

# THE REPORTER.

J. PEPPER, Sr., [J. T. DARRINGTON, Associate Editor.]

THURSDAY, APRIL 4, 1878.

## CANDIDATES.

It is by no means an unreasonable supposition that in a few weeks more candidates in Stokes will become almost as numerous as locusts were at one time last year. Townships will soon organize their forces, and select their delegates to the nominating convention. Upon that body will devolve the duty of presenting to the Democracy of the county a ticket of which they feel not to be ashamed, and it is greatly to be hoped that a spirit of unity and harmony will characterize its deliberations. "In unity there is strength." Yet we hope there will be no cringing to expediency—no inducements offered to backsliders—no braces applied to weak-kneed scoundrels. Give us true men, in whom we can repose our confidence, with the assurance that it will never be betrayed. The action of the nominating convention will undoubtedly determine the question of victory or defeat. There will be no "omnibus ticket" this year to bear dead weight over the meliorator to the shores of success; individual merit alone can stand the ordeal. Will the convention crush us or prove our salvation? The slightest rapture or improper maneuver might cause a fearful party wreck, the contemplation of which would be mortifying indeed when, upon reflection, we find that it could have been avoided.

## HUMILIATING IF TRUE.

We presume, from what we have heard, that Thomas J. Wilson, of Forsyth, is a candidate for the Judgeship of this District. For all we know to the contrary, Mr. Wilson is a marvellously proper man for the position; a learned and sagacious lawyer—a man of the most unquestionable integrity, the very soul of honor and embodiment of public and private virtue. We have no word of discouragement to utter against Mr. Wilson's candidature; we propose the name of no other man as more worthy to wear the honors pertaining to the position. If he is the man best qualified to serve the interests of his section and State, then by all means nominate and elect him; but, for the sake of honor, liberty and self-respect, never, never! humiliate the people of Stokes by arguing to them that they owe Mr. Wilson, or any other man, an office. Have the people of Stokes ever surrendered their constitutional rights for any man's past service? Have they, or will they ever, barter away their right to choose their officers, at the ballot box, even when a so-called "obligation" is most audaciously flaunted in their faces? Stokes county is under obligations to Mr. Wilson, forsooth! Why? Because when elected Judge his place was usurped by another, and the people of Stokes are under "obligation" to make him Judge to cancel his former disappointment. We must ignore our right to a choice, shut our eyes to the respective merits of each candidate, incur the risk of an injudicious selection, and "go it blind" for Wilson, because "we are under obligations to him!" Such was the theory advanced last Monday. If Mr. Wilson endorses such a theory, or desires to impose an obligation upon us, we will decline to take part in any such bargain. We are prepared to recognize no claim to official preferment except that of merit; and we claim that it is an insult to civil liberty and patriotic virtue to attempt to thrust any "obligation" upon a free and intelligent people. Worth should outweigh personal favoritism; principle should never degenerate into expediency, and the ballot-box should never be hampered by "obligation."

We do not attribute to Mr. Wilson an endorsement of this "obligation" theory; on the contrary, we suppose it will be strange news to him. He is familiar with the high and honorable character of our people, and know that they would scorn to barter away their suffrage in liquidation of any claim. Nor would he stultify himself by waving merit and qualification, in order to plead the existence of an "obligation." He is universally respected and esteemed throughout his county, and of course will receive its support; but we do not intend Judge Wilson to rest under the imputation of having purchased his ermine through the cancellation of any "obligation" under which his past service had placed us, or that in consideration thereof, we had sold him our support. We admit the existence of no "obligation" that dwarfs a free expression of public preference in the selection of an officer; and we will not tamely swallow any theory, emanating from any source whatever, that places "obligation" above the will and voice of the people.

## The Good Time Coming.

The London *Economist*, in its issue of March 9, has one of those clear and thorough studies which has made that journal so valuable, upon the "Commercial History of 1877." It shows that a period of commercial distress of unusual length—four years—has been experienced in the United States, Germany, Austria, Hungary, Italy, and Great Britain, and for the last year and a half the same difficulties have been felt in France. In all these countries there are two great causes for this depression—(1) the lessening of the means of consumers, and (2) overproduction in certain branches. In Germany, France, and this country there was a prodigious destruction of the means of consumers by war a result which did not show itself at once in Germany on account of the payment of the indemnity, and in the United States on account of the stimulating effects of an expanded currency. In both countries railroads and other industries were extended beyond any legitimate demand; in other words, floating capital was applied to the working of coal and iron and the construction of railroads beyond the necessities of consumers. Both suffered under the same evils—diminished resources and overproduction. In Austria, Hungary, and Italy the depression arose from too speculative production and the diminution of means produced by excessive taxation and war. The speculative industries of other countries, of course, stimulated demand in Great Britain, while the final collapse fell with tremendous weight on that country, where production has been carried to excess, but where the efficiency of labor has been diminishing for the past few years. The losses in all these countries were especially felt in London, the financial centre, and thus communicated to Great Britain the depression which covered the commercial world. The *Economist* analyzes the causes which will stimulate anew the cash demand for commodities, or in other words, restore prosperity, into three classes: 1, Greater economy and industry; 2, unusual harvests; and, 3, accumulation of savings.

Nothing these views of the *Economist* the New York *Times* thinks it a consolation, thought for this country that all these causes are working steadily here toward producing better times. Never before were our people so saving or more industrious. There is not so great a diminution of the efficiency of labor, in reduced hours and poorer work, as has been experienced in England. Unlike the English experience, our harvests have been unexampled. Much, too, of our previous overproduction has been in the line of future development—of growth of population and cultivation of new land. The savings of the working classes, and of all classes, are speedily increasing. We have weighing upon us, what the *Economist* has so well indicated, the heavy burden derived from our former extravagance and neglect of economical principles—the fearful load of taxation, both municipal and national. An impartial American must be obliged to confess that our experiment of universal suffrage, as controlling expenditure, of public moneys, has broken down utterly in municipal Governments. Tables of statistics show that in six of our largest cities, from 1860 to 1875, the local taxation was quadrupled—from \$15,000,000 to \$65,000,000, and the debts nearly quadrupled—from \$85,000,000 to \$305,000,000. In fourteen of our cities the population has increased 70 per cent; the taxable value, 156 per cent; but the debt, 270 per cent., and the actual taxation for State, City and County purposes increased 363 per cent. It is plain that if this continues, the residents of our cities will sacrifice the whole increase of their annual labor to taxation, both local and national. Better times are certainly not far away from our rural districts, but in the cities we have yet to wait for thorough reforms in taxation and our revenue system.—*Raleigh Observer*

Hon. R. M. T. Hunter has written a strong letter to Senator Lamar, in favor of the Texas Pacific road. He says its line is shorter, its grades easier, and its communication with foreign countries more probable, than those of any other route. He says nothing better than the present bill could be desired, and urges its passage.

It is reported, this time authentically, that Sitting Bull has formed a confederation of Sioux and Blackfeet, and made overtures to the Creeks. A great gathering of Indians at the confluence of Red Deer and Bow rivers is now taking place, and when the leaves come out Sitting Bull proposes to attack the settlements. Seven hundred lodges of Indians are pitched sixty-four miles from Fort Walsh, which is daily augmented by new arrivals. A scout says that the Nez Percés, Little Blunder, Little Dog and Blackfeet Indians have all formed an alliance with Sitting Bull, and that an attack is to be made on Cypress Hills and Fort Macleod.

## WASHINGTON LETTER.

[From Our Own Correspondent.]

WASHINGTON, D. C., March 28, 1878.

It is hardly worth while to quarrel, as some Democratic papers are doing, with the Court which has released Anderson at New Orleans. He ought to have been punished, and nothing but a technicality seems to have saved him. He intended to commit a forgery, and to effect by it a change in the result of the vote of Louisiana. The Court decides that the forged paper could not, under the laws of Louisiana, have the effect Anderson intended. The State has five days in which to demand a rehearing, but probably this is the end of the case. Anderson will keep his place in the Custom House, and not have to submit to the inconvenience of being let out of jail every day, as heretofore, in going to his official duties.

Speaking of Louisiana affairs, I may mention a rumor that Packard of that State is to be given an office in this District. The place is worth ten or twelve thousand dollars per year. It belongs, of course, to one of our citizens, and has always been so held, but under the unenviable system of civil service reform adopted by this Administration, a man from abroad is to be thrust into it.

Secretary Sherman was before the Senate Finance Committee recently, in opposition to a repeal of the Resumption Act. In the course of conversation he said that the effect of the silver law, so far, had been good, and that it would materially assist in bringing about specie payments. He thought resumption possible by October next.

It is now said that Commissioner-General McCormick gave passage to so many persons on the "Constitution," which was to carry goods for the Paris Exposition, that when she sailed the other day she was able to carry but little freight. McCormick can be relied on to distribute favors where they will do the most good—to McCormick.

The case of the Lee heirs against the Government agents in possession of the Arlington estate, involving title to that valuable property, will be tried in July.

Yesterday the Committee on reform in the Civil Service reported to the House that the position of Doorkeeper ought to be declared vacant. This is a condemnation of Col. Polk. A minority report was made, which states that nothing had been proven against the Colonel, except that he employed more assistants than the law allowed him. This seems to be the fact, and if no Representative votes against him who helped to drive him into this employment of unauthorized persons, he will be sustained by a vast majority.

The current discussion in the Senate on the subject of cutting timber on Government lands, has drawn from several Senators an earnest denunciation of the discreditable spy system which is employed by all the Departments. Every head of a Department should be compelled to employ the usual, recognized and legal means of carrying on the public business, and punishing violators of the law. But during and since the war a horde of blackmailers has been abroad in the country, protected and paid by the Government. They are a terror to honorable business men, and in other days would not have been tolerated. The debate in the Senate will do good if it helps to abate the nuisance. REX.

## Education.

PRESTONVILLE, N. C., April 2, 1878.

*Editors Danbury Reporter:* Universal education and universal suffrage are the greatest blessings a country can enjoy; and the one, to a great extent, depends upon the other. The ballot-box is a power sufficient to cultivate and enlighten every man and woman in this condition they possess the ability to preserve the privilege of using that power. The greatest deficiency is, the buccolic American citizen does not realize the force which in this connection is latent in his hands, nor does he realize the amelioration that would accrue to the country if this force was exerted.

That an educated man is better qualified to perform the duties of his vocation, to exercise the rights of a citizen, and even vote more intelligently than an uneducated man, are facts which no one will venture to deny. Then why not educate all the people, that these prerogatives may be directed in the right channel? The improvement of the people is the improvement of the State. If one community becomes superior to another from the benefit of school houses and academies, why not erect these buildings in every vicinity, and thereby improve their condition? And the same principle applies to States and even nations. If other States have become strong and powerful in a count of edu-

cation and intelligence, why not give these advantages to North Carolina, and thereby let her become a compeer of other sections of the Union?

Can we imagine that the tide of education is becoming so low that we must resort to compulsory means to be protected against the gloom of ignorance, which will approach in the future if this subject is neglected? This is a question for Democrats to consider. That a large number of persons are averse to public schools is a well known fact. Not that the theory is false, or that they will not be benefited by it if it is properly conducted, but because it has been made a medium by the Radical regime through which to defraud the people out of their money. This has made the theory of public education odious to those who oppose it. And this is the result of contaminated politicians, who formerly controlled the government. It now becomes a work for the Democracy to clear up these evils and restore confidence in public affairs, which has already been done to a great extent. But there are some respects in which faith is still flagging, that should be remedied in a manner to make education common and prosperous. When this is done, the mist and gloom which has hung over a large number of persons will be dispelled; and light will pour in its effulgent rays, and liberate the mind from its narrow cell—for no man enjoys freedom to its fullest extent who is ignorant.

To educate a man is to expand his mind, strengthen his faculties, and give him sense with which to appreciate the beautiful, determine the right, and enjoy the noble qualities of which his nature is susceptible. It excludes vice and immorality, which might otherwise absorb his being. It is the flame-bearer, which lights the dark avenues of life, and clears the way to prosperity and happiness. Will the people not accept these blessings? J. W. D.

## Senator Howe's Great Speech.

THE FRAUDULENT ADMINISTRATION MOST MERCILESSLY ARRANGED.

WASHINGTON, March 25.—The speech of Senator Howe, Republican, of Wisconsin, to day, arraigning the fraudulent Administration, drew an immense audience to the floor of the Senate. Howe is not usually an attractive speaker, and the audience did not expect a very exciting or diverting entertainment, but it was agreeably disappointed. Although a very tedious and uninteresting extemporaneous speaker, Senator Howe is one of the most vigorous and excellent political writers of the present day. His speech was carefully prepared, and, barring a little affectation was well read. It commanded the closest attention of both sides of the chamber, and the telling points made frequently drew applause and excited the mirth of Democrats as well as Republican Senators.

The speech was made for a purpose. It was the result of deliberation, and was intended to separate the Republican party from the Fraudulent Administration. A more scathing and a more merciless arraignment never was made in the Senate chamber. The men who have planned this attack upon Hayes and his so-called policy knew who to select for the leader of the skirmish line. The speech of Howe is epigrammatic and racy with apt illustrations. It will be entertaining reading. Every point is skillfully and attractively put. A stronger and more popular administration than that of Returning Board Hayes could scarcely survive such an attack. The masses of the Republican party at the North cannot fail to respond to this speech. It is so adroit, so insidious, so clever, that it must be widely read, and must produce a profound impression. The pertinent question asked to night by the uninitiated is, "What is to follow? I am not able to answer authoritatively, but I suspect that, unless some of the few friends of his Fraudulency in the Senate are indiscreet enough to attempt to answer Howe, nothing will follow immediately. The men who are to follow Howe on the same line of attack will give the public time for reflection: In due order others will have their say, but unless Matthews or some foolhardy Democrat takes up the cudgel in defence of the Fraudulent Administration, it will be some weeks before another speech is made. The discreet Democrats do not propose to let one of their side speak if they can prevent it. If Matthews does make a speech for Hayes he will be the worst used up man the Senate has ever seen.

*Piedmont Press:* Miss Jane Whisnant, daughter of Mr. Noah Whisnant, was drowned in South Toe river, Yancey county, on Monday, March 11th. The accident occurred at a ford of the river about seven miles east of Burnsville. The lady was riding on a horse behind Mr. Thos. Boone, and in crossing the river, which was considerably swollen she became dizzy and fell off in the water.

## Specie Resumption.

The Washington correspondent of the *Richmond Dispatch* says the Senate will pass Mr. Hereford's resolution directing the finance committee to report on the House bill repealing the resumption act, but remarks further that this will not indicate how the vote will stand when the bill shall come up on its passage. It is very doubtful if the Senate will vote to repeal the resumption act; and indeed it is not clear that it would be the part of wisdom so to do, after the matter has gone thus far. If there were any hardships in resumption they have been already experienced. The country has been preparing for specie payment, greenbacks are nearly at par with gold, commodities generally have come down to hard pan prices, and the worst is over. The time fixed for resumption will soon arrive. It is probably as well, after having gone thus far, to let the existing law take its course, so that, having experienced all the shrinkage in values and business strain necessary in preparing for specie redemption, the country may in future enjoy the benefits to follow from coin payments.

To repeal or amend the act now would have the effect to unsettle values again. Let us hope that after resumption is a fact, with a stable currency, and a reliance upon the future, there will come a renewal of confidence and general revival of business.

## A Terrible Nuisance—Sheep vs. Dogs.

A gentleman from the Salem neighborhood informs us that dogs have been during the past few weeks playing sad havoc with the sheep folds in that section.

The farms of Mr. John M. Barnes, Hillman Barnes, Bazy Burroughs, John Wright, E. T. Crews, E. N. Crews, Rev. W. S. Hester, Mrs. M. B. Taylor, and Mrs. Susan C. Hunt, all in the same continuous line of country, have suffered particularly and scarcely any sheep at all are left on these plantations.

Information from other sections of the county is to the same effect, and the evil is growing too grievous to be borne much longer. We are assured that in nine cases out of ten these depredations are committed by the worthless, starved dogs of negroes, nearly every cabin sending forth two or more of these gaudy curs to prey upon the sheep.

It is high time then our people were rousing themselves to the importance and necessity of adopting or providing some remedy against this wretched destruction of what should be one of our great industries.

It is stated that it costs more annually to take care of the dogs in North Carolina than it would to run a free school in every school district for six months in the year, and the only good ninety-nine one hundredths are for to catch the sheep.

The main reason why our State is not included among the great wool producing States of the Union is this insane and ridiculous protection of unprofitable and worthless curs—devourers of the substance of the poor, and a constant source of vexation and expense to the more thrifty.

Let this question of taxing dogs be made a main issue for the next Legislature: What earthly excuse can be given for their exemption from taxation?—*Oxford Free Lance.*

## NEWS OF THE WEEK.

### STATE NEWS.

A boiler explosion at Hall's saw mill in Richmond, last Saturday, killed four men.

Roberson county got \$675 out of a circus for taxes, and the *Robesonian* don't think the circus got as much from the county as that.

John Reavis, of Yadkin county got on a big drunk last week, beat and kicked his son so badly that the boy died next day, and the father is now in jail.

A writer in the *Raleigh Observer*, nominates Judge Kerr as one of the Supreme Court Judges, but the *Observer* remarks that the Judge has peremptorily refused to permit his name to be used in that connection.

*Goldboro Messenger:* We learn from Princeton that Miss Sarah Langley, about 19 years old, was so shockingly burned, on Tuesday last, while burning corn stalks in a field near that town, that she died shortly afterwards.

Mr. Pearce, of Franklin county, was aroused a few nights since by the cries of one of his children, and on attempting to arouse his wife to look after the child he found her dead in bed. She was a robust woman and in full vigor of health when she retired the previous evening.

### GENERAL NEWS.

Seven officials of the Prussian Government are coming over to study our system of tobacco taxation.

Counterfeits of the new dollar appeared in New York within 24 hours after the first genuine dollar made its appearance.

A convert in Chesterfield, Conn., who was baptized on Sunday, and on Monday he absconded with \$50 of the pastor's money.

Several lots of land in Jefferson county Mo., owned by U. S. Grant, who is now dead, heading abroad, are advertised for sale for delinquent taxes.

A letter from Pera states that Suleiman Pasha has been drowned at the command of the Government. His papers proved that he was contemplating a conspiracy for the overthrow of the Sultan.

The Cuban exiles in New York and at Key West repudiate the terms of peace with Spain and in the most enthusiastic manner resolve to forward arms and munitions to their brothers in the field and to fight on until Cuba is free.

The new Pope on receiving 54 parish priests recommended them to preach Jesus Christ. Their habit has been to preach the Virgin Mary rather than Christ. It is noticeable that the Pope in all his exhortations avoids mention of the Virgin.

### POLITICAL NEWS.

Ben Butler, is talked of as an independent candidate for governor of Massachusetts next fall.

Both the Massachusetts and Rhode Island Houses on Wednesday reported bills giving women the right of suffrage at municipal elections. In the former the vote was 127 to 93; in the latter, 35 to 19.

### Hopes of Peace Waning.

THE CONTROVERSY BETWEEN ENGLAND AND RUSSIA NEARING A DANGEROUS STAGE.

LONDON, March 25.—It is believed in Government circles that, notwithstanding the efforts of Germany to bring about an understanding between the powers, there is little hope of the Congress assembling. England will probably decline to negotiate further. The situation is regarded as serious. Russia's answer to England's demands were communicated to the Foreign Office on Saturday, and are considered as being very unsatisfactory. A despatch from Vienna says the prospects for holding the Congress are very unsatisfactory.

The Vienna correspondents of the *Times* and *Daily Telegraph* agree that the full text of the treaty of San Stefano has renewed the strong Anti-Russian feeling there. The *Times*' correspondent says: "There is no difference of opinion here about the real meaning of the treaty. It is not Russian preponderance, but Russian rule in European Turkey, and it is just because such an alteration as would remove this feature would entirely destroy the treaty that less confidence is felt in the efficacy of the Congress since its publication here. The controversy between England and Russia is approaching that dangerous stage where the point of honor more and more engorges the attention."

The *Daily Telegraph's* correspondent says: "While Count Andra-sy will demand the revision of the entire treaty, he will decline to do so in connection with England, because the interest is not identical."

LONDON, March 26.—A despatch to the *Times* from Pera says: "Mr. Layard the British Ambassador at Constantinople, is the head of a party who would rather see England go to war with Russia on any grounds, however trivial, than not at all. The present philo-English attitude of the Porte is due to the intimate friendship between Mr. Layard and Vefik Pasha and the latter's temporary influence over the Sultan. But the Sultan is a man of capricious and arbitrary temper, and of inferior capacity and resolution. A Court or Cabinet intrigue might destroy Vefik Pasha's ascendancy, and change the whole Turkish policy."

BEGRAD, March 25.—The publication of the terms of peace has caused universal dissatisfaction in Serbia. The army will reoccupy all the positions it conquered from Turkey, and hold them until the Congress decides as to the justice of Serbia's claims. The Grand Duke Nicholas has made a pressing demand on Serbia to remobilize her reserves, and concentrate them on the northern frontier but Serbia has not complied.

BRUSSELS, March 25.—The Russian organ, *Le Nord*, says there is but little probability that the Congress will meet. It is, in consequence of England's views, more to the advantage of Europe that it should not. The duty of Europe is to settle the crisis without England.

PARIS, March 25.—The *Temps* says the prevalent opinion in diplomatic circles is that England's resistance in her refusal to participate will cause the abandonment of the Congress. It is probable that, if England refuses to take part, France and Italy will follow her example. The *Temps* does not consider that an Anglo-Russian war is a necessary consequence of England's abstention from the Congress.

LONDON, March 25.—A *Times* editorial, discussing Derby's demands and Russia's concessions, concludes: "Thus she (Russia) declines the only condition on which our government will send a plenipotentiary to Berlin."

A *Tim's* correspondent as St. Petersburg concludes a dispatch as follows: "Influential and moderate politicians remark that fear of England's policy will force Russia to occupy Constantinople and drive the Sultan from Europe."

ST. PETERSBURG, March 25.—The *Journal de St. Petersburg* says England must yield her wishes to Europe and cease obstructing the definite conclusion of peace or the Congress must meet without England, or Russia must act alone.