

The Messenger.

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WILMINGTON, N. C.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 1898.

THE TWO GREAT AMERICAN GUNS.

It is an interesting fact that the inventors of the two most destructive guns in all the world are both living and are Americans, and one of them is a native of North Carolina.

The Maxim gun was produced by a Maine Yankee, who lives, and has lived for probably twenty-five years, in England. He has devoted many of his years, and expended a fortune, in trying to invent an air-ship that will "fill the bill" and make the trip.

The other day North Carolina's great inventor, Dr. R. J. Gatling, whose famous gun—shooting 1,000 times a minute—was the forerunner of all other repeating guns of great capacity and force—was interviewed at much length.

"They can be moved from one position to another rapidly, with all the rapidity of cavalry. In fact they can proceed wherever infantry can follow, and can hold their own where even the most effective light artillery might be compelled to retire."

"At San Juan, for instance, after the artillery had been hanging away at those seven bold pieces for two hours, Lieutenant John H. Parker with three Gatling guns silenced them in eight and a half minutes. Why, they made it so hot for those Spaniards that if a cigar, as one of the Spaniards afterward said, was shown above the parapet it was shot away."

"That is the coming warfare, in my estimation, can be with a Gatling battery while the men and horses of a field battery while they are getting in position to fire the first shot. It doesn't make any difference to me whether the Gatling guns are used as snipers, or the patents have expired, and any one make the guns."

He said when fed from tins they shoot 1,000 times a minute. He stated that the Gatling gun is effective up to 2,500 yards but the guns are effective up to 3,000 yards and over."

"The cost of the United States government for some years, at a time of profound peace, has been a billion dollars every two years or more than \$500,000,000 a year."

When President Buchanan had control he kept the annual public expenditures at or under \$80,000,000. Now they are seven times more while the population is only about 23 times greater.

Taxes are indeed a curse. They take from the people a large share of their earnings. The extravagance of government is seen in every direction. In city, county, state national, everywhere. A strict economy is the need of the age, and particularly of this country.

North Carolina has had some bad experiences since 1868. Extravagance, waste, peculation, misappropriation of funds, etc., have compelled to oppress and rob the people. Take the tariff. A man who buys \$100 worth of goods and pays \$25 for the tariff on the goods, surely pays \$100 to the tariff collector and so on.

While the democratic party in North Carolina may not have been as circumspect and economical always and as much so as was necessary, it gave the people in the main conservative, just, honest, economical government. The people of North Carolina have paid far less in taxes to the municipal and county governments than to the general government. And it is equally true that the country and town taxes are much lower than state taxes. You can learn this every year. Go to the city hall and pay your taxes and you will see at once how much higher they are than when you go to the court house and pay the sheriff for state taxes.

This is important, and it is true. Hence, as the democratic Hand Book says:

"Hence it is just as much the duty of the party in power to provide good government for the people in county, city and town as it is in the state; and any party which by positive enactment or by neglect subjects the people of a county, city or town to misrule, to plunder and humiliation, is unworthy of confidence and support of honest citizens."

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Statement of Atlantic National Bank, Wilmington, N. C. At Close of Business July 14th, 1898, Condensed from Report to Comptroller.

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