

State Library

THE LINCOLN DEMOCRAT.

VOL. I. NO. 17.

LINCOLN, NORTH CAROLINA, FRIDAY, JANUARY 17, 1896.

\$1. A YEAR.

County Directory.

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COUNTY OFFICERS: C. H. Rhodes, Sheriff; G. A. Barkley, Clerk of Court; Jacob F. Killian, Register of Deeds; D. L. Yount, Treasurer; J. Thos. McLean, Coroner; O. C. Thompson, Surveyor Hulls X Roads.

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS: H. E. Ramsaur, Chairman, Lincolnton; D. A. Coon, Reepsville; W. L. Baker Hulls X Roads; J. E. Reinhardt Iron Station; P. A. Thompson Denver.

COUNTY EXAMINER: L. A. Abernethy, Machpelah.

TOWN DIRECTORY:

S. W. McKee, Mayor, Lincolnton; Miss Eva G. Sumner Postmaster; S. K. Cline, Chief of Police, Lincolnton.

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LINCOLN, N. C.

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THE TRENT AFFAIR.

AN INCIDENT OF THE LATE WAR BETWEEN THE STATES.

It is now thirty-four years since the capture of the Confederate commissioners to Great Britain, on board the British mail steamer Trent. Few incidents of the war awakened a more profound interest, on both sides of the Atlantic, and no one seemed to be fraught with graver consequences at the time. The South indulges the hope it would lead to war between the United States and Great Britain, which would have insured the independence of the Confederacy; and these consequences would inevitably have followed, if the administration here in Washington, had not been wiser than the people of the North. For the almost universal sentiment among them was that the capture was justifiable in the purview of international law, and that the commissioners should be held as prisoners of war.

A whole generation has passed off the stage since the occurrence of this important event, and a new one has come forward, who may have heard of it vaguely, but without an account of the particulars; and even those who are old enough to remember it will doubtless be pleased to have their memories refreshed by a brief recital. The San Jacinto was on the African coast, under command of Lieutenant D. M. Fairfax. He left St. Paul de Loando, with orders to wait at Fernando, Pa., for Capt. Wilkes, who took command there. On reaching Cienfuegos, on the south coast of Cuba, he learned that the steamer Theodore, from Charleston, South Carolina, with Messrs. Slidell and Mason on board, had run the blockade, and he determined to capture her.

At Havana she the Confederate Commissioners were there, waiting to take passage for Europe on an English vessel, Captain Wilkes decided to intercept the British mail steamer and make the commissioners prisoners, if he found them on board. "We were all ready for her," says the official account, "beat to quarters, and, as soon as she was in reach of our guns, every gun of our starboard battery was trained upon her. And shot from our pivot gun was fired across her bow. She hoisted English colors, but showed no disposition to slacken her speed or heave to. We hoisted the Star Spangled banner, and as soon as she was close upon us, fired a shell across her bow, which brought her to." Captain Wilkes hailed her and said he would send a boat. He ordered Lieutenant Fairfax to board her; and at 1:20 p. m., as he states, he repaired alongside the Trent, in an armed cutter, accompanied by the second assistant engineer, Mr. Houston, and Mr. Grace, the boatman. He went aboard the Trent alone, leaving the two officers in the boat, with orders to wait until it became necessary to show some force. He was shown up by the first officer to the quarter deck, where he met the captain and informed him who he was, and asked to see his passenger list. He declined. The Lieutenant then informed the captain of the Trent that he was informed that Messrs. Mason, Slidell, Eustis and McFarland were on board, and that he would know the fact before allowing the Trent to proceed on its voyage. Mr. Slidell, hearing his name mentioned, came forward, and the other gentlemen soon joined him. The captain of the Trent opposed a search of his vessel, and refused to show passengers and passenger list. The gentlemen also protested against arrest, and being sent to the American steamer.

There was considerable noise and excitement about this time; and Mr. Houston, the officer of the San Jacinto, hearing it, came aboard with Mr. Grace, the boatman, and six or eight men, all armed. Messrs. Mason and Slidell refused to leave the Trent, peacefully—when Mr. Houston was directed by the lieutenant to return to the San Jacinto, and inform Captain Wilkes that the Confederate Commissioners would not leave the English vessel without an application of force. The lieutenant states that he thought the presence of armed men unnecessary, and only calculated to alarm the ladies. He therefore directed Mr. Grace and the armed men to return to the lower deck.

After parleying for half an hour another cutter came alongside, with eight marines and four machinists, in addition to a crew of some twelve men. The gentlemen still refusing to go, without an application of force, Lieutenant Fairfax placed his hand on the shoulder of Mr. Mason, who then accompanied him to the gangway, where he was turned over to Lieutenant Green, who conducted him to the boat. Mr. Slidell insisted that he would not go voluntarily, and that considerable force must be applied to him, to get him to go. The lieutenant then called in three other officers, who had no difficulty in persuading the recalcitrant commissioners to accompany them. Messrs. Eustis and McFarland, the Secretaries of Messrs. Mason and Slidell, moved on quietly, but under protest. They had been permitted to collect their baggage, and Messrs. Mason and Slidell, in packing up, managed to transfer their official papers to the trunks of their wives and daughters, who remained on board, and continued the voyage to Europe.

Lieutenant Green states that when Lieutenant Fairfax gave the order for the Marines to be brought in, he heard some one call out, "shoot him." But nothing of that kind occurred. The first four interrogatories must be answered affirmatively; by the failure to bring the Trent to an American port where she would have been confiscated, by a Court of Admiralty, Captain Wilkes failed to bring the case within the recognized law of Nations; and the prisoners must therefore be released.

Such was the Trent case in brief. In a parallel case, to-day, the demand would not be insisted on, if made; neither would it be acceded to if insisted on. Circumstances alter cases.—Daniel R. Goodloe, in News & Observer.

The sentiment among Northern people was nearly universal, that the Confederate Commissioners were rightfully captured, and made prisoners of war; and there were English precedents to support this opinion. During the Mexican war, General Paredes, a Mexican officer, and a bitter enemy of the United States being in Europe, sailed for Vera Cruz arriving there August 14, 1847, in the British mail steamer, Treviot. Secretary of State Buchanan made complaint in a letter to Mr. Bancroft, our Minister to England, saying that, "a neutral vessel which carries a Mexican officer of high military rank to Mexico, for the purpose of taking part in hostilities to our country, is liable to confiscation, according to the opinion of Sir William Scott."

Mr. Bancroft brought the case to the attention of Lord Palmerston, who admitted the justice of the complaint, and the commander of the Treviot was suspended, for violating the acknowledged belligerent rights of the United States. This case was exactly in point—a British mail steamer, not captured and condemned by an Admiralty Court, which was held in the case of the Trent, to be an essential circumstance, to warrant the arrest. But the Union, 1861, was divided, of which fact the government of England took advantage.

Many English authorities were cited at the time, in support of the claim of right to arrest the Com-

missioners. Dr. Robert Phillimore, advocate of one of her Majesty's Admiralty Courts, held that "it is indeed competent to a belligerent to stop the ambassador of his enemy on his passage."

The law of nations, and the practice of the British government clearly sanctioned the act; but the United States was in no condition to stand upon its rights as a belligerent; and Mr. Seward was only too ready to acquiesce in British reasoning on the case.

Lord John Russell, the Secretary for foreign affairs, wrote to Lord Lyons, to demand the release of the commissioners, and treated it as a matter of course as if there could be no question about it. This was like Great Britain, I need not quote his language.

Mr. Seward, in dealing with the case said: "The question before us is, whether the proceeding was authorized and conducted according to the law of nations. It involves the following inquiries: "1. Were the persons named and their supposed dispatches contraband of war? "2. Might Captain Wilkes lawfully stop and search the Trent for these contraband persons and dispatches? "3. Did he exercise that right in a lawful and proper manner? "4. Having found the contraband persons on board, and in presumed possession of the contraband dispatches, had he a right to capture the persons? "5. Did he exercise that right of capture in the manner allowed and recognized by the law of nations?"

If all these inquiries shall be resolved in the affirmative, the British Government will have no claim to reparation."

Commissioner Lacy's Report.

The annual report of the State Bureau of Labor Statistics was issued to-day and covers cotton and woolen mills, farm labor and fisheries. The Commissioner recommends that a law be passed fixing 11 hours as a day's labor in factories, and prohibiting the employment of children under 12 years of age, and not allowing those between 12 and 14 to work unless they have a certificate showing that they attend school at least 12 weeks during the year and giving the Commissioner power to enforce these laws. There are now 1,558 children under fourteen years of age employed.

His report says the average monthly wages of farm laborers are \$3.75 for men \$4.65 for women and \$2.90 for children. There has been a decrease in wages for two years. It costs 5 1/2 cents per lb. to produce cotton in North Carolina; 60 cents to produce a bushel of wheat, 40 cents a bushel of corn, and 30 cents a bushel of oats.

Many letters from farmers are published. Almost all of these call for more money and a majority lay great stress on education. Farmers are in better condition than in years past, and are very largely raising their own supplies. The report says 80,000,000 pounds of cotton will be required this year in excess of 124,000,000 pounds consumed by factories last year; that all factories are running on full time and that there is no check in their progress.

South African Republic.

The trouble between the foreign residents of the Transvaal and the Boer Government, growing out of the refusal of the latter to grant to foreigners civil rights equal to those enjoyed by the Boers, has assumed serious proportions. Dr. L. S. Jameson, the administrator for the British South Africa Company in Mashonaland and Matabeleland, marched upon Johannesburg with a force of 500 men to assist the Uitlanders, or foreign residents, in enforcing the demands against the government of the South African Republic. He and his followers were surrounded by a force of Boers near Krugersdorp, to the west of Johannesburg and after a conflict were compelled to surrender. This audacious invasion of a friendly state was promptly disavowed by the British authorities. Johannesburg is the centre of the mining region; \$26,000,000 of gold, more than a sixth of the world's yearly production was sent out of it in 1893. It is about 60 miles south of the capital of the Transvaal, Pretoria, with which it is connected by a railroad. Its population includes the larger part of the foreign element in the republic. Dr. Jameson during his march cut the telegraphic wires so as to render communication with him impossible. The trouble in the Transvaal is of long standing, and has become acute since the rush of foreign adventurers, attracted by the discovery of gold, began. The Boers of the Transvaal, direct descendants of the original Dutch settlers and of French Huguenots who fled to the Cape of Good Hope from the persecutions of Louis XIV, has steadily refused to become subjects of England.

Not strong enough to resist, they decided to abandon their old homes and see new ones in the wilderness. Taking what movables they could with them they trekked across the Orange River in 1836, which was then the British boundary, and established little communities beyond that river and in Natal. The English followed them up, driving them out of Natal in 1842, and defeating those in the Orange Free State in 1848. The Boers who would not submit again emigrated, this time beyond the Vaal, establishing the Transvaal republic, or the South African republic, as it is now called. Fear of the attacks of the Kaffirs and Hottentots led England to acknowledge the independence of the Transvaal in 1842 and of the Orange Free State in 1854. In 1877, to prevent a close alliance between the Boers and Germany, England seized on the Boer republics, leading to a war that lasted for years. At Majuba, in 1881, the Boers inflicted a crushing defeat on the British regulars. Peace was shortly afterward declared and the independence of the two republics in all internal matters was acknowledged, on their agreeing to leave the conduct of their external relations to Great Britain. This equitable settlement of the dispute caused much grumbling in England and great discontent in the aggressive portion of the English settlers at the Cape, of whom Mr. Cecil Rhodes is now the head. It is this party that has pushed forward the extension of British territory to and beyond the Rameses, so that the Transvaal is shut in by British territory on all sides save the east, where Portugal, for the moment, has been able to uphold her rights to Delagoa Bay and the district north of it. The Boers of the Transvaal are naturally jealous of British immigration. By their Constitution the Government is in the hands of a President, elected for five years, and a Legislature of two Houses, each of 24 members, who must be Protestants and property holders, the upper House having a veto on the action of the lower House. There are two classes

of burghers or citizens, the first consisting of whites who were resident in the republic before 1899, or who fought in the war of independence, and their children; the second of naturalized aliens who have resided in the republic at least two years and have taken the oath of allegiance. The first-class burghers alone can vote for and are eligible as members of the upper House. The second-class burghers may be advanced to the first-class after 12 years of residence; till then they can only vote for members of the lower House. These restrictions have been extremely irksome to the crowd of adventurers who have rushed into the gold-bearing districts and made Johannesburg, which did not exist nine years ago, a town of over 50,000 white inhabitants. For two years past these men have appealed to England to interfere, and now it seems to have attempted to take matters into their own hands.

Alfred Austin.

Queen Victoria has appointed Alfred Austin, Poet Laureate, an office which has been vacant since the death of Lord Tennyson, Oct. 6, 1892. Alfred Austin was born at Headingley, near Leeds, May 30, 1835. He was educated at Stonyhurst College, and at St. Mary's College, Scott. From Oscott he took his degree at the University of London in 1853, and in 1857 he was called to the Bar of the Inner Temple. The publication of a poem entitled "Randolph," when he was 18, showed the bent of his disposition. From his earliest years he was imbued with the desire and determination to devote his life mainly to literature. On the death of his father, in 1861, he went to Italy. His principal works are: A Satire, appeared in 1861. His other productions in verse are: The Human Tragedy, 1862, republished in an amended form in 1876 and finally revised in 1889; The Golden Age; A Satire, 1871; Interludes, 1872; Rome or Death! 1873; Madonna's Child, 1873; The Tower of Babel, a drama, 1874; Learko, the Bastard; A tale of Polish Grier, 1878; Savanrola, a tragedy, 1881; Soliloquies in Song; At the Gate of the Convent, Love's Widowhood and other Poems, Prince Lucifer, and English Lyrics, all published between 1881 and 1890. He has published three novels—Five Years of It, 1858; An Artist's Proof, 1864, and Won by a Head, 1866; also, the Poetry of the Period, reprinted from Temple Bar, 1870, and a Vindication of Lord Byron, 1869, occasioned by Mrs. Stowe's article, The True Story of Lord Byron's Life. He has written much for The London Standard and for The Quarterly Review. During the sittings of the Ecumenical Council of the Vatican he represented the Standard at Rome, and he was a special correspondent of that journal at the headquarters of the King of Prussia in the Franco-German war. His political writings include Russia Before Europe, 1876; Tory Horrors, 1876, a reply to Mr. Gladstone's Bulgarian Horrors, and England's Policy and Peril a letter to the Earl of Beaconsfield, 1877. In 1883, in conjunction with W. J. Courthope, he founded the National Review, and continued to edit that periodical till the summer of 1893. In 1892 Macmillan & Co. issued a collected edition of poems in six volumes, since which time they have published Fortunatus the Pessimist, England's Darling and Other Poems, and a prose work entitled The Garden That I Love.

Mrs. Arrington was convicted at Raleigh recently of libelling Ex-Judge Spier Whitaker.

Armenian Horrors.

Dr. Henry S. Lunn, editor of the Review of the Churches, and Mr. Percy W. Bunting, editor of the Contemporary Review, have addressed the following communication to all editors in England and America: "We enclose extracts from a letter from a private friend who spent several months of this year in Armenia, and who is one of the first authorities on the question, as to whether you would admit were we at liberty to publish his name. May we beg you to insert these in the next issue of your paper? Here are some of the extracts—

The European powers are playing a cynical representation round the graves of a Christian people. If you do not similar to theirs were to be perpetrated by an individual in private life it would be visited with worse destruction and would find him a martyr and a man's mark of glory. Fancy a man's neighbors prying about the doors of his house while he and his children rush frantically from room to room and from window to window imploring them to save them from the devouring flames. We have pity on a rat if we hear of its protracted and hopeless efforts to escape from burning, but men and women, boys and girls who are killed by piecemeal are laughed at—that is what it has come to.

The governments of Europe are a spectacle to make angels weep. They guard the gates of Turkey, so to say, solemnly declaring that whatever may happen to the Christians, however diabolically they may be tortured to death, nothing shall happen to the Turks—they, at any rate, must and will be preserved from harm. It is a wounding their throat of wiping out Armenia in Armenian blood?

People are only interested to get the latest news of Syvas or Trebizond, or wherever the latest massacres have occurred, at their breakfast table early. Few persons take even a remote interest in the Armenian question on the Continent, and those few are the advocates of Turkey. The Austrian press, said to be paid by the Turkish Government, impudently denies the Sassun massacres, and accuses the Armenians of having attempted to butcher the Kurds and Turks. The German press is the bearer of the same kind of culture to its readers, and in both these countries the public knows positively nothing about the Armenian question.

General Harrison on the Presidency.

Ex-President Harrison will discuss "The Presidential Office" very comprehensively in his "This Country of Ours" series, in the forthcoming February Ladies Home Journal. He will detail the provisions and methods of electing a Chief Magistrate, and will have much to say bearing upon the eligibility of a President for re-election; will give his views as to the length of the Presidential term, and express his decided opinions relative to the annoyance to which Presidents are subjected from office-seekers. The article is practical, based upon experience and observation, and is very timely. General Harrison believes that the fears (expressed by the framers of our Constitution) that the power of the office is such as to enable an ambitious incumbent to secure an indefinite succession of terms have never been realized.

Ex-Governor Barnett Gibbs of Texas has turned Populist, because, he says, it takes Roger Q. Mills two hours to tell what the Democratic platform means.

A movement has been started in London to settle the Venezuelan question by leaving the matter to Judges of the Supreme Courts of the two countries. The suggestion was made by Justice Harlan of our Supreme Court.

The suit brought by John Graham in the name of the Alliance to forfeit the Charter of the North Carolina Railroad has been withdrawn. Spier Whitaker has also retired as counsel for the Alliance.