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W. C. SMITH, Charlotte, N. C.

Short correspondence of subjects of interest to the public is solicited but persons must not be disappointed if they fail to see the articles in our columns. We are not responsible for the views of correspondents. Anonymous communications go to the waste basket.

LET REPUBLICANS LEAD.

Politicians, like preachers, must hear and forbear many unpleasant things for the success of the cause they represent. We are asked by a Republican, "who should lead us?" Our first thought was, "Let anybody lead us that can lead to victory," and we see examples of it all along the line in both parties. Horace Greeley, McClellan and Hancock were tried by the Democrats. Coalition, liberalism and the like have been tried by the Republicans of this State. But success, sure and lasting success, comes when the motto of a party is: "Principle—and men as the representatives of those principles."

We have thought over the issues raised by our correspondent and had decided to follow any leadership that promised to lead us in the right way. We admit these things are a little galling to sensitive men and it is embarrassing to them to see the men who fought and defeated us two years ago now back to our principles fighting to lead us. But perhaps we have patriotism enough to overlook that and follow any leadership that will give us success.

We would counsel harmony in every precinct and county in the State, and the Republicans of 1884-6 will not be forgotten, even in this year of grace. We will say this, however: Some men are loud for the setting aside of Mott and Keogh as State leaders. We agree with them, yet Mott or Keogh was right and the other wrong; which? Each had bold, loud followers in every county. The position of which do we all stand on now? Somebody must have been wrong in the counties also. Then to a man on the other side the creek, it looks like some of these county managers ought to be set aside too, for the sake of peace.

It may be wiser for us to agree that as far as the past cannot be forgotten, we should agree that all were right, and all are right still, and are standing together, ready to march to victory in November next.

GIVE THE BOYS A CHANCE.

It is said that Mr. Blaine, like Webster and Calhoun, is too smart to be elected President of the United States. For that reason men of less brilliancy and less record, must have the honor of being ruler of the great Republic. Hayes and Cleveland are fine specimens of the kind. It is generally so in State and county affairs. On that line one may ask for a new deal in the management of affairs in this county. Some of the Republican leaders have left the State, still a number who have been leading the party here the last fifteen or twenty years might well give place to young and active men who are well posted though they have had but little experience. It is better to have honest, ignorant men in place than skilled rascals. It should not be taken that a man is ignorant because he has never been in public office. A year or so ago there was a strong sentiment against a second term for the President; the law of our State does not allow our Governor to succeed himself; the Mayor of our city cannot succeed himself, then why not we have a change in party management and give the boys a chance?

Give the boys a chance by electing men to the Chicago convention who have never had such honors though fitted to fill the places with credit to themselves and the party. Do not ride a free horse to death—give him rest. Send to all the conventions, from the precinct up, men with clean record and that is the best guarantee of good conduct in the future. Give

the boys a chance to show that they are men. Give us clean, intelligent leaders with a united party and we cannot fail to succeed. But if the party is left in the hands of bartering, tricky men we cannot hope to do any good. Success depends much on the beginning. Let us begin right.

OUR FREE SCHOOLS.

Elsewhere will be found an article on this subject by Mr. Johnson. We seldom comment on our correspondents, and simply take occasion to emphasize and commend the article, except that which concerns teachers and school houses. He says there are more teachers than there is work. In this he is mistaken. There is room for improvement with many of our teachers, yet a score of teachers may be added to almost every county in the State east of the mountains. We want more and better teachers.

We infer from Mr. Johnson's letter that he would suspend school one term or longer and build better houses. We would advise building comfortable school houses everywhere, but never allow the school to stop a day on that account when it can possibly be avoided. Let the people tax themselves, and let all neighboring churches take special interest, and the men give day's work and build school houses, and save all the county money for the teacher. We must help ourselves.

Teachers are often interfered with by parents for correcting their children. This should not be allowed. We hold that a teacher should correct children in a proper way, and though very old, Solomon's advice should be often taken in the management of bad children. Teachers should be protected by the law of the land against the insults and assaults of parents who imagine their children too good to be brought up in a proper way. A cruel person should not be allowed to teach. A person who interferes with a teacher in the discharge of his duty should be punished. Teachers should have the same protection as other public servants in the discharge of their duties.

Let us have more teachers, better teachers, more and better school houses, and let us help ourselves more and depend less on the State, and we will thereby have more schools and longer terms. "God helps those that help themselves."

BISHOP BROWN'S SON GEORGE.

We see in the Washington *Bee* a letter headed, "What Bishop Brown's son George sees in the South." Mr. George Brown is one sensible young man that sees the South in the proper light. He sees and tells his comrades in the North that there are openings in the South that can and should be filled by our young men, in whose power it lies to elevate themselves, and their race. He tells them of the great work to be done here which is retarded on account of Southern young men not having the opportunities to get an education to do business decently. This he admits must be gone at without fear of soiling or hardening the hands.

He finds industrious and intelligent colored men in the South, but not enough of them.

Others are needed to take the positions held now by colored men; to enter into business, the trades and professions. We have grieved because our young men, after spending years in preparing themselves for life, many of them content themselves at waiting in some hotel, driving some gentleman, loafing around some saloon or throwing himself away and becoming a moral and mental wreck. We continually extend the cry; come over and help us. We need your intelligence and culture. We are overburdened with ignorance and superstition. Our people must be saved and saved by us. The more intelligence among us here the faster will ignorance disappear. Bring your money among us and buy farms, buy the forest and give our poor people a chance to get homes, and make for yourselves the profit on the lands. Investments in lands and houses pay as well here as in the North and are perfectly safe. Investments in factories are both safe and profitable. A hundred thousand dollars or half that amount of stock held by colored men in any cotton

factory would pay them well and give our poor colored women a chance to work in the factories. Come down, wealthy Northern colored men, and take stock in factories, railroads and the like, and the vexed problem will soon be solved, for such things will kill prejudice in the South as it does elsewhere. If you would help your race and yourself, come South and invest your money, and give us the benefit of your education, professions and superior training.

Colored men took five shares (\$100 each) in a cotton factory here last week. If they could have taken 100 shares, they might ask for colored persons to be employed, and thus help themselves and the poor women.

Mr. Brown is sensible and struck the right cord. Come down and help us, and you will do yourselves good.

WHO WILL LEAD US?

Mr. Editor—As the campaign is now opening, the question arises: who will lead the Republicans in this State and in Mecklenburg county. I have watched the movement of affairs and changes of certain men to keep on the strong side. They would condemn me for raising this question and perhaps you will also, but with me it is very important. I have stood up to the principles of the Republican party for twenty years and have never seen cause to change or regret my position. A few years ago we heard of the great Liberal movement, led by Dr. Mott and a few Democrats. It led us to defeat and disgrace. Two years ago the same parties allied themselves with Democrats throughout the State and abused me and all Republicans who chose to stand by principle. We put out a State Judicial ticket, and had these "independent liberals" let us alone we would have elected our ticket beyond a doubt. But these same men, Dr. Mott and his followers throughout the State and especially his followers in this county destroyed the Republican ticket and would not vote it themselves and tried to keep all others from voting it, when it was the only ticket in the field opposing the Democratic ticket. It is acknowledged by Democrats and all, that if these men had allowed our party to vote the ticket in certain counties it would have carried.

These men sold us out four years ago. Sold us out again two years ago. To-day, they say, "peace, let us harmonize and forget the past." Their watchword is, "Let us kickers have the reins and we will lead you to victory." We ask, are these men trustworthy? Were they wrong before or were we wrong? Do we not stand on the same old Republican platform, and have not these men here acknowledged they were wrong and come back to us and the old landmark? Are they not liable to sell us out again if an opportunity presents itself? Should they not be treated as new comers in the party, or should they be given the first places of honor, so when the Republican party gets in power they will get the best places of profit.

The question with me is: Will the people have these unreliable tricksters lead the Republican party in the coming campaign or will they have the honest, solid men like Hagler, Goode, Smith, Weddington, Brady, McDonald, Drayton, Myers, Barringer and hosts of others in the county who have never bowed to Baal, but stood at all times for straight-out men and honest principles?

I would not discourage those men who want to come back to our party, but I do think it very cheeky in them to take up our line of principle with the hope of getting control of the party after forsaking it and causing its defeat. They are not only charged with it, but acknowledge it by their words and actions. Thus I ask the question, Mr. Editor, "who will lead us?"

In the Republican county convention, I would urge harmony in the first place. Then set aside all men who have time and again deceived you. Select to represent you in the State and District conventions staunch Republicans who have never gone back on the party of freedom and equal rights. Such men will honor the party and command the respect of all men and will add much to our

chances for success in the great struggle next November. Who then, but Republicans should lead Republicans? I am an 1868
STRAIGHTOUT REPUBLICAN.

OUR FREE PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

For the Charlotte Messenger.

This is a topic which indeed requires a very careful consideration from several points of view. There is a good deal yet to be done in the way of our public schools in order that they may prove to us a blessing rather than a curse. I do not attempt to say by any means that they are of no real worth or value to us; but I do say that if there is not a radical change ere long in the condition of things relative to the public school system which is now in existence in our land and country, there will and can not be that great and lasting good accomplished; that knowledge both moral and intellect, obtained for which we so ardently seek and strive to retain even amidst the surrounding disadvantages under which we labor.

What steps must now be taken—what course pursued to thus better our free public school system? Or, can it be bettered? If so, then upon whom rest the incumbent duty and responsibility in bettering it? As a general rule our free public schools do not average a term of more than two months in a whole school year. How absurd, and yet how inevitably true! One might ask the cause of this shortcoming of the free public school finance in the several school districts and counties of our land. This seems indeed a very stupendous question to answer correctly, and quite an unyielding problem to solve. But however, it is perhaps partly due is a great lack of sincere and heartfelt interest being manifested by those who have control of these affairs, which should be indiscriminately utilized regardless of race or color throughout our land. Another cause, too; of these shortcomings is a lack of duty performed on our part as free and American citizens to whom the rights of government are due. Again, one of the greatest improvements to our progress as a people is an overplus of so-called teachers in our communities. There are more teachers nowadays than there is actual work for them to do. If there were less of such teachers, and more comfortable school-houses in our respective district, then much more good would be accomplished in the school-room. And indeed I truly believe that, until such be the case, we shall never be able to attain unto a higher excellency in the arts, sciences, and literature of the time. Another barrier to the progress of our free public schools is the interference by parents or guardians of our several school districts with the teachers simply for correcting their children in the school-room. This pernicious character of parents in the very midst of their children, but lays the foundation upon which they are ere long to repudiate shape their characters, which will lead down, down the dark sacrilegious avenues of shame and disgrace—a curse to humanity! This is too often the occurrence amongst our race. Then let us, my fellow-teachers, strive more ardently to suppress such absurdity and vituperation as now exist in our land and country relative to our free public schools, by showing ourselves teachers indeed; by precept and example, the influences of which shall emanate and survive throughout succeeding ages. I am respectfully in behalf of suffering humanity.

JAS. A. JOHNSON.
Davidson College, N. C., March 7th, 1888.

Now You're Shouting!

The colored editor should set down as a fraud, the white man who should say to him "you should give your space gratis, for the party's sake." The white man is passing the boodle around to white editors, and expects the colored to work for sentiment.—*Tennessee Star.*

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