

THE RALEIGH REGISTER.

J. C. L. HARRIS, Editor.

"Ours are the plans of fair delightful peace—unwarped by party rage to live like brothers."

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EDUCATIONAL MEETING IN WILMINGTON.

A LECTURE ON THE EDUCATIONAL AND MATERIAL ADVANCEMENT OF THE COLORED PEOPLE BY JAMES H. HARRIS, PRESIDENT OF THE STATE EDUCATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF NORTH CAROLINA, MARCH 13TH, 1878.

To the Editor of the Register:

Pursuant to announcement a large audience assembled at the Court House and at 8 o'clock, the plan of organization adopted by the late Convention having been read, a Chairman and Secretary appointed for the meeting, Geo. W. Price, Jr., and Geo. L. Mabson briefly stated the object of the meeting and the position occupied by the Hon. James H. Harris, whom the late Educational Convention has made the Executive head of the organization of the State for the Educational and material advancement and elevation of the colored race, &c.

On motion a committee was appointed to wait upon Mr. Harris and invite him to the stand. The committee retired and in a short while returned with Mr. Harris, who being introduced to the audience, launched out in one of his happiest and most brilliant efforts of argumentative discussion relative to the wants and necessities of the colored race.

We would not do Mr. Harris the injustice of attempting to follow his argument, which for an hour and a quarter kept his audience bound in a spell of the most profound interest which was broken at intervals by waves of applause, which ever and anon rolled through the audience as he with his remarkable extemporizing power drew illustrations of the wants and necessities of the colored race, relative to their material advancement or by flashes of his inexhaustible wit, threw his audience into convulsions of laughter. The lecturer speaks without manuscript, displays a thorough knowledge of the wants and necessities of his race.

Mr. Harris in his remarks adverted to his visit to Wilmington nine years ago as the advocate of the civil and political equality of his race with all American citizens, having dedicated his life to the cause of elevating his race, he has labored incessantly in season and out of season for the inculcation of those ideas which tend to elevate his people to a higher standard of moral and intellectual development.

The late Educational Convention which assembled in Raleigh in October, among other things adopted, a plan of organization by which it is proposed to collect a statistical report of the condition of the colored people in every section of the State. These statistical reports to go up through a channel from the township committees to the State Executive Committee, who would thus be enabled to comprehend the condition of the colored people in the several localities and present their grievances to the State or National Legislatures and ask the adoption of such measures as would give the desired relief. He said he was conscious of the responsibility which was placed upon him by the late Convention, in imposing upon him the duties of supervising these educational organizations and lecturing his people on so vital and important subjects, but as he never shrinks from any responsibility, he assumed the grave and arduous task thus imposed upon him with a will and determination to perform faithfully his part of the duties of this great and important undertaking, relying upon God for his guidance and support he was determined to succeed.

Education, he said, is the foundation stone upon which the superstructure of national existence of his race must be established, and every energy should be exercised in the acquirement of those quali-

fications that are so essential to the responsible duties of citizenship. He alluded to a memorial to Congress which is being extensively circulated through the South asking that the proceeds from the sales of certain public lands be appropriated to educational purposes, &c., and suggested that the colored race should interest themselves in such matters and be satisfied that their race should secure a just proportion of the benefits thus asked for.

Alluding to the conduct of the Brazilian government in their unjust discrimination against colored laborers in their contract for the construction of Railroads in Brazil, he denounced it as a high handed outrage which would have been resented by every newspaper in the country had this discrimination been made against the German and Irish or any other class of our fellow-citizens except the negroes of America.

He claims for his race a representation in the various departments where the interest of that race is concerned, while he feels grateful for the provisions made for the colored people in the Deaf and the Dumb and the Blind Asylum, yet he thinks full justice will not be done until the colored persons are represented upon these boards which have the supervision and control of these several departments. He takes the ground that no one can enter so fully into the sympathy of the negro's condition as the negro himself. He advocates colored officers for colored soldiers, colored teachers for colored schools, colored preachers for colored churches, and declares that his voice shall not be still until colored persons are represented upon the Penitentiary Board, the Deaf and the Dumb and the Blind Board, and all other institutions where the interest of his race demanded a representation. His race he said have been repeatedly denounced as a non-tax paying part of the community. He ridiculed the idea as a blind absurdity, as no one versed in political economy will attempt to deny the fact that the producer is really the tax-payer. The colored people constitute the laboring class of the South—they are the producers, and hence, they are tax payers. He pictured the gloomy aspect the country would present if the muscular arm of the negro of the South should become paralyzed; the hum of busy industry would be no longer heard; the plow would stop in the furrow; the ring of the anvil would be hushed; the iron horse which now with lightning speed on beds of steel drags long lines of freight from one end of the country to the other would soon be eaten with rust for the want of use; the steamboats which ply the waters of our navigable streams and the vessels of commerce which dot the ocean exchanging our product with foreign lands, would soon become food for sea worms as they lay tied up to the wharf; our work shops would be closed; the merchant could lock up his goods; the lawyer would close his office; the doctor would no longer attend his suffering impoverished patients. In fact, pestilence, famine and death would stalk through the land. Hence, we find that the laborer is after all the great motive power that impels the machinery that stimulates the elements of vitality in all communities and in all ages. And just in proportion as the laboring class is educated just in the same proportion is the machinery of government worked in sympathy and in harmony with the interest of the laborer. He compared the condition and showed the advantages which countries that have paid the most attention to the education of its citizens possess over those countries or States who have neglected the educational interest of its citizens. He claimed that the education of the colored people of the South should be paramount to every other consideration, and should be stimulated and encouraged by every friend of humanity both white and black.

Alluding to the exit movement, he said he was glad our people did not take stock in the concern. He was opposed to it and predicted that it would end like the Freedman's Bank fraud, the grandest and most high-handed piece of robbery ever practiced upon an ignorant and helpless people by their professed friends.

He said the colored people should give no encouragement to any exit movement, that they were citizens of the country, it was here that their fathers' bones and the ashes of their ancestors repose awaiting the great final day when the Creator

would awaken them to the resurrection. It was here that the strong arm and powerful muscle of the black man had cut down the forest trees and built the cities. It was the black man who built the railroads, cut the canals, cultivated the fields and by the sweat of their brow the South was built up, and by the help of God they were going to enjoy the fruits of that labor in common with their white fellow-citizens among whom their destiny was cast, and among whom they should live and lie.

Mr. Harris then gave a detailed statement of the plan of organization, showing blank forms which he had prepared. At the conclusion of Mr. Harris's interesting lecture, Geo. L. Mabson, Esq., briefly addressed the meeting commending Mr. Harris for his manly effort and the zeal with which he entered upon the discharge of his duties, and moved that a vote of thanks be tendered him for the elegant and instructive lecture and intellectual discourse, which was unanimously adopted. After remarks by other gentlemen expressive of their appreciation of Mr. H.'s lecture, Geo. W. Price, Jr., offered the following Resolutions which were unanimously adopted:

WHEREAS, The late Educational Convention which assembled in Raleigh on the 18th of October, 1877, did among other things, adopt a plan of organization looking to the Educational and Material advancement of the colored people and the improvement of social, moral and material condition through the organization of educational and statistical clubs throughout the State; therefore, Resolved, That we heartily endorse this said plan of organization and pledge our hearty co-operation and support to every laudable effort looking to the improvement of the condition of the colored people and their elevation in the light of a providential dispensation and look forward with bright anticipation to the time which will bring us to a no very distant day when the education, elevation and welfare of the whole people without regard to race or complexional differences will be stimulated, encouraged and supported by every son and daughter of the Old North State.

That we express our appreciation of the organization and discipline of the colored military companies and the system of equity upon which they are received into the service of the State as State militia.

That we urge upon the State Educational Executive Committee to prepare a petition or memorial to present at the next session of the Legislature for the establishment of Normal Schools in suitable localities where the interests of the colored people may demand such schools.

CONDEMNED TO DEATH.—The negro, Robert Jones, charged with the cold blooded murder of Rudolph Eaton of this place, on the night of the 25th December last, was tried before Judge Henry at Tarboro on Thursday of last week for murder and found guilty by a jury of 3 white and 9 colored men, and was sentenced to be hanged in Tarboro on the 8th day of March next.

Since writing the above we understand that an appeal to the Supreme Court has been granted to Jones.—Rocky Mount Mail.

KINDLY FEELING.—Terrell Wilder, a very worthy colored man, a former slave of Matthew Wilder, deceased, of Nash, died about two weeks ago. He was frugal and care taking and had gathered some property which he gave by will to a little grand son of old Mr. Wilder. We knew Terrell when a slave and have known him since he was liberated and made a freeman, and to his credit can say, for honesty and uprightness, he was worthy the confidence and respect of all good people.—Rocky Mount Mail.

JUDGE SEYMOUR.—When we left Nashville late Wednesday afternoon, there had been several convictions for larceny, and the criminal docket was being rapidly disposed of, and by Friday night the criminal, and perhaps civil dockets of Nash will be cleaned up almost entirely.—Judge Seymour gives universal satisfaction so far as we have heard. It is wonderful what a change for the better the rotation of the Judges has proven to be. So much to the credit of the amendments to the Constitution.—Rocky Mount Mail.

SUICIDE.—Mrs. Francis Heathcock, wife of William Heathcock, living in the extreme North West corner of the county, committed suicide on 9th inst by cutting her throat with a razor. The verdict of the Coroner's jury was in accordance with the facts. The deceased was about 43 years of age.—Hillsboro Recorder.

NASH SUPERIOR COURT.—Judge Seymour held the Court and his charge to the Grand Jury was short, plain and sensible. His rulings and general mode of conducting the business of the Court gave universal satisfaction to all, so far as we have heard.—Rocky Mount Mail.

NORTH CAROLINA FURNITURE.—Messrs. D. A. Smith & Co., of Wilmington, are putting up a furniture factory at Old Fort.—Presbyterian.

And we are glad of it. Now the walnut, maple, hickory, red birch and other solid beautiful woods of the mountains ought to supplant those brittle and worthless timbers brought from the North.—Orphan's Friend.

BOWMAN.—It seems that Bowman, the Rockingham man who is in Guilford jail, charged with murder, is making himself a very popular prisoner. The jailor says the reports about his making an effort to escape are all false, and he seems to be deeply concerned about his wife's death and his own condition. He has inscribed on the prison walls the date of his wife's death and of his own imprisonment. His trial is moved to Randolph, and as the present term of that court has been held, he will not be tried until next August.—Reidsville News.

JUDGE FURCHES.—Hon. D. M. Furches opened Pasquotank Superior Court at this place on Monday. There is a large attendance. His charge to the Grand Jury was the clearest, ablest, most comprehensive and best we have ever heard. It occupied over two hours in delivery and covered the whole ground of the criminal law. He stated that he purposely made it more exhaustive than has formerly been the custom because under the law as now understood the Grand Jury must obtain full instruction from the Judge in open Court. He called special attention to perjury which, unfortunately, is on the increase, and upon the illegal dispensing of intoxicating liquors which is doing so much to undermine and demoralize society. We repeat, it was a most excellent charge. The State docket is larger and we learn that there are more cases on the civil docket than for a long time. Court will most probably extend over into next week.—Carolinian.

THE PHONOGRAPH AND AIREPHONE.—The wonders of the phonograph increase. The instrument has been experimented with in every way, and there seems little doubt but that when the invention is perfected it will be applied to many things not now thought of. Professor Edison, the inventor of the phonograph, has already improved his carbon telephone. In the two previous inventions the diaphragm was suspended from the carbon disk by a small section of rubber tubing. He has discovered that by bringing the diaphragm into immediate contact with the disk, a considerable increase in the force of articulation is secured, and that the thickness of the diaphragm could be increased at least three times without affecting it. By this method vibration gives place to pressure. We will next hear that Mr. Edison has combined the telephone and phonograph and very much increased the usefulness of the latter. In fact, the phonograph suggested what he calls the airephone, an instrument into which words can be articulated, gathering such force as to be heard a number of miles with great distinctness. The airephone is, in short, a talking foghorn, by the aid of which captains of vessels at sea may converse easily when three or four miles apart, and by means of which signal station officers could warn vessels coming on a dangerous coast to keep off. The airephone would be an important adjunct of all signal stations, and could be adapted to all the uses to which fog horns, etc., are now applied.—Chicago Inter-Ocean.

THE END OF A NOTABLE REBELLION.—The Cuban rebellion, if not dead, is at its last grasp. Yesterday the Spanish Cortes went in a body to congratulate the King and Queen on the happy event. It is announced that the Cuban central committee, the executive, the chiefs, and the insurgent troops in various parts of the island have surrendered. It rests with Spain to decide whether there shall be merely a temporary suspension of rebellious hostilities or permanent peace. She has learned a costly lesson, and one that

she should not forget. Oppressive government over a colony has drained her treasury of more than a hundred million dollars; has diminished the number of her subjects by many tens of thousands, and has desolated, and nearly lost to her, nearly fifty thousand square miles of valuable territory. From the very first, she ruled Cuba harshly. By 1534, the native race which welcomed Columbus, was nearly exterminated. In 1717, the population of the island had become sufficiently large to make rebellion possible; so the people revolted and have been revolting at intervals ever since. There have been rare and short periods of justice and good treatment, as during the administration of Las Casas, beginning in 1790, but otherwise Cuba has been the victim of unremitting and merciless tyranny. The fault is in the system of government, which places the island completely in the power of a captain general, with unlimited authority, accountable only to the home government, whose principal occupations appear to have been, to plunder his subjects in time of peace and to barbarously murder them when they rebelled against unendurable oppression. The formidable insurrection which has just been checked may be said to have got fairly under way in 1869, when a national convention was held, and Céspedes chosen president and Ruesada commander-in-chief; though slight revolutionary movements for several years before pre-arranged organized rebellion. The insurgents in their ten years' war have won many victories, and are subdued at last after protracted and desperate resistance, only by overwhelming numbers. In the early part of the struggle Valmaseda, the Spanish captain general, issued a proclamation that every male person over fifteen years of age found away from home without justifiable cause should be shot and that every horse on which a white flag was not displayed should be burned; and in 1872 more than forty-five thousand captured Cubans had been put to death. The effects of such tactics inevitably react against the side which adopts them. The insurgents were made desperate, and sympathy for them was aroused in other countries which found expression in substantial assistance. A milder policy has brought the rebellion to a close. The uprising, though repressed has been successful. It has impressed upon Spain the necessity of a wise moderation in her treatment of the island. Nothing but blind and fatal stupidity can ever replace that unendurable system of oppression against which the Cubans rebelled.

The insurgents have had, generally speaking, the sympathy of this country in their brave struggle. Perhaps our interest in the rebellion has not been wholly unconnected with considerations as to Cuba's future. The United States has from time to time cast more than one covetous glance on the long, narrow, fertile island, occupying so important a position at the mouth of the Gulf of Mexico. Even now, though we have no reason to be otherwise than content that Spain should hold it, we would make the strongest opposition to its acquisition by any other great power. Spain refused our offer of a hundred million dollars for the island in Polk's presidential term; she has expended more than that sum in retaining possession since. Her West Indian investment will never pay a respectable interest, and will make no returns at all unless an entirely different plan of developing and managing the island's resources is employed. Cuba is a luxury for Spanish pride, but a drain on Spanish resources. She can be a profitable possession only to us, and her strategic position gives her, as far as the United States is concerned, an additional value.—Washington Star.

NAVY REMINISCENCES.—THE UNWRITTEN HISTORY OF THE BLOCKADE.—The most marked and extraordinary conflict during the many engagements that took place in Charleston harbor during the period of its blockade was that of the Keokuk in the vigorous assault upon Fort Sumter on the afternoon of April 7, 1863. Admiral S. F. Du Pont, one of the bravest and daring of our many naval heroes, who was in command of the South Atlantic Squadron, had long meditated an assault upon Sumter and only awaited the arrival of the iron clad vessels

to assist, as it would have been suicidal to have attempted the reduction of the grim old fort that had so long barred the fleet's entrance to Charleston city with wooden ships. After many delays the expected iron-clads were in position to try their repellent powers against the heavy guns mounted upon the different forts in and around the point of entrance.

THE SIGNAL TO ADVANCE.—was made at 12.30 in the afternoon, the "cheese boxes" quietly crept into line like so many snails, feeling their way, expecting to, and hoping not, to find the numerous torpedoes that strewed the channel and were much dreaded by our vessels, as they very unceremoniously knocked things out of shape. At 3.30 the line of attack was found and the advance begun. The Keokuk, a shoddy kind of a double-turreted iron-clad, with a deck resembling a whale's back, and built as an experiment, was commanded by Commander A. C. Rhind, a brilliant and fearless officer, and one who did heroic service in the Union cause, took the lead as the Ironsides became unmanageable for the time being.

THE KEOKUK.—was run on in advance of the other vessels, and was forced to take a position under the concentrated fires of both Forts Sumter and Moultrie at 500 yards distance from Sumter, which position she maintained for over a half hour, receiving the fire of both forts. No single vessel ever sustained such a shower of missiles as fell upon this ship during the time she remained within range. The guns mounted upon the forts were new, of the heaviest calibre and most approved kind, many being imported from the domain of our "dear friend, John Bull," and especially adapted to the sinking of Yankee iron vessels. Some of the guns threw a steel bolt of from one to two and a half feet in length. The head of these bolts were arranged like the face of a punch used to penetrate cold iron, were designed especially for defence against iron vessels, and if the iron was struck fairly would pierce the armor.

DURING THE ENGAGEMENT.—the Keokuk was struck ninety times in the hull and turrets. Nineteen shots pierced her through and through, many below the water-line. The turrets were pierced in a number of places. The forward port shutter was shot away, and the vessel leaked like the lid of a pepper-box, being completely riddled. The disabled "Experiment" being unable to keep up the unequal contest, although supported by the other monitors, iron-clads, and the New Ironsides, who kept the boys in the forts busy, was compelled to retire from action, as the vessel was making water very fast. She reached her anchorage in smooth water safely, after great exertions, with a wounded and worn-out crew, who kept the vessel afloat until morning, when the sea became very rough, and the water poured into her many wounds.

A SIGNAL.—was made for assistance, which was quickly responded to by the steamer Wissahickon and a tug which was in the vicinity, and the crew and wounded removed, and none too soon, as the last boat was but a short distance from the sinking ship when she gave a plunge and sank beneath the water, being completely submerged excepting the tops of the smoke-funnels. This ship was one of the doubtful experiments born of the necessities of the war, and had not the gallant Rhind tested her so thoroughly the navy would, no doubt, have been supplied with these coffins. They were not adapted to withstand even ordinary ordnance and when the projectiles thrown from the powerful guns of the Confederates, consisting of every conceivable missile, and from guns of extra-heavy-calibre shot, poured their contents relentlessly into the Keokuk, the result satisfied the Government that experiments were costly affairs, if the smoke-funnels of the submerged vessel, as they peeped out of the water was any commentary.

DEAD AND ALIVE.—John Smith was hanged last Friday at Chester, South Carolina. We thought all along that this person would come to a bad end.—Exchange.

No such thing. John Smith was hale and healthy while eating his breakfast at the Orphan Asylum this morning. He seems to wish he "was hanged" to a big sweet potato.—Orphan's Friend.

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