

THE CAUCASIAN HAS THE LARGEST CIRCULATION IN THE LEADING WEEKLY IN NORTH CAROLINA.

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THE CAUCASIAN.

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NO. 20.

HON. RICHMOND PEARSON

WRITES A STRONG LETTER ON THE ELECTION LAW AND ELECTION METHODS.

THE CAUCASIAN AND 25,000 OTHER CITIZENS COULD HAVE BEEN INFORMED BY MEMORANDUM SECRET CIRCULAR.

Justice Avery's Decision Against Common Sense and Holy Writ. Was the Decision Intended to Disfranchise Those Who do not Vote the Democratic Ticket? An Appeal from the West.

Mr. Editor:—Just five years ago I wrote a letter to the Asheville Citizen condemning the Election Law which had just been passed by the Legislature of 1889. In that letter I used these words:—

"At the Election Law puts a premium on fraud and vests arbitrary and capricious power in the registrars, and invites Federal interference."

Since the date of that letter a Republican Congress has tried and failed to pass the Lodge bill; a Democratic Congress has tried and succeeded in passing the Tucker bill, which sweeps from the Federal statutes every vestige of law which makes bribery in elections a crime or which imposes penalties upon fraud and corruption at the polls in fact the repeal of all penalties on bribery and corruption in elections is the only act of general importance on which the present Democratic Congress has been able to agree, on all other questions Tammany and the South are hopelessly divided.

Since the date of that letter our Supreme Court has construed the new election law and their decision in the case of Harris vs. Scarborough, N. C., Rep. 119, page 230, gives the Registrars powers much more arbitrary and dangerous and horrible than I had supposed that law would warrant.

I wish to make some comments on that decision in language as respectful as the case will permit. Judge Avery delivering the opinion of the court—Judges Clark and Davis dissenting—declares in substance that if the Registrar makes a defective registration of the voter, it is the fault of the voter and not the fault of the Registrar; and that the voter so registered is disqualified from voting, that the votes of all persons improperly registered must be thrown out and not counted, that the Registrar in such cases is not to blame, but the "gross carelessness" of the voter, and the "reckless ignorance of the voter."

The importance of this decision will be understood when I state as I do from personal examination of the registration books in the 9th Congressional District, that there are in this district to-day twenty-five thousand and voters disfranchised out of a total of about thirty-three thousand voters on the lists. The names or places of birth, or places of residence, are improperly recorded, and under the decision they cannot legally vote unless they are registered again in strict accordance with the requirements of the act of 1891.

As it now stands the Mayor of this city cannot vote because his name is put down "F. W. Patton" instead of "Thomas W. Patton."

The Chairman of the Board of County Commissioners cannot vote, for two reasons: 1. He is registered as "J. E. Rankin" instead of "J. Eugene Rankin." 2. Because his place of birth is put down as "Tennessee" without giving the county or town where he was born. "J. E. Vance" cannot vote, although he is known by that name at least among his neighbors in Black Mountain township, and has voted under that name unchallenged for forty-four years.

A PREACHER AND A LAWYER

AGREE ON CERTAIN TRUTHS AND SEND THEM TO THE CAUCASIAN.

They Agree With Dr. Thompson's Able Article, and Advance Some Additional Ideas on the All-Abstaining Subject: High Treason Against a Merchant and a Republic.

By Taylor & Clark, N. C., Feb. 25th, 1894.

Let us applaud Dr. Thompson for his courageous and manly defense of the ballot box in his contribution to your columns of the 8th inst. He richly deserves the thanks of every true man in the State. David Paul Brown has left on record 27 replies which he calls the Ethics of the bar, and which one recognized as such by all honorable members of the legal profession. Dr. Thompson's production epitomized should be set out with point of burning gold in the hearts and intellect of every Carolinian. Here the very quintessence of the ethics governing, or which should govern, the electoral and the ballot box officers, is clearly pointed out. If this Republic, of which we boast, has an eye for an eye, a brain to think on, a heart to feel, it is all in the ballot box. To strike at the life of a crowned monarch, is high treason. The life of our matchless Republic, is not represented in the person of any potentate. Our President is only an honored servant of the people. To kill even the lamest of the people is only murder. No estate of the culprit was forfeited, and no blood tainted, as is the case in the crime of high treason. And, Mr. Editor, why is this? It is simply because no official here can be the embodiment of national life.

We have no sole representatives of power here. Every citizen is, in a sense, a little king. The idea at the bottom of our system is the equal distribution of power among all our citizen electors. This national life can only be felt through the ballot box. The ballot box should be sacred as the Ark of the Covenant. The hand that touches it without the sanction of law should be withered by all the pains and penalties which attach to the crime of high treason. Yet in North Carolina we have never heard a Judge instruct a grand jury on the subject at all. The only cases in all the opinions of our Supreme Court in which the character of the act of a failure of a Registrar or other officer at the ballot box to perform his duty, is noticed at all (which we can now recall) is in the cases of De Berry vs. Nicholson, 102 N. C., and the dissenting opinion of Mr. Justice Clarke in Harris vs. Scarborough, 119, N. C. Reports. The late lamented Chief Justice Smith in the former, and Justice Clarke in his dissenting opinion, give us the information that for the willful neglect of their duties, the local self government should be indicted. High treason is the most infamous of all crimes; because it strikes out the Nation's life. In a Republic, founded upon the popular will, the most dangerous assaults that can be made upon its National life is upon the ballot box. And yet in these opinions, valuable as they are to the country, the negligence and willful refusal of a Registrar or other officer (to perform a duty) is only stated to be indictable, although it may result in depriving the elector of the right to contribute to the popular will force that governs the indifference to this great question, and a honor is due to the memory of Chief Justice Smith, and to Justice Clarke in his said dissenting opinion for teaching us that such a crime at all. Hear Judge Clarke in his own language, "The Registrar is the officer of the law. He is appointed to make inquiries and set down the replies. When in repose to the inquiries as to the place of birth, the elector in good faith, and thinking he had complied with all that was required of him, responded 'North Carolina,' he was guilty of no disaffection of law or other act which deprived him of his right to vote. If the response was not sufficiently definite, the representative of the law, the Registrar, duly appointed, sworn and paid to perform the duty of taking the registration, should have asked the elector to respond more particularly. \* \* \* Another view, it would seem, would make the registration of voters not an impartial observance of regulations to protect the election franchise and to prevent frauds upon it, but would furnish opportunities where by the trusting, the unwary, the unskilled on the ignorant would be deprived of their constitutional right of exercising the right of voting." The guide book sent out by our brethren, I say brethren because Jefferson said "We are called by different names brethren of the same principle," called and known as the Simmons letter would have sent out a much purer influence had it imbibed more of the spirit of this dissenting opinion of Judge Clarke. The registration laws and the duties of the Registrar thus constrained do indeed tend to the protection of the ballot box. But if nothing more appeared to the Registrar than the information furnished by that secret confidential Simmons letter in a time of great political excitement, then indeed these laws only serve as a snare and a trap by which the honest unsuspecting patriot may be deprived of a constitutional right. Under the influence of such teaching what indeed would in a few years be the condition of affairs in our beloved old State. That disorder, confusion, and blood-shed will

ALPHARETTED OVEN WILSON.

Nothing since Our Noble Order went into politics has so wretchedly hit him with glory as his latest achievement. In its recent glorious career it has aspired so many aspirations, it has achieved so many achievements, it has accomplished so many accomplishments, that it has scintillated so many scintillations, that a complete and exhaustive category of the whole outfit would be too voluminous to mention. A few laurel wreaths, however, may be hinted at, leaving the reader with an extravagant handful of laurel to fill in all gaps. Our Noble Order has given the world the sub-Treasury scheme—a system of political philosophy at once pungent, potent, and fragrant with the aromatics of old mown hay; it has sent the Sockless to the lower house of Congress with orders to seek it to both Democracy and Republicanism, without discriminating as to the color of Republicanism; it has substituted in the Senate a set of Eolian harp whisks for a scintillating brass with a red necktie; it has flung a flaming petticoat to its flagstaff and sent Sister Mary Helen Lease sitting through the South, dropping it in the face of the Southern Democracy, yelling "In Hoc Signo," and things like that (In Hoc Signo is at present writing, we are reliably informed, lying up for repairs—it has been expressed, post-paid, to Mr. Lease with orders to wash the egg-wash stains out of it the next time he washes the baby's overclothes and other clothes too insignificant to mention in a production of this order.) Our Noble Order has produced one of the most remarkable Governors of the century, he of Colorado, whose highest ambition is to ride in blood up to his horse's bridle (very few, even of our best, Governors, are capable of such rank, nephetic, gimpsonswed aspirations as that); Our Noble Order has retired from the Senate of the United States from the State of Calhoun and Hayne, a man who gave the best efforts of his life for the preservation of the liberties of his State, as he believed, and in his place has put a man who tries to kill cabinet members, gets drunk, in the same State it has subverted one of the fundamental principles of freedom and admits spies into men's castles, into the very holy of holies of the home.

UNITED WE STAND.

THE DEMOCRATS CONGRATULATED UPON THEIR UNITY OF PURPOSE AND DIVERSITY OF OPINION.

We have to congratulate our Democratic friends on their unity of purpose and diversity of opinion. Their purpose is one; their principles many. Never a res in any variety of shades globe bears such a variety of shades of fruit. We have on the tariff question high protective Democrats and anti-protective Democrats; two kinds. On the financial question free coinage Democrats and golding Democrats; anti-national bank Democrats and pro-national bank Democrats; four kinds. We have bi-metallicists of all ratios. On the income tax, two kinds; for and against. So have the Democrats believing and confessing every article of political faith ever promulgated in American politics; and those professing diametrically opposite opinions, as just as honest and just as good Democrats as any. And no man is ever read out of the party for the pecuniary of his faith.

STOCK RAISING AND EARNING.

A Model Lenoir County Farm and One That Has Proved Profitable.

The Kinton Free Press says that Mr. W. L. Kennedy, of Lenoir county, carried off the honors at the horse-breeds sale at Raleigh last week. Horsebreeders were there from Kentucky as well as various places in North Carolina, but he secured the best prices.

THE TERMS

On Which the People's Party Senators Will Vote for the Wilson Bill—Most Raise Revenue Without Bonds.

One of the People's Party Senators gives the following statement to a reporter of their position on the tariff bill.

THE NATIONAL COMMITTEE.

AN ADDRESS ISSUED TO THE VOTERS OF THE UNITED STATES BY THE COMMITTEE.

Money The Great Issue. The National Executive Committee of the People's party meet in the city of St. Louis on the 22nd of Feb. and issued the following address:

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THE DRINK QUESTION.

A New York minister of the gospel has recently through his congregation almost quietly, in a sermon, against the principle of prohibition. His argument is that the word temperate means moderate, and that the prohibitionist is as far from being temperate as the contented drunkard, on the principle that neither the north or south poles—the two extremes—are in the temperate zone. He further argues that the use of wine, or strong drink, is distinctly meritorious in Holy Writ, but the abuse of it is, of course, condemned.

It is somewhat startling, truly, to find a gentleman of the cloth defending even the use of liquor, but we have no doubt the clergyman referred to was acting purely on conscientious motives. The gentleman very logically and truthfully defines temperance. It certainly does not mean drinking at all, any more than it means habitual drunkenness.

It is a great mistake, however, and quite an unchristian thought, to believe that all men who drink are necessarily great sinners. We mean those who drink moderately. The great evil of the liquor habit, and the one which has created its most bitter enemies, is its abuse to such an extent as to rob men of all reason and human sentiment. There can be nothing but universal contempt for the man who neglects his family and his business for the sake of drink. Such men should never be allowed to live.

But how often do we find thoroughly respectable, honest, noble-hearted men, good and generous, shrewd in business, great in natural abilities, popular in social circles, who occasionally, perhaps too often, take rather too much at their clubs, at their homes or at the homes of friends? Perhaps some festive occasions, a birthday, a wedding, a quiet call or other function may be the cause of their indiscretion, but neither their families nor society are injured by the act.

Rest assured that the chief sufferer on such occasions is the man himself. He is very jolly that night, but oh, what a difference in the morning! He gets all the punishment his indiscretion calls for in the shape of trembling nerves, a racking headache and a bosom full of remorse. He is really a man of great pity, man of courage, and instead of condemning him one ought to seek to relieve him.

How many thousands of gentlemen have found the wonderfully quick power of Dr. Miles' Restorative Nervine in such cases! A single dose in the morning almost immediately steadies the nerves and cools the brain, leaving the head perfectly clear for business.

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"Yes, we have held a caucus and this is what we have agreed to. We are unalterably opposed to all bounties and subsidies, but we believe that the law giving a bounty on sugar, for a specific number of years, was in the nature of a contract, and as the Populists are on principle opposed to any legislation in the nature of the violation of a contract, and believe that whether these subsidies should be enforced in the courts or not, the nation is morally bound to pay them. Therefore we will not vote for the Wilson bill if it puts a duty on sugar. We will not vote for it if the bounty law is repealed. We will not vote for it if the income tax is stricken out. We will not vote for it unless it provides a revenue sufficient to run the government, and leaves no excuse for the issue of more bonds."

MR. FEFFER'S INQUIRY. He Wants the Senate to Investigate Certain Senatorial Corruption. (Washington D. C. March 10.) Senator Peffer, of Kansas, has taken official cognizance of the reports that several members of the Senate have been driving profitable bargains by reason of their connection with the sub-committee re-framing the Wilson bill, and quite unexpectedly yesterday offered a preamble and resolution reciting that city and rural newspapers have been printing statements that Senators, making use of their official knowledge, have been operating on the stock exchange in the shares of the sugar trust, and that many of them have thus acquired large gains and profits, and directing the appointment of a select committee of five Senators to investigate subject.

THE NATIONAL WATCHMAN AND THE CAUCASIAN both one year for \$7.75.

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NEW SPECIES

One of the Old Species With a New Label. (Washington Post.) Senator Hill has amended it to read:—"I am a Democrat-protectionist-anti-tuck o'."

WASHINGTON, D. C., March 12.—The official announcement of the vote in Pennsylvania, whereby Grow was elected congressman-at-large by nearly 100,000 republican majority, produced consternation on all sides. The official count shows that while he has the majority claimed, yet there were 31,000 less votes cast for him than for President Harrison at the last election.

One of the shrewdest politicians in congress was heard to remark that "It was a mighty good thing that the Populists had no money with which to organize and canvass that state for they would have carried it sure, and then there would have been the 'Old Harry' to pay in politics, sure enough." Grow did not get any where near a majority of the qualified votes of Pennsylvania, and it shows that a majority of the state are in confidence in either of the old parties. The announcement of the official figures caused a great deal of talk among congressmen.

NEWBORN DISTRICT QUARTER MEETINGS, F. D. SWINDELL, P. D. Morehead City, March 20-21. Beaufort March 22-23. Straits, at Springfield March 24-25. Grifton at Gum Swamp March 31. April 1st. Goldsboro et. Pine Forest April 1. St. Johns, April 7-8. LaGrange, Betnel, April 14-15. St. Paul's, April 15. Carteret et. Bryces, April 21-22. Hancock St., April 22. Mt. Olive et. Indian Springs, April 28-29.

NOTICE.

If any of our subscribers are falling to get to the paper on the same day as it is published they will confer a favor by letting us know, giving us the route over which the same reaches them. If on Star routes give us the railroad office from which it starts and days and hour of leaving. We desire this information that we may endeavor to adopt some plan by which we can reach all of our readers the week of publication.

MR. GUDGER INTERVIEWED. He Speaks of the Case of Collector Simmons, and His Recommendations to Cleveland. (Correspondent of the Observer.) Asheville, March 8.—An interview with Hon. H. A. Gudger, regarding the case of Collector Simmons, of the eastern district, is printed in the Citizen this evening. Mr. Gudger has been dangerously ill several months, but is now able to sit up and hopes to get out soon. Papers of all kinds have been kept from him during his illness, and it was on Tuesday that he first saw references in the press to the Simmons matter. In answer to the question, "What about the letter of Mr. Simmons?" Mr. Gudger replied:—"I know nothing about it except as I have been advised by friends in whom I have confidence. At a gathering of prominent public eastern men at Morehead City a few days after Mr. Elias' appointment as collector and Mr. Simmons' return from Washington, Mr. Simmons stated in answer to a question of Mr. Harry Skinner, of Greenville, that he went to Washington to see the President about western appointments, and made the first suggestion to the President that he should appoint Mr. Glenn as district attorney and Mr. Elias as collector, and that the appointment of Mr. Elias would give satisfaction to the western people. Mr. Simmons said the President was struck with the suggestion, and after discussion between the two, concluded that it would be the best course for him to take. Mr. Simmons then went to Senator Ransom's hotel and detailed what had occurred at the White House, and Senator Ransom jumped up, cracked his heels together, and patting him on the shoulder, told Mr. Simmons that that was the best day's work he had ever done."

"Mr. Skinner told me that Mr. Jesse Granger, of Kinton, an others, were present and heard this statement by Mr. Simmons. I believe Mr. Skinner's story is the true, not only because he is an honorable man, but from the fact that I have since seen Mr. Simmons on the train and at the Yarbrough House in Raleigh and he made no explanation to me."

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