

Charlotte Democrat.

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CHARLOTTE, N. C.

Friday, May 1, 1896.

More Efficient Causes for Industrial Ills Than the Lack of Free Silver.

It is soothing to the intellectual conscience when simultaneous occurrences may be associated causatively. It makes explanations so glaringly evident, and withal so much easier. Foreign nations that have hitherto been unheeded in the markets of the world except as consumers, suddenly enter the arena of active competition with almost limitless supplies, lessen the demands for American products, and in consequence their prices; a period of general depression is succeeded by one of general depression; and, in explanation of it all, contrary to common sense and due regard for the economic laws of supply and demand, is offered the idle chimera of a too rigid currency. To the objection that only a few of our commodities have suffered, it may be urged that these are our most staple ones—cotton, wheat, cattle, wool;—and that a radical reduction in the market value of these is sufficient to set up a general wave of depression. Pay the farmer less for his cotton and you make him less able to purchase manufactured articles, and the manufacturers in turn find their demand for other commodities lessened, and so on ad infinitum.

Mr. Worthington Ford, Chief of the Bureau of Statistics at Washington, writing in the North American Review for August, 1895, says: "The time was when the farmers of the United States were the great feeders of grain and suppliers of fine cotton of the world. Other people have developed in competing capacity in grain and meats, and at no time has their ability been so great as at present. It was Russia and British India that were feared as competitors; it is now the Argentine Republic, which appears to have an almost unlimited power to grow and export wheat in defiance of any competition."

The merest disturbance of established economic conditions may set in operation adverse forces that will not have spent themselves till every agency of production has experienced their crippling, paralyzing effect. The great leveler of prices is rigid competition. American exports of cotton for the ten months ending June 30th, 1895, were 3,427,845,716, against 2,666,982,921 pounds in the corresponding period of 1894. Practically 9,000,000,000 pounds more were sold in 1895 than in the preceding year, and netted \$3,400,000 less. Our cotton must now meet the competition of that of Egypt and the East, whose product, if inferior in quality, has the great advantage over ours of being raised at much less cost. All the floating bog of verbiage about free coinage can avail naught. Far better were it, if the same energy and ingenuity were directed to adapting our articles of production to changing conditions of supply and demand.

We reproduce in full from the Sunday Charlotte Observer ex-Congressman Henderson's earnest, patriotic and dispassionate appeal for a united democracy. When there are not wanting those who would divorce party policy from party principle, when the bickerings and sterilizing quibbles of office-hungry politicians threaten the dethronement of popular reason, when the currency question is viewed in isolation from other necessary and vital considerations and made to appear in a glare that stimulates an almost mad and reckless rush toward a proposed solution, such a communication is timely and reassuring. Mr. Henderson rightly maintains that democracy means more than mere "free silver" and "16 to 1"; that, in standing for other ends of government equal in moment with the practicable adjustment of the currency question, the Democratic party is bigger than the currency idea, and can ill-afford to risk all else on the success or failure of an experiment.

Last summer the Shakespeare Society of New York organized a movement to purchase, as a landmark, the cottage in Fordham, N. Y., in which Edgar Allan Poe spent the last four years of his life. Liberal contributions have been made toward the purchase and preservation of the cottage, but it appears now that the site is not available for the purpose in hand, and that the cottage will have to be removed to some other spot for preservation.

While the International Arbitration Congress composed of the most eminent friends of peace in the country were in solemn deliberation at Washington the other day over plans for unending peace abroad, Representatives Hall of Missouri, and Money of Mississippi were in a committee room slugging each other with ink-stands and sponge-cups.

We are reminded with Emerson that some men do seem to retain traces of a preceding quadruped organization.

We publish in another column the address of the Executive Committee of the Vance Memorial Association to the people of Charlotte and Mecklenburg County. The movement to erect here in our midst a fitting monument to the illustrious commoner will meet with the approval and substantial encouragement of every one.

To prevent the hardening of the sebaceous tissues of the scalp and the obliteration of the hair follicles, which cause baldness, use Hall's Hair Renewer.

WAR'S RAVAGES IN CUBA.

An American Planter Pleads for Our Interference.

In a letter to the New York Sun an American planter says: "A letter has just reached me from the very heart of the war in Cuba. It is written by one of the largest plantation owners on the north side of the island, and is known to all Cubans. I withhold the writer's name, however, for should it be publicly connected with this letter it might cost his freedom, or even more. The letter reads: 'The war has paralyzed the whole island; agriculture, industry and commerce are at a dead stop. I am an American citizen, and so do not meddle, but I sympathize with the Cubans, as they deserve their independence. They need United States interference to end this struggle expeditiously, otherwise it will take them longer, but they will gain even if it be over a pile of ashes. 'The correspondence is sometimes opened, so we cannot receive any letters which would in any way compromise us. Many innocent people are being killed by the Government troops. You can judge what the Spanish army is when they mistake themselves and fight their own troops, burn plantations and houses, and then publish it as the work of the rebels. For God's and humanity's sake the United States ought to interfere, and I pray that they will; if not, this will be in ashes soon, and we will have to abandon all our property and immigrate. The Spanish troops have burned one of our properties, and a good one, you may imagine, all planted with cane and with beautiful timber. I am afraid that the rest of our properties will suffer if this war is not ended.'"

This gentleman has lost more than \$100,000 already, and has made a claim to the United States Government against the Spanish Government for more than that amount in Spanish gold. He is but one of thousands who are looking forward hopefully to our Government for release from a reign of terror. All the railway lines both North and South have made very low rates to the Southern States Settlers' Convention at Southern Pines, May 5th. The occasion will doubtless attract prospective settlers from every section of the Union, and be of material service in impressing on them the superior and varied resources of the South along many lines. The subscription price of the DEMOCRAT has been reduced from one dollar and a half to one dollar a year, cash in advance. Subscribe now.

Why Silver Dollars are Still Coined. The unrepealed part of the silver purchasing act of 1890 provides that the Treasury notes issued in payment for silver bullion, when redeemed in coin, or otherwise, received into the Treasury, "may be retained, but no greater or less amount of such notes shall be outstanding at any time than the cost of the silver bullion and the standard silver dollars coined therefrom then held in the Treasury purchased by such notes." When Treasury notes have been redeemed with silver dollars it has been the policy of Secretary Carlisle, following carefully the letter of the law and the dictate of financial prudence, to cancel the notes for \$19,000,000 of the Treasury notes have been thus redeemed and destroyed.

In order to force silver coin into use and circulation the Treasury pays the cost of transportation to any part of the country. This privilege has induced deposits of Treasury notes at the sub-treasuries, for which silver coin has been sent wherever desired. Enough of the bullion in the treasury has been coined to meet the demand for silver dollars in exchange for Treasury notes. It will be observed that there is no inflation in this operation. It is a redemption of paper, and a substitution of silver dollar for dollar. If all the treasury notes had been gotten rid of by such a process it would have been a very lucky thing for the country. The outstanding Treasury notes are gradually being cancelled by the means of instant and calamitous attack upon the gold reserve. The silver dollar cannot be so readily used for this purpose.

Cost of Bad Roads. According to statistics collected by the office of Road Inquiry of the Department of Agriculture, the amount of low class year-by bad roads of the country is almost beyond belief. Some 10,000 letters of inquiry were sent to intelligent and reliable farmers throughout the country, and returns were obtained from about 1,200 counties, giving the average length of haul in miles from farms to markets and shipping points, the average weight of load hauled and the average length per ton for the whole length of haul. Summarized, it appears that the general average length of haul is twelve miles, the weight of load for two horses 2,002 pounds, and the average cost per ton per mile 25 cents, or \$3 for the entire load. Allowing conservative estimates for tonnage of all kinds carried over public roads, the aggregate expense of this transportation is figured at \$946,414,600 per annum. These figures in a position to judge calculate that two thirds of this, or nearly \$631,000,000, could be saved if the roads were in reasonably good condition. At \$4,000 per mile a very good road can be constructed, and if an amount equaling the savings of one year were applied to improving highways, 157,000 miles of road in this country could be put in condition. The effect of this would be a permanent improvement, and not only would the farmer be astonished in the sudden reduction in his road tax, but he would also wonder at the remarkable falling off in the cost of transportation. He would also find that he required fewer horses and less food for them. He could make two trips to market a day instead of one, when ability to get his goods there at a time when high prices are ruling is a matter of great consequence. Farmers are beginning to apply a little simple arithmetic to some of these matters, and it is not too much to expect that in the near future we shall see a decided revolution in the condition of our rural highways.

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ABIDE IN THE SHIP!

DEMOCRATS, SAVE THE STATE!

J. S. HENDERSON FOR SOUND MONEY!

A Bold Stand for Principle—Silver Coinage at 16 to 1 is a Worthless Issue and Promises Few Practical Results—It Would be Impossible to Maintain the Parity at 16 to 1—The United States Has in Reality a Per Capita of \$45 to Mexico's \$6, and is Therefore Nine Times More Prosperous Than Mexico—There Must be No Treacherous Dickerings With Butler and Populism—Not One Blessing in the State From "Fusion"—Democratic Discord Means Republican Success.

Written for the Charlotte Observer.

A united democracy can redeem the State this year, but if the party divides there is no hope of success. Democratic defeat means Republican victory. Every honorable effort must be made to hold the party together. All true democrats must work and vote for every democratic nominee, county, State and national. When did it become democratic doctrine, that a democrat must bolt the nominees of the party, if they do not happen to agree with him on a monetary or other question, whether political or non-political? The rule heretofore has always been to stand by the party and to support in good faith all its nominees. The majority will control in the long run, and in the meantime the minority must submit. Whatever may be the difference of opinion among democrats, let us settle them all inside the party. There is no other hope of accomplishing results, and no other party will bring the people any relief. What has become of the "Greenback party"? How can the "Populist party" help the people to good government and a better currency? That organization has about run its course. Another party with another name and other principles will probably arise from its ashes this year or two hence. Why should any Democrat leave his party? What can he hope to gain by leaving the Democratic party and joining or "fusing" with the populists or any other new party to be organized this year? There are only two real parties in North Carolina to-day—the Democratic and Republican. The latter party has about swallowed up the Democratic, holding the Populists "fusion" did the work. Populist free-traders have become protectionists, and if the educational process continues much longer at least half of the Populists will become Republicans in name as well as in principles.

POPULISM ONLY A POLITICAL MISBROUW.

And what are the results of existing "fusion"? Not one blessing to the people of the State. It has become a mere scramble for spoils. The selfish and illogical coalition does not work harmoniously, and is about to fall to pieces. And yet some of the leading Democrats, the scoundrel and the scoundrel's combination, are rushing blindly, thoughtlessly and madly to join its broken ranks! They must not do this, but must be prevented, if possible. What has become of the democratic "readjusters" who "fused" with the Republicans in Virginia? Where are the democrats of Kansas and Oregon who a short time ago "fused" with the populists? All "fusions" of this sort, with whatever party, will necessarily come to grief and failure. For a generation the people of North Carolina have found protection, safety and happiness in the Democratic party, and it is now our only hope of defense and safety. What would have become of the liberties of the people of the South during the troublous times of the war if the national Democratic party had not come to our rescue? The peril confronting the party this year is the disruption of its State organization upon the "silver issue." There is no hope for "free silver coinage" at "sixteen to one" or any other ratio under a "fusion" banner in this State or elsewhere. There is no more chance for "free coinage" under such influences than there would be for the "sub-treasury" under like auspices and combinations. All these roads lead through Democratic disaster to Republican victory. What can patriotic, good people hope from such ill devised and abortive schemes and associations? The destruction of the Democratic organization is not necessary in order to bring about "free coinage." If that can come at all, the Democratic party has not stood in its way. And yet some, possibly many, extreme silver Democrats now propose as the only means of securing "free coinage" to divide and disrupt the party. The attempt will fail. The Democratic party may be defeated this year, but it will not be destroyed. The democrats who propose to break it up may leave it if they will—I hope they will not—but they will not destroy it. The existence of the party is essential to the safety of the republic, and it will be here battling for the liberties of the people as long as the people will have any liberties left to be battled for. The Democratic party is, as it has ever been, the party of the people and the faithful, consistent and vigilant defender of civil and religious liberty.

A HANDSOME DEFENCE OF CLEVELAND

Some men wish to break up the party on account of their hatred of Grover Cleveland. He has been just, generous, magnanimous to the south. His policy has reduced taxation, suppressed violence and disorder, righted Republican wrongs, "repealed Federal election laws," made "force bills" impossible, guaranteed to the South all her rights and honors in the union and maintained and preserved the public credit. And yet many Southern men denounce him for all that is bad! He has been true to his pledges and has adhered to his convictions. He is thoroughly upright and incorruptible. Few Presidents have surpassed him in ability and none have been more conscientious or patriotic. History will surely vindicate him and he will be admired and honored more by the next generation than he is to day, but his course is even now endorsed and approved by a large majority of the Ameri-

can people, regardless of party. No Southern man should ever speak unkindly of Cleveland. He has not changed his views and his silver coinage is as sound as gold. Those who supported him in 1892 did so with a full knowledge of his views and ideas on all public questions. And no one who voted for him in 1894, 1888 or 1892 ought to cast a stone at him now. He has never concealed his views on the question of silver coinage. On February 10th, 1891, about seventeen months before he was nominated for the presidency for his present term, he said in a public letter written to E. Ellery Anderson: "If we have developed an unexpected capacity for the assimilation of a largely increased volume of the currency, and even if we have demonstrated the usefulness of such increase, these conditions fall far short of insuring us against disaster, if in the present situation we enter upon the dangerous and reckless experiment of free, unlimited and uncontrolled silver coinage." He has since been criticized and denounced for issuing bonds to replenish the gold reserve. If he had not done so, the present Congress might have impeached him for wilful neglect of duty. He was personally opposed to the issue of bonds, but Congress has failed either to amend the law requiring such issue or to repeal it. He has maintained the gold standard of value and kept all sorts of donors, both parties, from doing so. He does not make laws, but he is bound to execute them. The Republican party established the "gold standard" by the act of February 12, 1873 and the act of July 14, 1890, known as the Sherman law, also passed by the Republicans—in spite of a unanimous Democratic opposition in both houses—declared it to be the established policy of the United States to maintain the two metals on a parity with each other upon the present legal ratio, or such ratio as may be provided by law." The Republicans and Populists of North Carolina are equally responsible for the majority which controls the fifty-third Congress, in the House as well as in the Senate. If the law is wrong, why don't they alter it? And if Cleveland is acting contrary to law, why don't they stop him? Senator Peffer, the leading populist in the Senate, stated in a speech on the floor of the Senate a few days ago, that "he did not believe that there have been fraud and corruption on the part of the Secretary of the Treasury or the President of the United States in regard to the bond issues; that he did not impute dishonorable or corrupt motives upon the part of either of these gentlemen, but he regarded them as men of honor." What more need be said? No man in public life has ever had a cleaner or more stainless record than Grover Cleveland. I defended him on the stump in 1894 from the baseless, malicious and mendacious charges of the populists and Republicans; and every democratic speaker will defend him again this fall when he will be once more attacked and vilified by politicians and public speakers who do not know of a more truthful than Senator Peffer.

ALWAYS A SOUND MONEY MAN.

Why should the democratic party be more divided on the "silver question" now than heretofore? Nobody is trying to drive the "free silver" men out of the party, and so far as I know nobody is expecting to drive out the "sound money" men! A man can be a good Democrat and hold whatever views he pleases on the currency question. It is not as important as it is believed to be by its most earnest advocates. Do you know of a more worthless issue or one that is less attainable, or that promises fewer practical results, at the ratio that is proposed, of "sixteen to one." What do its supporters expect to be accomplished by the enactment of such a law? A largely increased volume of currency, of course—but not, I hope, a depreciation of the value of the silver dollar. How are we to get any addition to the currency? The passage of a bill for such free coinage would necessarily repeal all laws which require a parity in value of the two metals to be maintained. What then? Our silver dollar would be worth its market value in bullion or about fifty two cents at present prices. The bullion owners would not need to carry it to the mints, but would sell it in open market for what it was worth. This country would be on a silver basis, but with a far less volume of currency than we have now. Mexico has a per capita circulation of less than five dollars all silver or based on silver. The United States have a per capita circulation of twenty three dollars, consisting of gold, silver and paper, and all kept on a parity with gold and each other. Compared with Mexico we have about forty five dollars per capita in value to Mexico's five—for twenty three dollars more money are equal to forty-five dollars in Mexican silver dollars, and the metal in the Mexican dollar is worth more than ours. According to populistic logic the United States ought to be nine times more prosperous than Mexico, if a per capita circulation is a test of prosperity. And I would not be surprised if that was very near the truth. I have sometimes thought that the best way to increase our stock of metallic money would be to stop free coinage altogether and to coin all the money required both of gold and silver on government account. And I suspect this will be the result not very many years hence. We had free coinage for 18 years before 1873 and during this period only 8,048,838 silver dollars were coined at our mints; and this was almost exclusively for exportation. This was because their purchase value was greater than their face value, and this is why Mr. Jefferson on May 1, 1806, suspended the coinage

of the silver dollar. And none were thereafter coined in this country until 1840, when 61,005 silver dollars were coined. This is not precisely accurate, as 1,000 dollars were coined in 1836 and 300 in 1839. I have recently read with great interest the proceedings of the International Monetary Conference held at Brussels in December, 1892, from which I have already quoted. Some things I find there startling me. One thing is, that England is more friendly toward a larger use of silver than France. Mr. Bannan, delegate of the United States, made this statement in a speech to the conference: "The proposition of Mr. De Rothschild, a delegate from England, the frank and able statement which we have just listened to from Mr. Tirard, a delegate from France and representing the Latin Union, clearly indicates the condition of affairs in Europe. Permit me to say that I have been greatly surprised at what has occurred. We in the United States supposed that France and the Latin Union, being the largest holders of silver in the world, were friendly to that metal as money; but we find that while they are to be present with us and are interested in our proceedings, they are not inclined to join with us to the better use of silver as money; and we find to our surprise, that England, without any silver of consequence, suggests its purchase and use as a money metal." Mr. Tirard says that in France they are especially interested in any palliative measures to increase the price of silver and that they are able to maintain their present position." I quote now from Mr. Tirard, the French delegate: "France under present circumstances has no cause to complain of her monetary situation and she does not complain. France, of all nations in the world, is the one which has the largest quantity of money, both in gold and silver." * * * We have in France that quantity of money which however considerable it is, incommodes no one and renders, on the contrary, important services to every body." * * * As a matter of fact France is still bi-metallic. If we ceased to coin it, it was because we were forced to face with a continually increasing volume of silver not only from the growth of its production but also in consequence of the transformation of the monetary system of Germany. All the silver extracted from the mines or demonetized elsewhere arrived in France * * * and from this superabundance of metal came its depreciation. We have ceased to coin it and I think our course was perfectly right." * * * Why should France permit the free coinage of silver, when she is already amply provided with it? I believe that she alone possesses as much as all the nations of Europe put together." * * * If France and the Latin Union * * * should alone open their mints to the free coinage of silver, all the surplus of the United States and of Mexico would go to France, to Italy, to Belgium. And where would these countries be able to use it? Nowhere, since in the rest of Europe none wish to admit it as legal tender." * * * As to establishing free coinage, as to receiving the silver procured in Mexico and the United States, which France would never have occasion to return to the powers which had sent it, and which she could never use to pay her purchases and liquidate her obligations she would never advise this government to accept such a situation.

ABIDE IN THE SHIP.

I have never entertained other views although I have voted for free coinage when I believed the standard dollar could be maintained and circulated at its coinage value on a parity with the gold dollar. I have therefore always been a "sound money" man. I cordially approved of the national Democratic platform adopted at Chicago in 1892. All Democrats stood upon it then. Why can't all stand upon it now? I suited Bland and Cleveland then. It suits Cleveland now. Why does it not suit Bland, too? Both were good democrats then. Why can't both be good Democrats now? Whatever be the views of democrats upon this question, Mr. Editor, let us all get together and help save the State and the whole country at the next November election. If we do our best and don't divide, we may elect a Democratic Governor and Legislature and a Democratic Congress and President. If the Democracy is defeated, the republic can party will triumph. Populism and the new Silver party will be unimportant factors. The next congress and the next President, if not Democratic will certainly be republican. "Sound money" democrats and "free coinage" democrats at "16 to 1" must abide in the democratic ship, and "except those abide in the ship" the democracy "cannot be saved" from political and party ship-wreck.

JOHN S. HENDERSON.

To understand the republican district convention held at Maxton, last Wednesday, you should know something about the ball in which it was held. The town hall fronts on Main street near the depot. You enter the hall by a gradually sloping stairway, broad and long. At the back end of the hall a stage is placed. It is about three feet high and on the right hand looking toward the front of the hall is an ante-room which has a door opening on the stage. Near this door the writer sat, with a board on his lap and pencil in hand. From this stage Chairman R. B. Russell, of Maxton, called the convention to order. After a very earnest prayer by Rev. Hays, (colored), Russell called A. M. Long, of Rockingham, to the chair. As Mr. Long took his seat he appointed a committee on credentials. The committee retired to the ante-room on the platform.

Before the convention was called to order small squads could be seen here and there on the streets discussing the candidates, but all delegates had out and dried opinions as to their men. Now and then you could see what is generally called a "character"—a township politician. But not till the credentials committee had retired did the "characters" come to the front. As the committee retired you could hear a pin drop, and up to this time all was smooth sailing. Now and then a liquor-fueled would give a yell, but as the ante-room door closed

SATAN ENTERED THE HALL.

Cries went up for "H. H. Covington," "D. B. Sutton," "Covington," "Sutton!" The hall rang through the tower like a mighty clash of thunder. Amidst the yells a tall, lean, lank, hungry-looking fellow with scanty beard and disheveled hair, wearing a cut-a-way coat, shirt and no collar, large feet and small pants, stepped forth. His voice was like a trumpet. As the crowd yelled his voice was heard above the tumult. He began to pour out strings of humor and to gesture like a bull-bat after a goat. His long arms waved to and fro, up and down, and the house began to roar with laughter. Then came upon the stand a character well known to Charlotte, He now lives at Rockingham. His name is Rich Lilly—a long legged, long-armed, thin, spare built, coal-black negro, about 25 years old. Rich Lilly had had his share of mountain dew, and was nimble and quick. When H. H. Covington—the humorous speaker just mentioned—spanned the stage at a step, Rich Lilly did the same in his rear. When Covington scraped the walls with his hands, Rich Lilly did the same with his. Rich Lilly's mouth was shut, but his body beat time with Covington's.

RICH LILLY ACTS LIKE A DELEGATE.

The hall roared, but a cry came: "I will give any man five dollars that will take that d—n country scoundrel (Covington) off the stage." It is alleged that young D. B. Sutton, of Wilmington, was the gentleman who made the offer. No sooner was the sentence out than did a big, black, heavy-set fellow with a Van Dyke beard step forward to leg Covington, but lo! Was Rich Lilly deaf? Just as the big, burly fellow stepped to the stage Rich Lilly planted a fist in his face and spread him upon the seat. At this point Rich Lilly came back and asked the reporter: "Didn't I act like a delegate?" and the reporter told him "yes."

THE REPORTER MAKES A BREAK FOR THE WOODS.

Uncle Hampton's successful plunge into the ante-room out the reporter's plans in two. The ante-room had closed, the fight was growing hotter, and the crowd was coming on the stage. Only two ways to escape were left. Either to board the train for home, or to jump out the two-story window to the ground, or leap over the crowd around the rim of the stage. The latter was the hardest but the safest way. He weighed the two ways when he looked around and saw a great big delegate reach down to his shoe-mouth and draw out a razor and throw it open. No longer was the question of escape debatable. At one jump the crowd was over-ridden and the reporter gone. As he swung in the air his eyes fell back and saw several pistols slowly moving around in the crowd. Sheriff Smith had planted a man a blow by this time, and yells of: "Take em out" were heard. Again, the reporter had seated himself on the roof of the annex—just outside of the hall window. As he struck his head in the window he saw the last of some delegate going down the steps at the rate of six stairs to the jump. Old man Bill Terry, of the Spirit of the South, who was standing on the street looking up the steps, saw the man coming. He said: "Gosh, that's no place for a cripple man."

HENCE THE VOTE WAS UNANIMOUS.

Now the storm began to calm and two parallel conventions were held. On all questions both sides voted "yes," at the

The crowd howled and Covington continued to shout. He said: "You yell, but I'm going to speak, d—n you, and so he did—Rich Lilly was still with him."

A QUESTION AS TO WHO HAD THE CREAM. The committee on credentials came and reported. When the report was read all was quiet, but no longer was the question preserved. The Doctory men voted Long the permanent chairman, while the Russell crowd voted A. J. Walker, of Rockingham, chairman. Here the two factions began in earnest. Young Sutton pulled a chair from the ante-room, rushed to the stand and seated Walker, Sutton and all. He did not miss a mark, for the next thing the reporter saw was Morrison holding the chair high in the air, as if in the act of branding Sutton. Sutton is a little peaked faced fellow from Wilmington. He seems to be aggressive and seemed to wield much influence with the Russell delegates.

But the mayor of Maxton took the chair and held it till the convention was over. Dan Morrison then rushed, hands on hips, to get Bill Sutton, of Bladen, and jerked Sutton's collar off. Then the fight was general. Dr. Norment had started upon the stage and some friend or enemy had given him a shove, and landed him across a bench. His friends carried him out of the mob.

RICH LILLY DOES 'EM RIGHT AND WRECKED HAMPTON BOLTS.

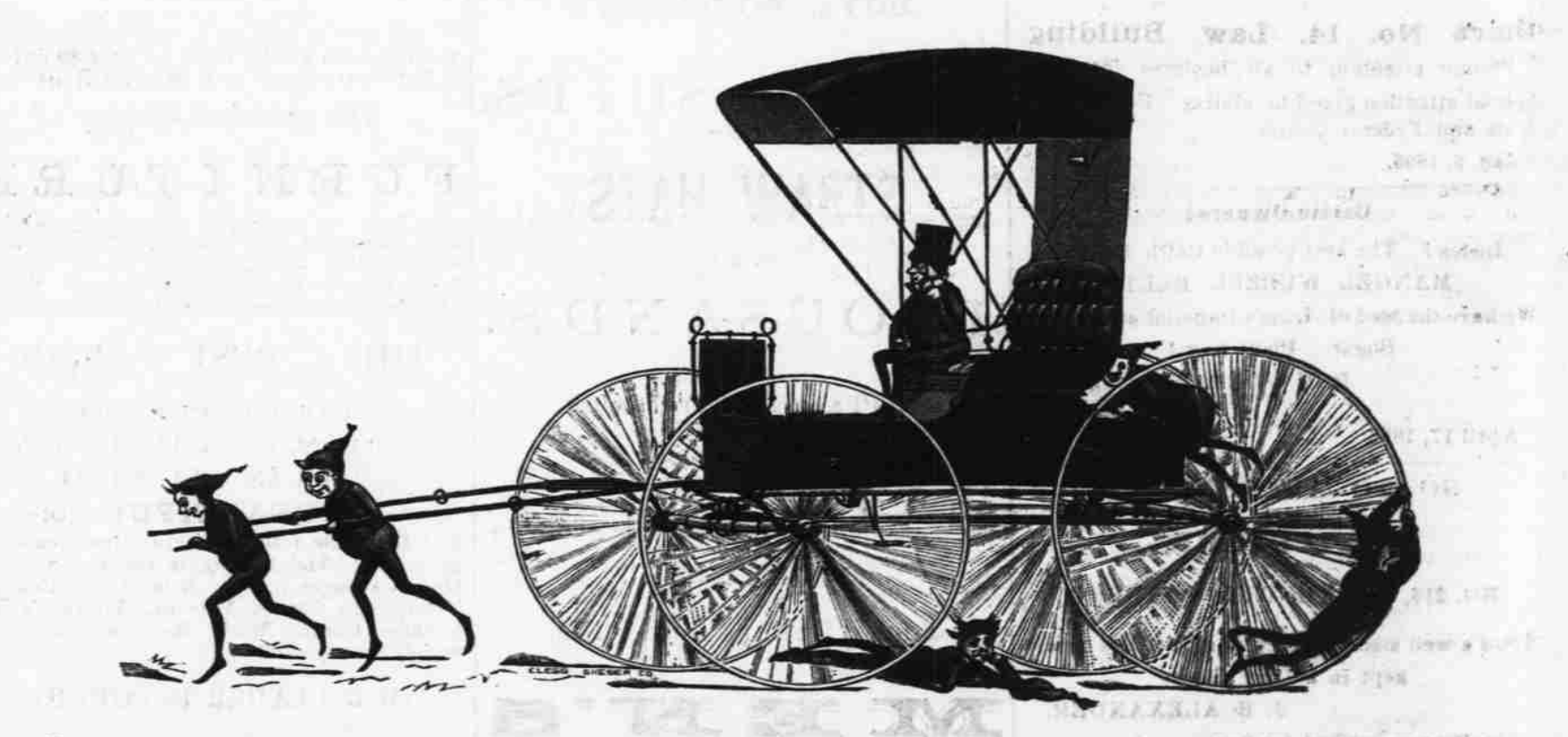
Rich Lilly was not at ease during this time. He had already reported three knockdowns and a bloody nose. After each bolt he made a trip around to the reporter with this interrogatory: "Didn't I do him right?" and the reporter invariably expressed his highest approbation of Rich and his delegate-like actions. But about this time things began to look pretty bloody. The writer looked first in the ante-room, which was open at a right angle, and then at the fight. All at once a yell was heard in the room across from the reporter, and an old, bent-over, slavery-time darkey, beaver hat in hand, was seen to make a mighty plunge. The crowd fell to the right and to the left. A swift wind went by; a foot and leg were seen going into the ante-room, and a door slammed. It was all in an instant. "Old Uncle Hampton," an aged war-horse of Monroe, had become frightened and fled into the ante-room, looked the door behind him and there stayed till it was over and the delegates were ready to board the train for home.

SOMEBODY TRIED TO ENTER THE ROOM, BUT NO, IT WAS STILL LOCKED. IT HAD TO BE BROKEN OPEN, AND THERE AT UNCLE HAMPTON'S OPEN PORTING, THREE HOURS AFTER HE STOPPED.

Continued on third page, 4th column.

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