

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

RALEIGH, N. C.

SATURDAY MORNING, DEC. 22, 1855.

CHRISTMAS.

We offer to all our friends the congratulations of the approaching season. Though the weather is cold, may their hearts be warm, and the gentle influences of friendship and love circulate through all the families in our community.

To afford the hands in this Office an opportunity of participating in the festivities of CHRISTMAS, no paper will be issued from this office on Tuesday next.

Should Congress organize in the mean time, (of which there is little probability,) we will issue a bulletin.

REVISED CODE—Chapter XXXVI.

SECTION 3.—If any bank, corporation or company, which may be allowed to issue promissory notes, checks, bank notes, orders, drafts, or checks, shall issue any such note, order, draft or check, specially payable otherwise than in specie, such bank, corporation or company shall, for every such offence, forfeit and pay to any person, who will sue for the same, one hundred dollars, and every person who shall aid and assist in the issuing thereof shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor.

The above important statute is one of the Revised Code, (the publication of which has been delayed much longer than was expected) and goes into operation on the 1st of January, 1856.

It is highly important that its provisions should be generally made known. It would be well for the Legislature of Virginia, at present in session, and having the question of re-chartering the Banks before them, to adopt a similar regulation as to their institutions.

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MEETING OF THE AMERICAN MEMBERS OF THE VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE.

A meeting of the American members of the Virginia Legislature was held on Saturday night last and the subjoined resolutions adopted. The ground assumed by all the speakers in the meeting and in committee was, of course, that it was impossible under any circumstances to co-operate in the organization of the House with the Black Republicans, and equally impossible to co-operate with the loofocoes, under existing circumstances, on account of and in face of their arrogant and offensive declaration that Americans are not "equal associates" for them.

"At a meeting of the members of the Virginia Legislature, favorable to the objects of the American party, held in Richmond, Dec'r 16th, 1855, to consider the continued organization in the House of Representatives, C. J. Thomas M. Bourdant, of Buckingham, in the Chair, B. Christian, of Augusta, Secretary, the following resolutions were unanimously adopted, having been reported by a special committee, consisting of Messrs. Burwell, of Bedford, Early, of Albemarle, Imboden, of Augusta, Tazewell, of Mecklenburg, Dickinson, of Richmond, Floyd, of Appomattox, and Spady, of Northampton:

"Resolved, That we cordially endorse the position of the National American members elect of the House of Representatives, as consistent with the National platform, and in accordance with the sentiments of all conservative men throughout the Union.

"Resolved, That we tender our sincere approval to the members from the Northern States, who stand faithfully by the guarantees of the National Platform, and peril their popularity to preserve the peace of the Union.

"Resolved, That any repudiation, modification or suppression of the 12th section of the National Platform, implied by the election of any officer of the Union, or doubtfully implies, would be a violation of party faith, and a gross fraud upon those Southern men who have united with the American party upon the guarantees embodied in the section referred to.

"Resolved, That the arrogant declaration by a caucus of Democratic members elect of the House of Representatives, that they would consent to union with the American party, even in the formal and temporary co-operation necessary to organize the House, subjects that caucus to the just imputation that, for the sake of party advantage, it would rather prolong the agitation of the slavery question, and all the attendant evils of the House into the hands of the Black Republicans, than associate in defence of common rights and interests, with National Americans, whose fidelity to the South, and the Union, cannot and shall not be questioned.

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VIRGINIA METHODIST CONFERENCE.

Our readers are already apprised that an interesting case—that of Dr. Deems, of this State, Dr. W. A. Smith, of Raleigh, and Dr. C. F. Deems, of Petersburg, has been for some time progressing before the ecclesiastical tribunal named above. We quote the following account of the closing scenes from the Petersburg papers:

"After a few more proceedings, the case of Dr. C. F. Deems against Dr. Wm. A. Smith was called on for trial.

Dr. Deems then began his closing address, which was to terminate this long and exciting trial and consign the matter to the members of the Virginia Conference, who were to act in this respect as a jury.

Dr. Deems shows consummate skill in his arguments, and in the closing speech yesterday, showed both legal tact and discernment in the true application of evidence to bear out the charges. By bringing in correct dates and other circumstances, he endeavored to show the improbability of the Deems statements and the little weight that should be given to telegraphic dispatches, &c. He then went over the six charges which he had brought against Dr. Smith, as he, Dr. Deems, considered to be his duty as a member of the M. E. Church South. He argued that Dr. Smith, instead of disproving or rebutting these charges, but turned round to criminate him, which was another question and for another place, and after expressing his satisfaction that the members of this Conference would act in the matter of finding Dr. Smith guilty or innocent, as their notions of right and conscience dictated to them, Dr. Deems wound up in a most eloquent strain.

Although he was frequently interrupted during his address, yet Dr. Deems always kept his subject and argument well in hand. His sarcastic and allusions to the President of Randolph College brought down frequent bursts of laughter from the audience with all of which (particularly the ladies,) he seemed to be a great favorite. His address, which will be duly published, continued during five hours and forty minutes, and was listened to with the greatest attention.

In the afternoon, at 4 o'clock, the Conference, under Bishop Andrew, held a session with closed doors, from which Drs. Smith and Deems, the members of the North Carolina Conference and public, were excluded, in order to find a verdict or decision on the trial whose lengthy evidence and addresses they had during the last eight or ten days listened to with extreme patience. Bishop Andrew made a brief and suitable address to the members, telling them they had nothing to consider relative to any other Conference but their own. A number of charges had been brought against Rev. Wm. A. Smith, D. D., of their body. They had heard the evidence and arguments, and were now called on to decide whether he was guilty or not.

They then took up the several specifications and charges; some of the members, on showing good cause, were excused from voting, and after about two hours' session, they came to an almost unanimous conclusion, (there was one dissenting vote on one or two charges,) that Dr. Deems' evidence failed to prove the charges against Dr. Smith, i. e., a verdict of not proven—which is an acquittal of Dr. Wm. A. Smith from the six serious charges against him by his accuser, Dr. Deems.

PRESENTATION OF A SPLENDID BIBLE TO DR. C. F. DEEMS.—Yesterday, as the Conference in the forenoon closed, it was announced that the ladies present were requested to meet Dr. Deems in the basement of the Church.

On proceeding thither, we noticed that part of the Church quite crowded with friends of Dr. Deems.

Upon the Doctor's coming to the stand before them, the Rev. R. T. Hefflin addressed him, saying: "Dr. Deems, the note in my hand just received will best explain the object of this interview, and my accidental connection with it."

NOTE. To REV. R. T. HEFFLIN.—Dear Sir—We were obliged to you to present the accompanying Bible to Rev. Dr. C. F. Deems as a token of the sincere regard and unfeigned appreciation of his high position as a Christian minister, and a faithful and able expositor of the Word of God, which we have been so long acquainted with his qualities of mind and heart, have taken the liberty of requesting you to be the medium for those of his own friends among the young ladies and gentlemen of our city of Petersburg.

Mr. Hefflin continued: I need only add, that my knowledge of your personal character and your reputation, where you have been longest known, and are most loved, occasions me to feel peculiar pleasure in being the medium of a gift so appropriate and grateful.

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THIRTY-FOURTH CONGRESS.—First Session.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 18.

Mr. Pratt gave notice of the introduction of a bill for the improvement of the Patuxent river at Baltimore.

Mr. Bayard gave a similar notice relative to Port Penn.

The Senate then adjourned.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

Mr. Walker rose to a personal explanation, defending the Southern American position in the attacks of the Mobile Register, saying that they had not only been a target for the press of the country, but they had been used here as "battering-rams and shuttle-cocks" by the Republicans on one side and the Democrats on the other.

The Democrats here, were a party exclusively, before the House assembled, had nominated their candidate, and adopted resolutions which many of the more considerate of them admit was an insult and stigma on members on this floor.

The fact must be realized that, if Southern Americans on the opening of this contest had thrown themselves into the rank of the Democrats, the result would have been a Free-Soil organization. They have prevented it.

He denied that the Democratic party is a national party; and claimed nationality for the American party.

Mr. Jones, of Pennsylvania, said that that State, instead of being represented by six national Democratic votes to-day, would have had seven, had it not been for the Americans, who showed up in a most objectionable manner.

The gentleman certainly did not mean to impute to him, who offered the resolution in caucus, an intention to insult any individual or class.

The Democracy stand on what they believe to be the true position of the nation, and that is the one voting for Mr. Banks. [Laughter.] The Democrats represent a section, nothing else and nothing better. The gentleman from Alabama had shown that he belongs to a party as sectional as that, for he admitted that he is controlled by the existing laws on the subject of slavery, and admitting the hands of the people of his constituents recognize slavery, to confer and devise a plan for organization. In this he believed he expressed the views of a majority of those with whom he acted.

Mr. Washburne, of Maine, said there was only one question in the caucus, and that is the one voting for Mr. Banks. [Laughter.] The Democrats represent a section, nothing else and nothing better. The gentleman from Alabama had shown that he belongs to a party as sectional as that, for he admitted that he is controlled by the existing laws on the subject of slavery, and admitting the hands of the people of his constituents recognize slavery, to confer and devise a plan for organization. In this he believed he expressed the views of a majority of those with whom he acted.

Mr. Orr asked Mr. Washburne when he was elected Congress?

Mr. Washburne.—I am not aware that I was, but being a member of the order.

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LECTURES ON THE BOOK OF GENESIS.

Mr. Gales: The Rev. Mr. Atkinson, Pastor of the First Baptist Church, is engaged, every Thursday evening, in delivering lectures on the above portion of scripture. I have had the pleasure of hearing three or four of these lectures, and must say that our citizens, especially the young, are losing a rich treat in not attending to hear them.

The first lecture of the course, which embraced the Creation of the World, was a master piece of eloquence and oratory. The Reverend gentleman seemed to feel the grandeur of his subject, for, as he dealt a moment on these beautiful words, "let there be light, and there was light," there was a stream of impassioned eloquence, which flowed with all the majesty of a mighty river, filling the mind with boundless admiration, and conveying the impression of overwhelming force.

Again, that portion of this lecture wherein he spoke of the issue made up by infidel geologists, as to the error of Moses' Chronology, was particularly interesting.

When the labors of Sausure, Pallas, Humboldt and Curvier began to mould the wonderful facts of Geology into a science, a shout of triumph, exultation rent the air all over Europe. In their fervor and folly, they rejoiced to believe that the history of the "everlasting hills," as written in the strata of the earth's crust, plainly showed that the human family were not origin or destiny.

In reply to this dangerous doctrine, the lecturer brought to his aid the works of Penn, Granville, Lardner, and the Brigwater Treatise, and showed clearly that whatever discoveries had been made in the great unknown of physical science, all went to strengthen and adorn the fabric on which the faith of the sincere and devout Christian rests.

But I will not attempt to give even a sketch of these lectures, as I should certainly do injustice to the speaker; but all those who do not look upon the Bible as *one aris aller*, but as the book of all books, I would advise to go and hear these pleasant and instructive lectures.

Raleigh, Dec. 19th, 1855.

FOR THE REGISTER.—Mr. Editor: In the last issue of the "Raleigh Standard," an article appears, under the editorial hand, which I will quote, for fear that all of the good and true citizens of Raleigh may not have read it.

In speaking of an election, which was to have come off in the town of Wilmington, on Thursday last, for Commissioners, the Editor says: "We hope to see the same movement in Raleigh ere long, to rid this city of the evils of Know Nothingism. These evils—high taxes, an inefficient police, and the like—are well known, and admit of no delay in their removal, and we trust they will act in the matter without regard to party."

Now, in order to remedy the evils named above most effectually, I would recommend to the citizens of Raleigh the very consistent and praiseworthy Editor of the "Standard," for his aid, in the ensuing election. It is desirable that we should have just such a man at the head of our municipal affairs—one who will not be guilty of mixing up politics with matters concerning the government of our city, but will discharge the duties of office faithfully and without regard to party. Such a man the good citizens of Raleigh will have, in electing the Editor of the "Standard," W. W. Holden—a man of fairness and of decided "patriotism."

ONE WHO VOTES AND PAYS TAXES.

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