

The Old North State

SALISBURY, FRIDAY, MAY 13, 1870.

A WISE PLATFORM.

We invite the attention of our readers to the resolutions, published in another column, which were adopted "at a meeting of the people of Orange County," in Hillsboro, on Saturday last, the 7th inst. They are by far the wisest and most judicious, in our opinion, of any that have yet been adopted by the Opposition. Reform, or anti-Radical party in North Carolina. It will be observed that the meeting did not profess to be an assemblage of any political party, but only of "the people of Orange County." It is very wisely, as we think, in the resolutions adopted, ignored all old party organizations, and invited the co-operation of all good citizens, who desire the re-establishment of the credit, honor and prosperity of the country, rather than the ascendancy of party. The resolutions are also free from all unnecessary asperity; they contain not a word that is in any degree offensive to those who have honestly cooperated with the Radical party heretofore. They are eminently conciliatory in their tone and character, and constitute a platform upon which all the true friends of the State can unite, in the coming election, in elevating good and honest men to office, who will "undertake the task of reform with no rash hand," but with prudence, moderation, and clemency. They also condemn in proper and just terms the "proscriptive policy" which was set forth as the cardinal doctrine of faith at the inauguration of the present government of North Carolina, "the natural result of which is the present deplorable condition to which our State has been brought." As they denounce the proscriptive policy of those in power, which it recognizes no qualifications for office except that the aspirants shall be "violent partisans and willing tools of personal gain," they by implication recommend that such policy be rejected and such course avoided by the opposition, and condone the rejection of such a policy, and the avoidance of such a course by the opposition, will insure it that success which is now within its reach under judicious management.

We repeat, read these resolutions, emphatically, as they are from their author, and tell our friends, from the wise and statesmanlike point of view suggested, proposed in them, that they are the best, and, we think, emanated from his pen, to the consolation of our friends of the past throughout the state. Upon this platform they can win by the adoption of the party which it suggests, and they can, in our humble opinion, win upon no other.

GEN. J. M. LEACH.

We learn that this gentleman announced himself an independent candidate for Congress in the fifth District, at Lexington, on Monday. From this action of Gen. Leach it is natural to infer that he saw no hope of receiving a nomination. He will, probably, claim it as a great merit that he is not the nominee of any party cause or convention. But the people will remember that he was not averse to receiving such nominations in former days, and will readily understand why he is not such a nomine now.

We further learn that he declared, in his speech on the occasion, that these were times that demanded the services of "statesmen," and not mere tyros in political science. He said that statesmen were not born, but made, by a long training, public service and experience.

The old maxim, "Non nobis sicut nos," born with the experience and observation of all the wise men of the ages, has suddenly been discovered by this "made" "statesman" to be erroneous. We suppose that he, and the school which he is destined to establish, will rare it, and the maxim with them will hereafter be "I solitare—non nos." Nor shall we attempt to controvert the new opinion. It is true that at the early age of twenty-eight, An-gus found himself at the head of the Roman world, with the statesmanship necessary to its government; it is true that at the still earlier age of twenty-seven William III, Prince of Orange, was renowned all over Europe as the most distinguished statesman and negotiator of the age; it is true that at the still earlier age of twenty-two the younger Pitt was the Prime Minister of England, held the destinies of Europe in his hands, and displayed statesmanship equal to the occasion. Yet all of these examples may not be sufficient to prove the correctness of the old maxim. They may even be perfectly consistent with the new opinion. But, if so, they clearly prove that these men were much *after* "statesmen" than Gen. Leach—that "statesmen" were "made" out of them in a much shorter time than it took to make them—shorter—than it took to make one out of Gen. Leach.

It is but reasonable to suppose that civilization and the arts and sciences made great progress in the fifteen hundred and fifty years that preceded the deluge, and that the population of the earth was enormous. Indeed it would be most unreasonable to suppose otherwise. We learn from the Scripture that music was cultivated and taught as a science. Mining and the making of the several metals into implements of various kinds were practised and taught. So was the manufacture of cloths. And a people never gave their attention to the elegancies and adornments of life till its necessities have been amply provided for. The command was given to "multiply" and everything that could contribute to a rapid increase of the race was afforded: length of days, physical vigor, pliability of wives, abundance of the most nutritious food, exemption from the myriad diseases that now waste the earth, and, as there was but one language, and had been no scattering of the people, perhaps exemption from the blight and desolation of war. Our author estimates the population to have been some sixty-eight thousand millions. For the process of reasoning by which he reaches that conclusion we refer you to chapter eight, book one, of *The Comet*.

Merulous to know where to look for the site of the ancient garden of Eden see the ninth chapter.

CHAPTER TEN foreshadows the doom impending over the Adamanland and its inhabitants, and traces the preparations for the escape of those whom God destined to replenish the earth.

The capacity of the Ark for its purpose is considered and fully established.

And now when all is ready and the busy hum of preparation is hushed, when Noah and his wife entered the Ark and God's own hand has sealed them in, in the solemn silence of anxious and leading expectation, the eye of man is terror-stricken with a new and unexampled display of God's power. Suddenly the windows of heaven are opened and a storm of wind and rain sweeps over the trembling, shaking earth, and for forty days and nights rages with unexpressed violence.

Charles Hermon fell from the third story of the Mangold House, at Cincinnati, on Wednesday night, receiving probably fatal injuries. The Burnet House, in Cincinnati, was leased several years ago by Mr. Miller, who cleared \$25,000 during the time he managed it, and sold his lease for \$25,000. Mr. Miller knew how to bring grief to his own mind.

They think a lot of gun-barrels found in a North Carolina tree trunk are Revolutionary relics.

A word of kindness is seldom spoken in vain. It is said, which, even when dropped by chance, springs up a flower.

A little boy in Richmond, on being asked by his mother if he would not like to be an angel and have wings, replied that he had rather be a hawk and live on chickens.

BOOK NOTICE.

THE COMET.

An esteemed friend of scholarly attainments has, at our request, furnished us with the following notice of the very remarkable book bearing the above title:

Reader, have you seen *The Comet*? Not Endeavor's, Helleys', Biehl's, or Gambarts, but H. G. Colton's? If you have not let us commend it to your notice. It is a new light lately risen above the firm horizon, and unlike any other comet known to us it may be taken to your study and examined at your leisure. It is a book whose pretensions are great, but whose merits are in our opinion scarcely less so. There is too much in it and it is too new and startling in its character to be reviewed in a newspaper article; hence this notice, for want of space, is not intended for a review, but only to introduce the new-comer to your acquaintance.

We were about to characterize it as a foray into the domain of orthodox science; a sort of Jeb. Stewart raid around the rear of the enemy. The book is well written, and unlike any other comet known to us it may be taken to your study and examined at your leisure. It is a book whose pretensions are great, but whose merits are in our opinion scarcely less so. There is too much in it and it is too new and startling in its character to be reviewed in a newspaper article; hence this notice, for want of space, is not intended for a review, but only to introduce the new-comer to your acquaintance.

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The introductory chapter presents in a light and pleasant manner the scope and purpose of the book and the circumstances under which it was composed.

Chapters one and two we suspect to have been written after the book had received its first draft and for no other reason than simply to account for the title which the author whimsically selected for his book:

"For we cannot help agreeing" that the name "little relevancy" bears to the work, and that the book would be as complete without these chapters as with them.

In chapters three, four, and five, our author discusses "the Adamanland," its form, winds, rain, dews, soil, climate, vegetation, and natural history, with a P. S. to chapter three to which we invite your special attention. Prancing in general terms that the Adamanland or anti-diluvian world was "a direct contrast to this" he undertakes to show in detail the truth of the proposition.

The present earth is divided and multifarous, consisting of continents, islands, irregular coastlines, mountains, valleys, &c., that was a unit, of even surface and symmetrical form. This is lashed by storms and tempests; that was fanned only by the soot of zephyrs. This is beaten by fierce rains and swept by devastating floods, and again scorched and burnt by long-continued droughts; that never felt the stroke of a rain-drop nor knew the crisping of the frail, tender filaments of the tenderest plant by the rays of a too ardent sun; its rays were dews which the night-winds left as they sweep along; "for the Lord God had not caused it to rain upon the earth — but there went up a mist from the earth and watered the whole face of the ground." Upon this the iso-thermal fine wind and wondrous if inclemency had been tasked to make them crook; upon that either the thermometer or the surveyor's chain might have been used, and as well the one as the other, to mark off the degrees of heat or of altitude alike; for the one kept pace, pair, passus with the other.

There vegetation was luxuriant beyond any present conception; so abundant and so rich that all animals were vegetarians of choice; and desh-feeding is only a post-diluvian practice.

Chapters six, seven, and eight consist of primeval man, of civilization, the arts and sciences, and the population of the Adamanland. The great length of human life before the flood infers a correspondingly larger stature and greater vitality in the individual. These weak and puny bodies of ours are not capable of carrying life and action through such long periods. They are not constructed to last beyond the "three-score and ten," the modern limit of human life. Our author's explanation of this shortening of the term of life may be good; but we think not.

The particles composing our bodies, says he, have been used too often in like manner. They

are derived from a soil that was once the ocean's bed" and "but the long-worn, cast-off debris of defunct organizations, worn and worm, first in one form, then in another."

Like cast-offs and worn-out clothes cored away, readydy, spun and worn, they have been made up into an article that looks like genuine cloth, but is only shoddy.

It is but reasonable to suppose that civilization and the arts and sciences made great progress in the fifteen hundred and fifty years that preceded the deluge, and that the population of the earth was enormous. Indeed it would be most unreasonable to suppose otherwise. We learn from the Scripture that music was cultivated and taught as a science. Mining and the making of the several metals into implements of various kinds were practised and taught. So was the manufacture of cloths. And a people never

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As the earth sinks, pressing the molten mass beneath it downward and outward the bed of the ocean is upheaved, and disjointed and irregular continents and islands group themselves around the basin of the new ocean, the grave of the Adamanland. The Ark borne upon the waters is caught upon the crest of uprising Ararat and there held while the mountain slowly attains its present position and attitude. As Ararat rises through the waters they seem to recede down its sides, or "return from off the earth continually" till at the end of a hundred and fifty days they were "abated."

But we have no room for further detailed comment upon the book. The chapters upon *Physical Geography, Icebergs and Glaciers, Seas, Shells, Sands and Soils, Species, Universal Dispersion, Traditions of the Flood, Reign of Confusion*, following the flood, and the *Mathematical Supplement* with which the second book closes are learned, able and generally conclusive.

And here reader, we leave the book with you, only remarking in conclusion that some of its passages are gracefully and eloquently written while others are deformed by errors so gross and inexcusable that the author scarcely deserves to have his book read at all. Syntactical blunders are not frequent; bad spelling is very frequent; and incorrect punctuation is the rule rather than the exception.

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