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WHOLE No. 101

READ WITHOUT BIAS.

Mr. Editor: Undoubtedly the coming election will be one of the more important in all its different phases to the Southern people than any of recent date, if not at any period in the history of this nation.

Believing it to be the duty of all citizens of North Carolina to assist in promoting, by every honorable method, the success of the Democratic party, I feel constrained to give you my humble views of the present political situation.

The Farmers, and other laboring classes, are very justly complaining, of hard times, scarcity of money and the low price of cotton, and everyone is advocating and seeking a remedy.

In 1890, the Alliance undertook to raise the price of cotton, by holding back their crop. Very few were able to do so, for any length of time and in the spring of 1891, were compelled to market it at a low price.

Two causes exist for the depression in the cotton market. The farmers should have sold their cotton, in the fall of 1890 because had it gone forward, and gotten into the hands of the factor, at the seaboard, the price would have kept up, at least for a considerable period, because they could hold it, and the farmers could not. About the same time the McKinley Tariff Tax Bill commenced operating, its effect bearing heavily on the farmers and working classes of this country, in its every feature leading to the aggrandizement of the manufacturers and favored trusts of the Manufacturers and favored trusts of the Northern States, creating a monopoly in their favor, at the expense of the toiling masses—making the rich, richer; and the poor, poorer.

It is a fact that four fifths of our cotton, is sold to the English and other European Countries, mostly to the former.

Estimating the crop at 8,000,000 bales, they buy 6,400,000, being a surplus over the amount that our manufacturers require.

This iniquitous measure, (the McKinley bill) has almost entirely stopped the exchange of their goods for our surplus cotton, and having to pay spot cash, they rule the market to such an extent that we are entirely at their mercy.

The surplus of our agricultural products amounts annually to nearly 600,000,000 dollars, which is exchanged in the greater part, for foreign products. No wonder! How this Tariff Tax operates: our products go over there, and we exchange them fairly, but as soon as we bring that which we have received in payment for our surplus to New York or any port of entry in the United States McKinley Tariff Tax demands fifty per cent of it on behalf of northern millionaires, claiming it as protection to their infant industries, but it is nothing less than a public robbery of the farmers and laborers of this country and it bears more heavily on the South than any other section.

The Republicans claim that the foreigner pays this Tariff Tax, but the consumer pays it—this is a truth too plain to be denied.

Some claim that overproduction contributes to the present depression. There is no such a thing as overproduction until every man, woman and child has all the necessaries of life, both food and clothing, consistent

with their means, and the reason why many are not able to get what they ought to have, is because Republican legislation has impoverished the southern country to such an extent that the wages of the laborer are gone below zero.

Overproduction may be local, but can never be general or universal as long as the masses require the products of the manufacturer and he needs our cotton.

The Republicans exult in the downfall of the European manufacturer and merchant. Such an exultation, so fallacious and suicidal, never entered the brain of any but political idiots.

One question suffices to answer this assertion, viz: If you destroy your best and only customers what are you going to do with your surplus cotton they now buy and which our mills cannot consume. Now let us take a look at the political horoscope and see how best to attain the object so much desired, viz: Justice to all, special favors to none!

Doubtless, the true interests of all the citizens of North Carolina without respect to race, color, or previous condition, beyond the possibility of a mistake, lies in the success of the Democratic party at the coming election, it being the only one to champion the cause of reform, and civil and religious liberty pure and undefiled standing pledged, to undo, and repeal all the obnoxious laws now existing and to place others on the statute book that will alleviate and dispel the adversity and tyranny we now are subject to and give to the toiling masses, both alliance and non alliance every relief they justly claim.

The coming election will be a great political circus; Harrison and Cleveland performing in the big tent, the side shows being run by Bidwell and Weaver, respectively, representing the Prohibition and Third party. Now fellow citizens; don't you know that the genuine performance is held in the big tent, and you come out satisfied, but when you patronize the side shows, you are cheated and swindled out of your money, and you come out full of regret and conscious of having gone astray.

Let us all stand up like men and lay our blows where they will do the most good against the common enemy and vote for that astute statesman, that upright citizen, whose every effort has been, and is still directed towards furthering the interests and alleviating the sufferings of the farmers, mechanics and laboring masses. That man is Grover Cleveland who as long ago as 1890, in reply to the secretary of an alliance lodge in Ohio, asking his views of alliance principles, replied at once that he could see nothing in them, which could not be endorsed by any man that loves his country, and expressing his surprise that the farmers had not taken the matter in hand sooner, and that he was in perfect accord with the movement. I do not believe that a Third party man can give any sound and solid reason why he cannot vote for Cleveland, except it be, as some say, that the Democrats have done nothing for us; such men are surely ignorant of what has been done.

They have stood up like a wall of adamant against every oppressive and obnoxious measure that has been brought forward by the Re-

publicans and successfully laid aside, at least for the present, that uncalled for, and revolutionary measures, known as the "Force Bill," is again coming to the front, depends on our conduct at the polls.

The Weaverites say they want to try a new party. It would be advisable for every man to take a searching look at the political status of North Carolina before going distracted over any party, and endeavor to reach the goal of his desire by the best and shortest route. This can only be done by giving the Democratic party your united support from beginning to end.

Because a united effort would place it in a position it never enjoyed since the war.

Because it is pledged to give all the relief asked for by the masses of the people.

Because it lacks but little of being in a position to annihilate all opposition.

Because there is no doubt but it will fulfill all its pledges.

Because it has always given us, when in power, the most economical and constitutional government, both state and national.

Because it is in favor of a genuine financial policy, and sound and honest money.

Because it is opposed to Federal interference with rights of the states—force bills, etc.

Because it legislates for the majority without being unjust to the minority.

Because it is led by a tried and faithful servant, who extends the right hand of fellowship to the South, and has never given us any reason to doubt the sincerity of the same.

Other, and various reason could be advanced "ad libitum," but it is useless to expatiate further, suffice it to say, that every patriotic citizen of the South owes his allegiance to the Democratic party. There is no chance of the election of Bidwell or Weaver; therefore, let every man, civil, and ecclesiastical, under the pressure of present circumstances, give it, in this election, their undivided and cheerful support, for if we lose this election every hope of southern equality is dissipated.

To the disaffected I would say in all kindness: "Return O, wandering sinner home," reflect well on the consequences of your defection, if carried out, and don't injure the good old State of North Carolina by committing political suicide. Remember that you should never let private feeling overcome your sense of public duty. The Democratic party promises everything you ask for; let us place it in a position to redeem its pledges; "give it a fair trial," and then should it fail to do everything in its power to fulfill its sacred promises, I say then, and only then, discard it as unworthy of our continued support and consign it to political oblivion.

Supposing you could elect Weaver? What then? It would mystify and disarrange the whole financial and mercantile system of the nation; all classes would be in uncertainty and doubt, for who would reasonably expect anything solid from so frail a leader? Every vote given either of the side show candidates is a vote thrown away—and in favor of the Republicans.

Old comrades of the army of

(Continued on second page.)

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