

To be the bearer of bad news is always unpleasant; nevertheless, it sometimes becomes a duty. We have now to perform a duty of this kind toward some of our friends in this county; but we will endeavor to "break the news gently."

We are informed that, in Sauratown township petitions have been circulated and signed, asking the County Commissioners to order an election in that township at an early day, in order to test and decide the question of "license" or "no license." We publish elsewhere the law upon this subject, in order to show that, like the Irishman's chicken, our friends are too slow in speaking, and no election can now be held before the first Thursday in next June. We also claim that the question of "license" or "no license" will not then be in order, but instead it can be one of "prohibition" or "license." We publish to-day "the original act of the General Assembly of 1873-'74, with the amendments of 1875, '76 and 1876-'77 embodied therein," for the information of all concerned.—The act, as before stated, embraces all the amendments, and taken from certified copies of the original on file in the office of the Secretary of State, is correct in every particular. It will be seen that the act absolutely prevents the sale of liquor of any kind, "spirituous, malt or vinous," in any quantity or shape in the event of prohibition. In other words, it is "prohibition or license" in the strictest sense of either term.

Now, what are the circumstances of the case in Stokes county? We will briefly state them. About one hundred and fifty petitioners have asked the Commissioners to grant no more retail licenses in the several townships, and the moral influence of a large number of the best citizens of the county are opposed to license. The law renders it absolutely discretionary with the Commissioners whether they grant license or not. A majority of them decline to thrust this evil upon their county, doing violence to their own consciences and the expressed wishes of many of their constituents, until the wishes of the majority are ascertained according to law. The friends of intemperance have asked for no election to test the question, and it is now too late to do so before next June. Surely this neglect or indifference is not the fault of the Commissioners. All retail license in this county expire with the month of July, and with the praiseworthy and determined stand taken by a majority of the Board, it is plain that we are to have at least eleven months of peace and sobriety in our section. At the expiration of that time the experiment of "no license" will have been tested, and the people can then vote intelligently upon the subject.

Let those petitions in Sauratown, asking for an election, be quietly pigeon-holed for the present. We know how to sympathize with the disappointed; but our friends must remember the good old hymn that runs in this way: "Afflictions, though they seem severe, in mercy oft are sent!"

REVENUE MATTERS.

The following article, from the Greensboro Patriot, will be endorsed in this section:

The trial of Deputy Marshal Franks which was set for Monday in Washington, will throw considerable light on the internal revenue institution in this State. The difficulty has been all along that the people in this section have been regarded as dilatory and consequently as fit subjects of persecution, protection and prey by those who were in power and so disposed. They were arrested for cause and without cause, very often on the flimsiest pretense, harassed and annoyed, put to great expense and sometimes compelled to sacrifice everything they had to pay attorneys and costs. The men who, as a general rule hold office under the government went in for making all they could out of them, and in eight cases out of ten abused the trust confided to them.

The fact of it is the whole internal revenue system is wrong from beginning to end and it ought to be wiped out of existence. It always will be subject to abuse. It is demoralizing in its nature—demoralizes the people, nine-tenths of whom obey it from compulsion, and the officers entrusted with its execution, nine-tenths of whom will take any advantage they can under it to make money. We hope to see the whole system wiped out and the taxes for the government purposes collected by State officers, as taxes for the State are now collected.

Revenue Troubles in North Carolina.

The New York Journal of Commerce says: In writing about revenue troubles in North Carolina some days ago we said that official connivance probably encouraged and shared the proceeds of the very frauds which the government is trying to unearth and punish. This conjecture is now being verified by facts. Detectives of the Attorney General's office have run down and caught some of these alleged accomplices. Their chief is the Deputy Marshal of the Western District of North Carolina, and he is accused of forgery and other crime, by which the government has been defrauded out of many thousand dollars on bogus vouchers for costs, fees, etc. This is not the worst aspect of the affair; for the same man is charged with trumping up complaints against persons for cheating the revenue. There is no worse offense in the catalogue of crimes than this. To act in collusion with "crooked" whisky distilleries is venial compared with the attempt to fasten guilt or suspicion on innocent parties.—One knave of this kind can do incalculable damage to the reputation of an entire State by exaggerating the frauds really committed there, and blackening the good names of men who are guiltless. The North Carolinians would be more than human if they were not indignant under accusations which are the coinage of blackmailers. The best tempered people at the North would lose their patience under such treatment, when it was coupled with the extreme severity in executing the laws against those who had not been tried and convicted of any crime. As usual in such operations, there was a ring, it is said, in which revenue men divided the plunder with the Deputy Marshal. This, too, is only one of a large number of similar cases. We dare say so. If the sleuth hounds of the Department of Justice are not called off from Washington, it will doubtless be found that government agents are at the bottom of the illicit distilling business in the North Carolina mountains. We would hold these men primarily responsible for the "crooked" whisky of that region. They should be captured and punished to the full extent of the law, before the troops there engage in another raid. Now that these official frauds have been discovered, the North Carolinians would be justly incensed if the soldiers shoot another citizen or destroy another still before the revenue service has been purged of the last of its rascals in that State.

The Georgia Election.

On Tuesday of last week, in pursuance of an act of the late Legislature, the people of Georgia voted for delegates to a State Convention to make such amendments to the State Constitution as might be agreed upon. At the same time they voted upon the question of Convention and no Convention. The Democrats generally were in favor of the Convention and the Radicals opposed to it.

There are many things in their Constitution that, it is said, our Georgia friends are desirous of changing.—Amongst other things they see no necessity for the word rebellion in their Constitution. In fact they contend that to call our late war a rebellion in the State Constitution is to embalm a lie. They think, as we think, that our Confederate flag, the glorious stars and bars, under which we fought, was a symbol of something higher than a rebellion. Objection is also taken to that clause in their carpet-bag Constitution which recognizes allegiance to the Federal government as paramount to that due the State.

For the present, at least, these are questions of but little practical importance, though it is well enough for the organic law of a State not to bear a lie upon its face, and doubtless, had these been all the evils to be remedied, the election of Tuesday would not have taken place. The truth is, the Constitution of Georgia, like that of other Southern States, being the handiwork of strangers, is unsuited to the wants and wishes of the people, and the only wonder is that they ever submitted to it so long. The burdens it imposes surely cannot be as onerous as those inflicted upon the people of North Carolina by the Canby Constitution. With the great Democratic majority in Georgia, there can be no doubt about the result. We wish our friends there for the future a Constitution exactly to their notions.

Attorney-General Devens has written a sharp letter to District Judge Dick, of North Carolina. The Attorney-General desires to know how fraudulent papers passed through his court? This is supposed to refer to the vouchers in blank to which the clerk of his court, it is alleged, certified affidavits.

The Danger Ahead.

The disintegration in the Republican ranks will continue as a depressing and demoralizing element, rather than as a source of hostility to the administration. The really serious complications which we regard as not improbable will have a mainly different origin. One that has been daily foreshadowed may arise at the opening of the extra session. Some of the most injudicious friends of the administration have conceived the idea of "organizing the House" in its interest. We have no specific knowledge of overtures in this direction, but the rumors have been for some time past too positive, and withal too much in harmony with ascertained facts, to be summarily discarded. It is conceded that on a strict party basis the Democrats will have the House organization in their own hands. The question raised is, will the Democratic party remain intact, say, upon the question of the Speakership? We hope that it will. It represents a majority of the members on whom rests the responsibility of regulating the machinery of business. They have the power and must be held accountable for its exercise. We should deprecate as a misfortune, not to say a crime, any intrigue designed to wrest from them the fruits of their opportunity or to gain for the administration an influence to which it is not legitimately entitled. That some bargain might be effected we admit. The Democratic majority is narrow, and included in it are members to whose constituencies the party complexion of the Speakership is of infinitely less moment than the furtherance of some sinister scheme. Only let the right sort of agents be employed, with authority to adjust the terms to the exigencies of each individual case, and the requisite number of votes might be changed. The process would be disgraceful to all connected with it, but the prevailing standard of political morality is not high, and questionable are available which would render the arrangement of equivalents comparatively easy.

Foremost among them is the subsidy question. It has many ramifications, and once opened will not be of aid until the credit of the nation has been placed in imminent jeopardy.

The Southern Pacific Railroad is made the test scheme, partly because it has great and widely-diffused strength at the South, partly because it has the support of Northern combinations of capital and influence in an unusual degree. An obvious basis of a bargain exists between the Northwest and the South, the former having in the Northern Pacific an enterprise which on its merits is certainly as much entitled to free access to the public purse as the route through Texas. Everybody knows how these things are managed. The Northwest will help the South and will obtain help in return. The jobbery and speculation which bring Messrs. Scott and Huntington together cover so wide an area that the scheme, fraudulent and ruinous as it is, possesses formidable strength. The best men of both parties will oppose it.

A Big Election Bet.

The New York Sun tells the following story about the way Louisiana was carried for Mr. Polk in 1844; how much truth there is in it we know not.

In 1844 every citizen of Louisiana had the right to vote in any and every parish of the State in which he owned land. Mr. John Slidell, a Democratic politician of celebrity, afterward a Senator of the United States, and still later sent to Europe along with John M. Mason, of Virginia, as a representative of the Confederate government, bet \$20,000 with Dr. Duncan, of Natchez, Mississippi, that Clay would be defeated, and Polk elected. He then bought at a trifling price a tract of swamp land in Plaquemine parish, selected his men, and gave each of them a deed of a piece of this swamp land, so that each was made a land-holder, and thus became entitled to vote in Plaquemine, in addition to his right to vote in New Orleans. Then Mr. Slidell hired a steamboat, and on the day of the election, after they had all voted in New Orleans, the men were taken on the boat and carried to Plaquemine, where they voted again, as the law gave them a right to do; and the State was so evenly divided between the two parties that the addition of these 697 new land-holders to the regular voters of the parish carried Louisiana for Polk. The voting was contrary to the usage in most of the States, but it was in accord with the law and usage of Louisiana. It was a sharp political trick, having its expenses paid by the money won by Dr. Duncan; but it was not illegal, and cannot be correctly described as an act of fraud. Besides, Polk would have been elected without it.

Almost a Turmoil.

Postmaster-General Key said in a speech at Charlotte that he had always felt a peculiar interest in North Carolina. His wife—who was by far the better part of himself, when he was at home—was a granddaughter of Waightstill Avery, one of the signers of the Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence. In addition to this, he was for a short time a citizen of the State. When Joe Johnston's army surrendered, he was compelled to seek refuge in North Carolina among the relatives and friends of his wife. He had no money and no means of support—his only possession being a poor blind mule. He went up into Caldwell county, rented a farm, and with his blind mule raised a crop of corn. This he sold for fifty cents per bushel, and upon the money obtained from this, together with the proceeds from the sale of this mule, he returned to his home in East Tennessee. While, therefore, his sojourn in North Carolina was not of the most pleasant character, for the reasons mentioned, still it afforded him a home when he could not live in his own State.

The Trouble Among the N. C. Marshals.

The pay of Deputy U. S. Marshals in North Carolina is so small, and so precarious that the temptation to dishonesty is constantly before them, and it is charged that the Deputies of Robert Douglas, Marshal of Western North Carolina, have for a long time been in the habit of supplying deficiencies in their exchequer by fraudulent charges against the government. As previously stated two of them have been arrested in North Carolina, and the third, Joshua A. Franks was captured here. Last week while the District Attorney was at Asheville, N. C. quietly investigating the affairs of the Marshal's office under instructions from Attorney General Devens, and Deputies Franks and Reid were there attending court, Franks suspecting his sin was about to find him out suddenly left for Washington. Reid and Franks were in bed together, and the latter being nervous from guilty fear imagined that he heard a footstep on the porch. Raising up, he said, "My God, Reid they're coming." Reid said, "I reckon not." But Franks only took time to say, "take care of my saddle bags; they contain important papers and must not be seen," and before Reid could reply Franks had jumped through the window, and clad only in night clothes ran away from the imaginary pursuers. At the house of a friend five miles distant he obtained clothing and came to the city for the purpose of exposing Marshal Douglas's sin. Deputy Reid having informed the district attorney of the strange flight and paying words of Franks, the attorney examined the saddle bags and found papers upon which are based the criminal charges against Franks. In it were found an assortment of certificates for witness fees and mileage, to be drawn upon presentation to the marshal, which were signed with the names of U. S. Commissioners Weeks and Rodgers—the signatures, it is supposed being forgeries. There were also some forged certificates signed in blank, and investigation developed the fact that many more of the same character are in circulation in that part of North Carolina. Another important paper was a commissioner's warrant of arrest, which was falsely endorsed as executed, and the cause adjudicated, evidently for the purpose of securing the fee, amounting to \$25. Examination of the accounts of Franks, presented at the Department of Justice shows many fraudulent charges, it is alleged. In one case where he summoned witnesses within a mile of travel, he charged 45 miles travel to a county in the mountains, and for imaginary guards and board for prisoners and witnesses. Marshal Douglas and the District Attorney are here, and a cloud of witnesses are on the way from North Carolina to attend Franks' examination on Monday.

The Horrors of War.

In 1811 the opposing Russian and Turkish armies stood facing each other on opposite banks of the Danube. During the night between the 8th and 9th of September the Turks succeeded, by making a feint, and so attracting the Russians to a spot some three miles below the real point of passage, in throwing a force of 2,000 men and four guns across the river, a short distance above Giurgevo. The first attempts of the Russians to drive this small body back into the river were successfully withstood; reinforcements were rapidly brought over from the right to the left bank, until finally 30,000 men and 50 guns were assembled on the northern shore. Every effort to advance further and drive back the Russian army, which had fallen back into an entrenched position, was, however, repulsed; the Turks themselves being obliged after a time to construct intrenchments, to withstand the counter-attacks directed against them. Unable to drive back the invading force, the Russians desisted from any further active measures against it, but, bringing a strong flotilla of gunboats up the Danube, to prevent supplies being carried across the river into the Turkish camp on the left bank, they quietly awaited events. The provisions of the Turkish force, thus completely isolated, unable to advance because of the Russian force in front of it, unable to retreat because of the flotilla which effectually prevented any bridge being thrown across the river, soon began to run short. The weather became cold, but there was no fuel with which to kindle fires. Under these circumstances the sufferings of the men were very great. For some time there was horrefice, but it had to be eaten raw, as even the tent-poles had been cut up and burned. Hundreds died daily, and their comrades had not strength to bury them. Disease was consequently soon added to famine, so that when finally, on the 8th of December, peace was concluded, but 4,000 men, who are described as being but living skeletons, with scarce sufficient strength to stand upright, were left out of the 30,000 who three months before had crossed the river.

Gen. Robert B. Vance has had sent him by Messrs. Ross & Wilder, of Chattanooga, Tenn., a beautiful razor and a most excellent knife, made in Sheffield, England, by Messrs. Brookes & Crook. A circular accompanying this cutlery says: "The blades of this cutlery are only two inches from the ore, the ore being worked in a Catalan fire and hammered directly into a bar of wrought iron. The wrought bar is then melted in a crucible and the steel is thus produced. The ore from which the cutlery is made is taken from the Magnetic Ore Belt of Iron Mountain, Tennessee, and Mitchell county, North Carolina, and is locally known as the Cranberry Vein."—Asheville Citizen.

Lynching in Iowa.

THE ALMOST PROVIDENTIAL ESCAPE OF A MAN WHO HAD BEEN HANGED.

A dispatch from Marshalltown, dated June 12, says there is intense excitement at the scene of the hanging of Eekler, in Grundy county. The trouble out of which it grew is of long standing—a neighborhood quarrel between Eekler and a few vicious and desperate men. To get rid of Eekler and drive him out of the country some five years ago, they trumped up a charge that he had committed a serious crime. He was warned to quit the country, but, failing to do this, he was tarred and feathered. Eekler quit the county, but returned about a month ago. He made several threats of having those engaged in the tar-and-feather matter brought to justice. In meeting one of his enemies one day in the field he told him he had a settlement to make with him, and accused him of being one of the men who had tarred and feathered him. Several days after this the man above-mentioned had Eekler arrested, charging that he had drawn a gun upon him and threatened to kill him.

Eekler was arrested late in the evening by Constable Nelson and taken before Justice Cray, seven miles from Union. The case was adjourned over till Monday, and the constable took him home to await Monday's examination. At 12 o'clock at night, after all were in bed, Nelson heard an alarm at the door and, suspecting nothing, opened it, and was met by five men, all disguised who demanded Eekler. Upon his refusal to give him up, two of them seized him and held him, while the other three rushed past into Eekler's room, seized him, and, without allowing him to dress, hurried him off on foot for over three-quarters of a mile, to a row of cotton-wood trees by the side of the road, where they had previously prepared a rail across two limbs, with a large rope attached. They pinioned his hands and feet, gagged him, and then lifted him up, placed the noose about his neck, and let him drop. The rope was so long his feet touched the ground. They re-adjusted the rope and let him down again, and, thinking they heard some one coming, they started to leave. One of them, on looking back and seeing Eekler's toes just touching the ground, ran back and dug the earth from under his feet with his hands, and with an oath exclaimed: "There, damn you, die!"

How long he remained there Eekler is not able to say, as he thinks he became unconscious, but on reviving he found his toes just touching the ground. The rope, being large, did not slip tight enough to choke him, and by a desperate effort he wrenched his hands free, and by drawing himself up with his hands soon freed himself. Then he made his way to a neighbor's house and procured clothing.

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To some Washington citizens who called on Gen. B. F. Butler to bespeak his influence in behalf of a gentleman whom they wished to have appointed as one of the Commissioners of the District, the General said: "Gentlemen, you have come to the wrong man. I have no influence at the White House, and no disposition to ask a favor of the President. If you want your friend appointed, go ask Mr. Corcoran, Gen. Gordon, and others of their patriotic antecedents. The President sent for Mr. Corcoran and requested him to name the man he wanted for the Commissionership, and he modestly mentioned Mr. Archibald Campbell. The great statesman at the White House (for he is a great statesman) has instituted a new departure. No more money is to be spent on elections. I have heretofore contributed to the extent of my means for the purchase of lanterns and the painting of transparencies, but this tax is no longer to be endured. People are hereafter to rush greedily to the polls, trampling over each other. If you don't want to ask Mr. Corcoran to ask the President, as it is generally understood that both the Republican and Democratic parties are deceased, and the old Whig party is born again, go out to some graveyard and transcribe the names of the defunct members of that organization from their tombstones to your petitions, and you will stand a chance of getting what you ask for."

The Prohibition Law.

AN ACT TO PROHIBIT THE SALE OF SPIRITUOUS, VINOUS OR MALT LIQUORS IN TOWNSHIPS WHERE THE PEOPLE SO DETERMINE.

SECTION 1. The General Assembly of North Carolina do enact: That it shall be the duty of the County Commissioners of any county, upon petition of one-fourth of the qualified voters of any township in their respective counties, to order an election to be held on the first Thursday in June in every year, to ascertain whether or not spirituous, vinous or malt liquors shall or may be sold in said township or townships.

SEC. 2. That it shall be the duty of the sheriff of each county to hold such township elections when so ordered under the same rules and regulations as are prescribed by law for holding elections for members of the General Assembly, so far as the same may be applicable, except as herein modified.

SEC. 3. That any person allowed by law to vote for members of the General Assembly shall have the right to vote at such elections in the township in which he is allowed by law to vote; and every such voter who favors the prohibition of the sale of spirituous, vinous or malt liquors in his township, shall vote a ticket on which shall be written or printed the word "Prohibition;" and every such voter who favors such sale shall vote a ticket on which shall be written or printed the word "License."

SEC. 4. That on the day next after any such election shall be held, the inspectors of such election and a Justice of the Peace of the Township, shall compare the votes polled in the township, and certify the number of votes cast in favor of "Prohibition," and the number in favor of "License;" and the result of such election to Register Deeds of the county, who shall first carefully copy such certificates in a book to be prepared and kept for that purpose, and then file the same among the papers of his office, and a certified copy from the book in which such certificate is so registered, under the hand of the Register of Deeds and the seal of the county shall be sufficient evidence in all cases and Courts in this State of the result of such election in the township to which the same may refer.

SEC. 5. That if a majority of the votes cast at any such election in any township shall have written or printed on the same the word "Prohibition;" then and in that case it shall not be lawful for the County Commissioners to license the sale of spirituous, vinous or malt liquors, or for any person to sell spirituous, vinous or malt liquors within such township, from and after such elections; until another election shall be held in such township, according to the provisions of said act, in which election a majority of the votes cast have shall written or printed on them the word "License." Provided, however, That no election shall be held within one year from the first election, and not oftener than once in every year thereafter; and if any person so prohibited shall sell any spirituous, vinous and malt liquors within such township, such person shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor, and on conviction of such offense, shall be fined not exceeding fifty dollars or imprisoned not exceeding one month; but if a majority of the votes so cast, shall have written or printed on the same the word "License;" then spirituous, vinous or malt liquors may be sold in such townships as now provided by law, and not otherwise: Provided, That nothing herein contained shall affect localities in which the sale of spirituous, vinous or malt liquors is prohibited by law.

SEC. 6. The sheriff shall designate the Justices of the Peace in each township to aid in comparing and certifying the vote cast at such election, and the Register of Deeds shall designate inspectors of election in each township; in case he shall fail the sheriff, or his deputies shall make such appointments, and if any officers or other person shall fail to discharge any duty imposed by this act, such person offending shall be guilty of a misdemeanor, and on conviction in the Superior Court fined in the discretion of the Court.

SEC. 7. That this act shall take effect from and after the first day of April, 1874.