in the dignified and noble contest of the press, and his simplicity commanded the respect of every opponent. Mr. SYME was at all times and under all circumstances the steadfast friend of Petersburg, and both in the councils of the State and in the conflicts of his editorial experience, the *Centinel* commanded his warmest advocacy and we shall miss him in the future wherever the interests of the city shall call for earnest and powerful speaking and writing, but we feel that it is about to leave us. These qualities, above all others, marked the course of Mr. SYME and endeared him to this community. His wit lent brilliancy to the columns of his paper, his humor, a much rarer gift, made every paragraph he wrote read, his strength of argument was felt by all who ever engaged with him in the dignified and noble contest of the press, and his simplicity commanded the respect of every opponent. 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