SECTION ONE. Eight Pages.

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CHARLOTTE, N. C., THURSDAY EVENING MAY 20, 1909

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## A Tremendous Crowdat Depot To Meet Taft

Selwyn This Morning a Brilliant Feature of the M. tee Greets President.

He Arose in Carriage as He Was Driven Past Mrs. Jackson's Residence - Distinguishec Party of Statesmen.

Though it was raining cats and packages at day light this morning and combined so to do until ten o'clock when President William Howard Tan allegated at the depot from his special from and threw his broad beam he sails, famous over the Nation upon dent coast storm, which de lew into the face of the great ration of the twentieth, quit

he rain had attacked the celebraall the affrontery and exmis and other jealous foes of the Decmation of Independence declared in is cay on the twentieth of May, The more than n whole year before President Jefferson had the nerve to

But the sterm blew away and at a before 12 o'clock the glorious perce and joy and calm, al carrecistic of himself along alm from the Capital City of the

he go too quick. It rained

on the President niighted from bemain Trade arrest from the Selwyn Bunkins, ex-Mayer Franklin, J. F. Oreman, Major Hemphill, of with trenchant wit and brilliant sath Cambra, Mr. Stuart W. Cramer ire.



awd. This was followe the presi on driven out of sight up

ile form was seen in the our a fairlify theat went up. The and out storged lost before descend " fleps, cast his eyes over the de and mised his hat, "To secret service men or

alde of the car steps the presi-. Bost down and went swiftly la capelace o few sieps off. that fall taining when the presi deal expect into his carriage, which - may by four beautiful black with the reins in the hands of Fleigher Reld, one of the Wadsworth house most trusted drivers and either

The Reception at The chief aide the top was lowered. This gave everybody an opportunity to see

Day's Events - Commit. Williams, of the committee, and M Butt, Carriage No. 2 was occupied entirely by secret service men. In No. 3 were Mr. J. P. Caldwell, Mr. Hemphill, of Charleston, S. C., and Mr. D. A. Tompkins. Messrs. Stuart Continued on page two.

Among the distanguished visitors besides President Taft, and Mrs. Taft, who are present today are some

One of the distinguished guests

here today is Senator Joseph F Johnston, of Alabama. Schator John-1843, and is the sen of Dr. William and Mrs. Nancy Johnston. He served four times. He was noted for his prayery and, through merit, won his way no from the rank of private to that of Captain. He moved to Ala bama in 1866 and entered the practice of the law. He became interested in

South and is a man of splendid; formerly lived in Charlotte, One is Hou, R. D. Johnston, of Birmingham,

cently made one of the most brilliant speeches ever heard in the Senate distrib. D. A. Tompkins, Senator against the Aldrich Pill. It was filled

Senator A. B. Cummins, of Iowa,



PRESIDENT TAFT.

"The impressive thing after all," said Mr. Taft tois another noted political londer who is honoring the Queen City with his day, is the ability of Anglo Saxons to rule."



GRAND STAND BUILT SPECIALLY FOR REVIEW OF PARADE AND SPEAKING BY PRESIDENT. (Shows Decorations of Court House, Lawyer's Buildinig and Monument to Siginers.)

# Awful Cloud Burst Breaks Up Review

### SOUTHERN PRESBYTERIAN ASSEMBL

Savannah, Ga., May 20.-The annual session of the general assembly of the Southern Presbyterian Church convened in this city today. The retiring moderator, the Rev. W. W. Moore, D. D., of Richmond, Va., preached the annual sermon.

There are a number of important are expected to be of particular in just about passed the grand stand. terest. There is before the general Confession of Faith which is the stansuggested in the constitution.

FOR MECKLENBURG

Mr. Taft is speaking this af-

Interest in the president's visit . to a warning, turned off the current. to Charlotte has centetred in . ◆ attitude he would take toward ◆ lndependence.

♦ that regardless of the exact ♦ language of the declarations made in May, 1775, a full year
before the signing of the Declaration at Philadelphia, July 4, ◆ 1776, the fact remains that there ◆ was a declaration of independence on the part of the citi-

"It is not so material as to � the exact language used," said "The measure of declaration .

for the principles of civil liberso much the abuse or denunciation of former controllinig o power, as provisions made for o . future form of government. The . ◆ impressive thing about the ◆ ◆ North Carolina proposition is ◆ • the sensible way the people of • . the state after deciding to sever . relations with Great Britain . went about the matter of setting wup a government of their own. The president in his speech . late this afternoon does not wundertake to reconcile long ex-◆ isting differences. The im- ◆ Of Alabama.

◆ portant thing, after all, he point- ◆ waved a myriad flags, and the sight · simple and just forms of gov. · the crowd passed.

Crowd of 40,000 Runs for Shelter as Rain Pours Down in Torrents Upon President and Reviewing Stand.

Mr. Taft Gracious in His Expression of Admiration of Pretty Features in Parade-He Laughed at Possums.

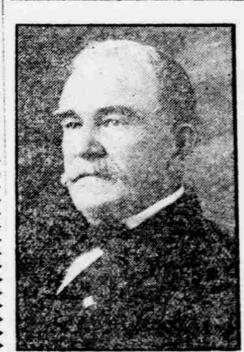
A terrific cloud burst broke up the matters to be brought up at this sest review of grand parade today at 1:30 sion and reports of the committees o'clock. Fortunately the parade had The rain came down in sheets. It acasembly a proposition to make a had been drizzling pretty much change in certain paragraphs in the throughout the entire review but when dard book of worship of the church, Governor Kitchin were hustled into a

The states of Texas, Tennessee, Vir- stand and all about it in the street, ginia, South Carolina, North Carolina, melted like metal in a white heat. Mississippi, Missouri, Lousana, Ken- Those on the grand stand fled preciptucky, Georga, Arkansas, Alabama itately up the amphitheatre-like terand Florida are embraced in the gener- races of the court house in the rear. al assembly, and delegates are present Many huddled into the speaker's stand, which, covered with thick cloths fairly well protected the oc-

Mr. Taft Sorry. The president took the situation philosophically and expressed his kindly regret that Charlotte's splendid prep-DECLARATION & arations had been so sadly interfered

No untoward incident marked the ternoon in the auditorium at sarand review, save for a moment when ◆ 4 c'clock. Chairman E. B. ◆ during the passing of the industrial Moore, of the Central Commit- part of the parade, a tall design broke • tee, made this change in the • loose a wire running past the reviewhour and place this afternoon • ing stand. There was a telephone on the stand, and the 4C's in response

A Myriad of Floating Flags. As the head of the parade reachthe Mecklenburg Declaration of the grand stand, the enormous Mr. Taft takes the position o and cheered and cheered again, and



SENATOR JOSEPH F. JOHNSTON,

· Saxons to rule and the im- · was inexpressibly beautiful. The ◆ pressive way they always have ◆ president stood and faced the shout-◆ gone about the setting up of ◆ ing multitude for a few minutes while

sernment and the means of . The President was reated in the centre of the grand stand. His mili-

### America's Greatest Historic Controversy

The seeming utter disappearance author of anecdotes of the American from the face of the earth of the Cape Revolution had a copy 1775, antedating the national Declara- and naver returns

tion by a year and more. The circulation of the Cape . ear are only three of the entire June, 1775, Mercury was of course small, for the issue of the Mercury, to which clues country was sparsely settled in those have ever been obtained. pioneer days but surely there must hundred readers. Yet not a single and North Carolina's priority in decopy has ever been found, since the claring independence has had a power-

great controversy of 1819. The Three Copies Used. Xavier Martin, author of the history of idents have continuously refused to at-North Carolina, had a copy. It is believed that Alexander Garden, (Continued on page 1, 2nd section.)

Fear Mercury is responsible for the lt is known that a copy was sent greatest historical controversy of by the royal governor of North Caromodern times in America. The dis-lina, Martin, to the Earl of Dartcussion involves the question whether mouth, in England, and that it was or not a Declaration of Independence taken out of the British State Paper was adopted in Charlotte on May 20, Office after the controversy arose

These three copies are gone. They

Stimulated Patriotism. have been at least a hundred or two | The controversy as to Mecklenburg's ful effect in stimulating patriotism and the love of freedom in the hearts It is known that Judge Francois of Southerners. Grant and other prestend the anniversary celebrations here.