

Rockingham Rocket.

H. C. WALL, EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR.

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THE ISSUE ABOVE ALL OTHERS.

While the question of taxation and the evils inseparably connected with present rates and methods of collection, together with the question of how to dispose of the existing surplus in the treasury and provide against a like plethora in the future, may well engage the attention of statesmen as giving rise to issues sharply drawn between the two great parties, we would call attention to the issue, as far as the South is concerned, that overtops all of these. It is not every one who talks tariff—high or low—that knows anything, practically speaking, about it. Even grave legislators have been twitted with a want of sufficient knowledge of the subject to qualify them for an advantageous discussion of it. The member from Buncombe, at a session of the North Carolina Legislature, put a peremptory period to a tariff discussion by calling time on the gentlemen engaged in it on the ground that not one of them would know the tariff if he was to "meet it in the road."

This much to illustrate. No objection to all enlightenment and upon every phase of the subject—certainly not, but to our fellow citizens we would say: read President Cleveland's late message on the subject; there you have it boiled down and mastered that, you have sufficient information to determine your views as a Democrat, not to say as a patriot without regard to party. Then be ready, as occasion may offer, to give your neighbor a reason for the faith that is in you. By pursuing the course marked out by the President in his message, Congress will relieve the people of unnecessary burdens and, at the same time, all reasonable "protection" will be guaranteed to the country's industries. In that message the Democratic President virtually says: "There I throw my gage"; and, as far as the coming National contest is concerned, the issue between a war tariff and a peace tariff is squarely drawn. The parties North need know no other issue than taxation and the tariff. But we of the South are peculiarly situated. We have experienced what it is to be dominated and oppressed, fleeced and insulted, by incompetent and bad government. Wherever Republican rule, for any length of time, has prevailed in the South, there has been left the record of venality, extravagance and corruption. Where is the exception? It was so in the nature of the case: whenever and wherever the ignorant and unenlightened negro voter held the balance of power, which he could turn at will into the hands of his scheming white leaders, the latter—formed as a class of adventurers and free-booters in politics—could and invariably did run the machinery of government to subvert their own bases and to promote future designs of feathering their own nests. Who would re-instate the order of things that existed in our own North Carolina in 1868 and 1869? Have the material and personnel of the Republican party in this State changed since then? Not a bit of it. It is true the negro has become somewhat more enlightened as a voter, in a limited ratio, but the great mass of them are as ignorant of their true interests now as then, and are just as easily bamboozled and led by the noses by selfish, mercenary demagogues in white livery. The great mass of white voters South is found in Democratic ranks, while the much larger per cent of Republican voters are negroes. The exceptions make the contrast all the more striking. The color line, therefore, exists practically of itself—it is no fault of the Democratic party that it is so. Let the negroes, whose kindness and friendship we shall always prize, place the blame where it belongs—on themselves, moved into that position by designing white men who have persistently used them in opposition to the best interests of our common country while instilling into their minds unreasonable prejudices against their best friends who, as a rule, are found in

the Democratic party. We rather pity than blame our negro fellow-citizen for the state of things that finds him always and persistently arrayed in politics against those to whom, in other matters, he first comes for advice and help. Not cheating him in one particular, we would scorn to do it in any other. We dare not, on our conscience, take advantage of him by leading him against his interests, if seeking our advice or direction. We respect no Democrat who would abuse the negro for the way he votes. He is the victim of circumstances—of influences almost, we may say, beyond his control. But the Democratic party has a right to expect that unselfish, patriotic white voters shall stand together in the next election, as they have done in the past, to prevent the recurrence of Republican rule—made possible only by a solid negro vote. If there is to be no division in the negro vote, then there are a thousand reasons why the white men of North Carolina should present a solid front in opposition.

THE DEATH OF A GOOD MAN.

When the clouds have fallen upon the coffin-lid and the first burst of surprise and excitement comes to be merged into the solemn hush of reflection that succeeds an important death announcement, the curious mind starts the inquiry, "who was he, where did he live, and what was his life?" The papers have recently announced the death of a man about whose history a great many are ignorant, and yet America has produced few greater men. He was not a politician, not so much a man of the people; he made no claim to statesmanship and, therefore, his record is not to be found among public annals where the fame of so many worthy men is preserved. He was not ambitious and, therefore, sought no honors along the line usually traveled by the American citizen. He enjoyed the honors of life only as they came to him from the plain performance of high duty on behalf of the race. He was a benevolent man, public-spirited in the sense of uplifting mankind; and wherever charities were to be dispensed, human wants to be supplied, and society conditions to be ameliorated and changed to betterment, there we find him and all the glorious record of his life. He was born in Georgetown, D. C., in 1798. He began business in Washington in early life; failed at first and with heroic courage started again, meeting with reverses from time to time until, by dint of perseverance and the pursuit of honest methods, he had accumulated a fortune. That fortune belonged not to him alone and, ever thus recognizing the claims of duty upon him, he bestowed his donations with a lavish hand, the aggregate of his contributions being quite five millions of dollars. He sported no title, aspired to no position under government, although he was the courted patron of political parties and the social companion of Presidents. He was known simply as "Mr. Corcoran, of Washington," and wrote himself—W. W. Corcoran. His numerous benefactions will constitute his fame, and while

"The world may sound no trumpets, ring no bells,
The Book of Life the shining record tells."

A Free Library.

Correspondence of The Rocket.
EDITOR OF THE ROCKET:—I hope you will publish, and thereby throw in your influence towards getting up a free library for Rockingham. I do not wish to assail the Church, or to say it is not doing its full duty. No sir, let us unite, and reason together. Here are three churches, fine structures; and I hope with well paid ministers. The buildings are used, say one and a half days in the week. Of course the ministers visit their flock, and probably a few outside the fold. Now what the writer wants to impress on your numerous readers, asking their sympathy, is, that a free library be opened, with a well selected stock of books, papers and periodicals. It will help and strengthen the church; will improve the morals; will broaden and strengthen the ideas of our working population; will be a counter attraction to the saloons; will tend to bring out the intellect that is now dormant and; as soon as the necessary conditions arrive, will brighten our thrifty and rising town. A minister's sermon does not impress the minds of our young men to such an extent that its influence lasts till the following Sunday. Other influences must follow. Ministers have left out science, and pretty high ignored it. Science and religion ought to go hand

in hand. Science is the development of natural forces and what better subject can engage a religious mind? Religion has been jealous of science, yet science is every day bringing some new help to the happiness of mankind. Can we get an intelligent people without a reading people? No sir, the brain must be fed and developed. "A little learning is a dangerous thing"; much learning is good. It teaches man his littleness and makes him humble and awed in the conscious presence of such a wonderful universe, and that nature's laws are unchangeable. Let us unite, work together, throw open the doors of learning, induce our rising generation to read in libraries rather than lounge in saloons on a night. Our factories need intelligent help. Can it be got outside of study? Must we lag behind other towns and countries? I know our wealthy citizens are in sympathy with keeping pace with the times. They value an intelligent employe, and how can he be intelligent without reading; and how can he get sufficient general matter without a library? This can be got by the wealthy and the working class uniting in donations and subscriptions. In a little while we shall be entertained with scientific lectures and the like. General moral improvement will follow. This question the writer deems of vital importance; and, to be practical, will have pleasure in donating \$10, besides a few volumes; and subscribe \$5 yearly. From soundings taken, our leading citizens will take hold of this question. The old adage is, "Old men for counsel and young men for war." Cannot a council of both be got together and things be brought into ship shape? Sound the feeling of our toiling class and see if there is not a general thirst after a greater knowledge. The wise man said, "with all thy getting get knowledge," or words to that effect. Let us be up and doing. Who will form a committee? Hoping that this will not be laid aside for future consideration, I am, &c., a well wisher to our town and country.

The North Was the Loser.

From the Wilmington Messenger.
Mayor Hewitt, of New York, is considered to be a practical man who deals not in unnecessary sentiment. Addressing the Southern Society of New York on Wednesday last, he said:
It is a conflict between the manufacturing States of the North and of the South, and the victory is already perching upon your banners. [Great applause.] In the future production of this country, it will be registered in successive censuses, in fact before the lapse of the century, that the Southern States of the Union will far outstrip Pennsylvania and the other manufacturing States of the North. It was the North that lost by the outcome of the rebellion, not you. The victory of the North was, in reality, its defeat, and in future the greatest friend and supporter of Constitutional Union will be the South.

It is well to see ourselves as others see us, to lay aside our philosophy occasionally and to consider the philosophy which others proclaim. The more we are drawn out of ourselves, the better for us. Mayor Hewitt is a great manufacturer himself. He is interested in a great industry. He has made a study of his own important business and he ought to know, and is generally credited with knowing, what he talks about when he discusses economic questions.

The Messenger has repeatedly printed in its columns the encouraging predictions of progressive Northern men as to Southern resources and Southern progress: "For perhaps we who have these blessings of Nature and we who have wrought the great work of the past two decades, are less appreciative of our endowments and of our accomplishments than those who, not being of us, have watched our labors from the plane of self-interest. What to us may have seemed commonplace and uneventful, has appeared to them as marvellous, because, up to 20 years ago, we were content to remain a purely agricultural people. Time brings many changes. It would not be at all miraculous, if in the course of two more decades we should realize that what we are outstripping Pennsylvania and other manufacturing States of the North. We do not expect to accomplish this marvel alone; but we do look forward to the time when capital which cannot be invested in the well worked field of the North will rush to our young and, as yet, partially undeveloped country, recognizing that here, indeed, are the richest and most generous resources. As Mr. Edward

Atkinson, one of the foremost of writers on industrial matters, says: "The imperial deposit of iron of the world, as it was rightly called by the late Sir Isaac Lotham Bell, lies down among the fields of Alabama, flanked with coal on one side and with limestone on the other. In no other place in the world, I believe, can the materials of which iron is made be brought to the furnace at so small a cost of labor measured in time or hours of work. You cannot help making iron if you would and you would not if you could."

But this is not all. Diversified industries are our salvation, and possess them we must and will. It is but a question of time, and that time is not far off in the future. The advantages which we may not appreciate will be eagerly seized upon by others. By all means, however, let the South take the leading role in the great industrial contest with, and victory over, its Northern friends.

A Tariff Bill Will Soon Be Reported.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 25.—Mr. McMillan, second member on the Ways and Means Committee, said to me to-day:

"The tariff bill will be presented to a full committee early in the coming week. The precise day is not known. The brandy tax cannot be reduced, with safety, below the difference in the cost of manufacture of whiskey and brandy, which is about forty cents. This would reduce the brandy tax from ninety cents to fifty cents per gallon. The right accorded to the planter to sell his tobacco to whomsoever he will, or to manufacture it without license, is coupled with the Judiciary Committee bill, and this reduction on brandy is as much as the country will stand. The repeal of the retail liquor license would be impolitic."

There was some talk to-day of a separate tariff and internal tax bill, but, in the best informed quarters, it is believed the Committee will report on both in the same bill, and try to steer it all through the House as one measure.

The latest to-night, of excellent authority, about the tariff is that the bill will be reported to the committee not later than Wednesday and that all statements purporting to give the amount of the reduction, or the other details of the measure, are purely imaginative. The customs part of the bill will be submitted first and afterward given to the press. Perhaps later in the week the internal revenue part will be presented.

CONSUMPTION SURELY CURED.
TO THE EDITOR:—Please inform your readers that I have a positive remedy for the above named disease. By its timely use thousands of hopeless cases have been permanently cured. I shall be glad to send two bottles of my remedy FREE to any of your readers who have consumption if they will send me their express and post-office address. Respectfully,
T. A. SLOCUM, M. C., 181 Pearl St., New York.

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Country Produce is quoted at buying prices	
COTTON—Middling, 9—@94	Good Middling, 8—@91
BACON—Sides, per lb., 10@12	Shoulders, 8@10
Hams, 15@16	BEEF—WAX, 16@16
CHICKENS, 15@20	EGGS, per dozen, 12@15
FLOUR—Country, per sack, 2.25@3.00	Northern, 2.50@3.00
Patent, 2.50@3.50	GRAIN—
Corn, per bushel, 75@1.00	Oats, 50—65
Peas, 75—1.05	HIDES—Dry, per lb., 8@10
Green, 4@5	SALT, per sack, 1.00—1.20



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Hats, Men's and Boys' Clothing, and other General Merchandise. Also a

Complete Stock of DRUGS AND MEDICINES,

And Druggists' Sundries, in charge of

DR. T. S. COLE.

The above goods have just been purchased by me in the Northern markets, are brand new, were bought for the SOLID CASH with all the discounts off and can and will be sold as low as the lowest.—Come and try me. "A word to the wise is sufficient."
Oct. 18, '87. J. W. COLE.

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Sale of Assets.

IN ACCORDANCE with the power invested by a certain deed of assignment, I will offer for sale, at Gibson's Station, N. C., to the highest bidder, for cash, on the 1st day of March, A. D. 1888, at eleven o'clock in the forenoon, all the one-hundred and thirty acres of land of D. D. Gibson against parties resident in North Carolina, a list of which can be seen on application to Z. L. Gibson, Esq., at Gibson's Station, N. C., or to the undersigned at the store of A. J. Bristol & Co., in Bennettsville, S. C.

R. L. KIRKWOOD, Assignee.

A. C. Covington,

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He keeps a large stock of MEDICINES and LANDRETH'S GARDEN SEEDS. He will receive a large invoice of

Millinery Goods

about the first of March. The ladies cannot fail to be pleased with the styles and prices. Call and see him.

Sale of Land.

BY VIRTUE of a Deed of Trust executed by Sharper Powell and wife Helen Powell to W. F. Brookshire, which is registered in Book L.L., pages 260, 270 and 271 of the Register's office of Richmond county, I will sell to the highest bidder, for cash, at the court house door in Rockingham, Richmond county, on Monday, the 5th day of March, 1888, the tract of land containing 10 acres, more or less, described in said Deed of Trust, on the waters of Buffalo Creek, adjoining the lands of Alfred Hadley, T. F. Stanback and others.

W. F. BROOKSHIRE, Mortgagee.
Feb. 4, 1888.

Send us your orders for job printing.

Let me tell you something:

H. C. WATSON has now got on hand and is receiving every day the largest stock of goods of his life, and is able to meet the hard times with prices. He calls special attention to his

Elegant Line of Dry Goods,

Dress Goods, Notions, Hats and Clothing, and one of the largest and cheapest lines of the season. Don't go bare-headed when you can buy a good hat at Watson's for 25 cents.

His stock of Boots and Shoes is large, well selected and cheaper than the cheapest. He also has a full assortment of Tinware, Crockery, Saddlery, Trunks, Valises, Hardware, Wooden Willowware, &c. GROCERIES of all kinds, including a car load of Salt, just received.

He furthermore calls special attention to his big stock of glassware which he gives away. Call and buy a box of Bread Preparation and get a present.

He has a big stock of FURNITURE, such as bedsteads, mattresses, chairs, sofas, &c., &c., which he keeps up stairs and says he can't be undersold. All he asks is for his friends to call and examine his stock before purchasing and be convinced of the fact that he sells cheaper than the cheapest.



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H. C. DOCKERY.

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