

THE GREENVILLE INDEX

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Given Flattering Consideration.

Birmingham, Ala., April 7th.—To have been present and witnessed the polite and kindly attention which was accorded W. H. Shepherd, the colored evangelist, by the large and cultured audience which assembled in the First Presbyterian church of aristocratic Tuscaloosa last Sunday night, would have taken the wind out of the sails of some of the northern editors, who love to carp on the lack of consideration shown the negroes by the people of the southern states. Shepherd was with the late Samuel V. Lapsley, the talented and self-sacrificing young minister, who went from Alabama as a minister two or three years ago to the Congo Free State. There the young preacher, who was so greatly beloved in Alabama, succumbed to the intense heat and died of fever. Shepherd was with him in his illness and was exceedingly kind and attentive to the last. Hence, when the negro missionary came to Tuscaloosa, where Lapsley was educated and where he was well known and greatly loved, the good people invited him to address them. The church was filled to overflowing with cultivated people, who for an hour and a half listened intently while the negro preacher told them, in his quiet, unassuming manner, of his life among the heathen of "dark-Africa." It is rather an unusual proceeding in Alabama for a negro to speak to a white congregation from its own pulpit, but it is stated that not a man who heard Shepherd regretted having done so.

Phantom Fleet off Hatteras.

The steamship El Norte sailed from New Orleans on March 14th, and arrived in the port of New York yesterday. Up to the time she reached Cape Hatteras there was nothing unusual in her voyage.

Chief Officer Benson is not in the habit of seeing strange things, and his testimony is therefore to be relied upon. He says that on March 18th the vessel was skirting Cape Hatteras, with a glassy swell running from the northwestward. There was no wind, and a thin haze stretched along the horizon.

That was just about sunrise. The sun had barely risen above the sea line before Officer Benson had his attention called to a strange spectacle in the west. There, riding high in the air, was a phantom fleet—some of the vessels with sails idly flapping others whose ghostly canvas seemed to be filled by a wind from the nether world.

Mr. Benson says that he realized that it was a mirage that he was looking upon, but the singular part of the illusion was the fact that every vessel was right side up. A well-regulated mirage at sea generally reproduces images upside down. Officer Benson says he counted twenty-eight schooners, and none of them were in the abnormal position.

According to the narrator, there was a long, low-lying bank of fog to the westward, and over this vapory sea was sailing the shadowy fleet. The hulls of some of the ships were closely outlined, every spar and sail showing distinctly. For two hours, Mr. Benson says, that weird fleet wheeled and circled above the fog bank, and then the sun dispersed the vapor, and the shadow pictures faded.—New York Times.

Search the Private Houses.

In his Columbia speech a week ago to day, Governor Tillman said:

"We will continue to search private houses where contraband liquors are supposed to be, with warrants when necessary. We are obliged to do this as long as it is the law. It is the law until repealed."

Referring to this right of search, the Charleston News and Courier has found a speech made upon it in the English House of Commons more than a hundred years ago by William Pitt, afterwards Lord Chatham, in which he said:

"If at midnight a petty constable with a press gang, should come thundering at the gates of your house in the country, and should tell you he had a search-warrant, and must search your house for deerstags, would you at that time of night allow your gates to be opened? I protest I would not. What then would be the consequence? He has by this law a power to break them open. Would any of you patiently submit to such an indignity? Would not you fire upon him if he attempted to break open your gates? I declare I would, let the consequence be never so fatal."

Pitt's sentiment must have found an echo in the hearts of his hearers, because it embodied the essence of the spirit of liberty. His words are as forcible to day as when he uttered them, and appeal to those impulses of the human heart which are not of a generation nor an age, but are in all ages an instinct of the race.

Search of private houses by armed officers! Rebellion rises in the heart of the freeman at the bare suggestion. Whether the search be with or without warrant is of no consequence. It is the indignity of search which the citizen resents—it makes no difference to him whether the officer has a piece of paper in his pocket, with a magistrate's name upon it or not.—Charlotte Observer.

The Case.

"Woman, dare not to defy."

She was pale, but resolute, and she met the angry eyes of the man without quailing.

"Give it to me."

With a savage snarl he seized her wrist. A cry burst from her lips.

"Brute," she shrieked.

The paper fluttered from her hand. With a smile of malignant triumph he snatched it and returning to his coffee, perused in detail the cross examination of Col. Breckenridge.—Detroit Tribune

It is good policy to strike while the iron is hot; it is still better to adopt Cromwell's procedure, and make the iron hot by striking. The master spirit who can rule the storm is great, but he is much greater who can both raise and rule it. To attain that grand power, one must possess the brave and indomitable soul of activity which prompted Edmund Burke to exclaim to his constituents in his famous speech at Bristol, "Applaud us when we run; console us when we recover; but let us pass on—for God's sake, let us pass on."—Journal.

Our Law Makers.

(From our Regular Correspondent.)

WASHINGTON, D. C., April 17th, '94.

Senatorial oratory has had full swing this week the echoes of Senator Hill's speech are still heard and will continue to be heard for some time.

There is no longer any doubt that Senator Hill intends to aid in defeating the tariff bill, unless his party associates will consent to modify it to an extent that would make it a new measure, and there are no present indications that they will do that.

Senator Hill's position on the tariff has brought up an old but never decided question—ought a Senator to vote in accordance with the sentiment of a majority of his party or with that of the State he represents? If the first, Senator Hill has committed a political crime of the last; his opposition to a majority of his party is justified by undisputed facts. The southern democrats are as much down on Senator Hill as they are upon President Cleveland, and many of them do not hesitate to charge both of them with acting solely in the interest of the State of New York, one on the tariff, the other on finance, without regard to the interests of their party or of other sections.

The closing scenes of the Pollard-Breckenridge trial were at times highly dramatic. Ex-Congressman Fin Thompson, of Kentucky, one of a speech teeming with blackguardism, made probably the most infamous statement ever made by a respectable lawyer in court, when he said that he did not blame a girl for preferring to be the mistress of a man of prominence who could aid her in maintaining a good social position rather than be the wife of a poor Kentucky farmer.

It may be that the silver men will vote for Representative Meyer's combination bill, authorizing an unlimited issue of bonds and the coinage of the seigniorage, but they haven't said that they would. Indeed they appear to be perfectly indifferent towards the bill in its present shape. It will be a very difficult task to get a bill authorizing the issue of bonds through the House, no matter what other project or projects may be combined with it.

It is to be regretted that the Senate failed to vote, as had been expected, on Senator Harris' proposition to meet daily at 11 o'clock and to remain in session until 6 o'clock, the tariff bill to be taken up at noon each day.

If Mexico would only look at the matter through our spectacles Senator Wolcott's resolution, this week adopted by the Senate, requesting the President to open negotiations with Mexico, with a view of obtaining permission to coin Mexican silver dollars at U. S. mints, for export to Asia, would doubtless result in a silver boom, but it would be just as well to await Mexico's answer before getting gay over the prospect.

The struggle of the democrats in the House to get and maintain a voting quorum is so near continuous that it has grown very monotonous and wearisome. The country has had a regular weekly dose of it for some time past and this week has been no exception to what has come to be regarded as a regular programme.

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