

Rockingham Rocket.

H. C. WALL, EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR.

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O. H. DOCKERY'S LETTER OF ACCEPTANCE.

We do not hesitate to say that we have never read a document which startled us more by its reckless and unauthorized assertions than the letter of Col. O. H. Dockery accepting the nomination given him by what he characterizes "as noble a body of men as ever assembled in the State." The writer of that remarkable epistle must not have had access to the needed information, or he could hardly have stifled his conscience by a total disregard of the facts, which ought to be known, and are known, to all intelligent men.

His statements in regard to the finances indicate very clearly that on this subject he is poorly informed. Those who know him will not be surprised at that. No sensible man could ever have doubted that under the "magnificent system" of taxation adopted by Col. D.'s party there would be a large surplus in the Treasury, unless it was squandered by useless extravagance, approaching robbery. But under Mr. Arthur's administration the Treasury was not "kept depleted," if the Reports of "John Sherman, that able and unequalled financier," are to be believed. We respectfully suggest to Col. Dockery that he should have read the report of Mr. Sherman before he made an allegation so destitute of truth.

There has been no time within ten years when the Treasury balances were such as Col. Dockery asserts, and he did not have any authority for his statement. A candidate for Governor should be more guarded in his language, especially when he writes anything for publication. We defy him to show any report of Mr. Manning which gives the balances in the Treasury as he states them. He cannot do it.—When Col. D. wrote his letter (which rivals Baron Munchausen, who is surely his type of historian and narrator), the balances were nothing like what he alleges. Why, on the 30th of June, just seven days after Col. D.'s famous letter appears to have been written, the total amount in the treasury was a little over \$700,000,000, and, after deducting the gold and silver certificates and currency, the balance was—not \$155,000,000, as he says—over \$375,000,000. This was in the Treasury of the United States, and not in Mr. Cleveland's treasury, as Col. Dockery calls it. But gentlemen like Col. D. may not properly appreciate the difference between one treasury and another.

As to the purchase of bonds, it is probable that Col. D. thinks that the Secretary of the Treasury can force bondholders to sell their bonds, and can, whenever he chooses, purchase to the full extent of the means in the Treasury. We really thought that the holder of a bond not mature had the right to sell or keep, at his pleasure. The present administration has, in this respect, followed the plan pursued by its "illustrious predecessor," when the "unequalled financier, John Sherman," was at the head of the Treasury. The whole evil comes out of a policy of taxation, approved by Col. D. in his letter, which takes too much money from the pockets of the people. If his party would have reduced the tariff and repealed other sources of taxation, that surplus would have been in the pockets of the people. The pretense is simply ridiculously hypocritical.

Col. D. has entirely forgotten that when he was a member of Congress he was distributing free trade documents—the extremist of free trade—written by J. S. Moore over the signature of "A Curious-b'ny." Then he did not hold the views which he now professes, notwithstanding he so alleges.

But Col. D. says that the Democrats have had it in their power ever since 1876 to have repealed the Internal Revenue system. We have not the charity to think he was sincere when he made that statement. He knows better than that. He knows, too, that in 1870 his party,

which established it, had that power and did not use it, even though his powerful voice may have called for it. He knows, or ought to know, for he has been a member of Congress—that all legislation must pass the House and Senate and be approved by the President, unless two-thirds shall consent to the passage notwithstanding the objections of the President. He knows that the 45th Congress, commencing March 4th, 1877, had a Democratic House and a Republican Senate, the President being a Republican. He knows that the 46th Congress had a Democratic House, a Democratic Senate (by two majority), and a Republican President. He knows that in the 47th Congress both houses were Republican and there was a Republican President. He knows that until Mr. Cleveland was inaugurated there was a hostile Senate and there has been one ever since. And yet he has the reckless boldness, or something else, to assert that the Democrats have had the power to enact any legislation. He knows better, and he should have had more regard for his reputation. There is no excuse for such falsification of facts. If the Internal Revenue system is usurpation—and he says it is—his party is responsible for it, and he knows it.

What Col. D. says in regard to the Blair Bill can be disposed of by informing him that his candidate for the Presidency, as a Senator voted it. And yet he is for Harrison! On the whole, we have never seen a letter more replete with false allegations—unworthy of a man who is a candidate for Governor—than the one which we are reviewing. Its attempts to mislead are so glaring that no intelligent man will be deceived. We suggest to him, in conclusion, that the less he has to say or write upon the subject of finance the better for him. On this branch of politics, or business, he knows too little to instruct anybody. It would have been better for him if he had called together an advisory council and submitted to it his letter before allowing it to go to the public. Such a council would not have permitted so crude and unworthy an epistle to have seen the light of day.

We may comment very freely on this letter hereafter. What we think we shall say.

EDITORIAL CORRESPONDENCE.

WILMINGTON, N. C., July 9.

DEAR ROCKET:—We are here tonight as spectator and hearer at the grand demonstration of the Democracy of the Cape Fear region in ratification of the action of the great party of the country in placing its tickets—National and State—in the field of political combat. The party is well represented on the occasion by illustrious leadership in its councils. At the risk of seeming invidiousness in comparisons, where so many men of note are assembled, we propose to mention some names. First in order we should mention Judge Fowle, the superb standard-bearer for the office of Governor. He is accompanied by the Attorney-General, Davidson, and Superintendent of Public Instruction, Finger, and the new candidate for the office of Auditor, Rev. G. W. Sanderlin. The recent nominee for the Sixth Congressional District elector, S. J. Pemberton, Esq., is also present. The East is well represented in the persons of Col. Kitchen, of Halifax, and the resident favorites of this section, Col. Waddell and Maj. Stedman. Others—not a few—prominent in the politics of their respective sections, and of the State, are here. It looked like the fires of '84 had suddenly leaped to a full blaze, although so early in the campaign, when an imposing procession, headed by the Y. M. D. C. of this city, halted in front of the Orton House and gave three cheers heartily for "the next Governor of North Carolina, Daniel G. Fowle." That gentleman soon presented himself and took a seat in the carriage, thence, in rear of the procession, to the speakers' stand, accompanied by an array of speakers and thousands of people who surged along the street en route for the objective point.

Before the inspiring strains of music had announced the time for the gathering of the people apprehension was felt that the demonstration, owing to short notice and the heated term, could not and would not measure up to the requirements of the occasion. Those who feel keenly at heart the interests of the party, and the issues now at stake, expressed freely such apprehensions. But when the fervor of the masses promptly took shape and the old time enthusiasm of the Democrats

was "on," such fears were displaced by a general impulse of joy, for the signs were not to be mistaken.—Huzzas rent the air, sky-rockets ascended, the whole city was quickly in a flame from bonfires, and Democratic feeling mounted to the full height of the seething thermometer.

To say the ratification here tonight, fitly represented as the initial big gun of the canvass, was a success as such, is not enough. It was an ovation, and one long to be remembered, in honor of Grover Cleveland and Daniel G. Fowle as the great heads of the army now being marshaled for battle. We had hardly thought it possible to arouse the people to such heights of enthusiasm thus far in advance of the actual fight; but it was done, and we feel as we write that the people at large are entering the political lists in old North Carolina with more of the glow of victory in their bones than was ever experienced by them before.—And why should they not? The sky is unquestionably bright, and we predict a steadily continued brightening as the fight progresses. It is not for us to attempt a report of the different speeches delivered to-night to an audience of at least three thousand persons, many ladies being present. Suffice it to say, Judge Fowle was himself—the winning, silver-tongued orator. His speech verified the promise so well set forth in his handsome introduction at the hands of the presiding officer of the meeting, Lieut.-Gov. Stedman. He was followed—each speaker being admirably presented by the graceful chairman—by Attorney-General Davidson, Superintendent Finger, Rev. G. W. Sanderlin, Col. W. H. Kitchen, S. J. Pemberton, and last, but not least by any means, by Col. Waddell who, in response to a rousing call from the people, advanced and fired the closing shot that crowned the interesting hour with complete success.—Not another word was needed. The vast crowd dispersed satisfied with present results and flushed with hope of the grander achievement at the polls next November.

From a Cotton Manufacturer.

Cor. of the Wilmington Star.

PEE DEE COUNTRY, July 5, '88.
EDITOR STAR:—In his speech in the House of Representatives, opposing any reduction in the taxes upon imports, held up by his friends as a model of argumentative ability, Mr. McKinley, of Ohio, complained of the present administration, because one of the departments had awarded a contract to a foreigner, who offered to deliver two thousand pairs of blankets at only 30 cents a pair cheaper than an American agreed to take. The government, which of course paid no duty on these blankets, showed its economy to the pitiful extent of but six hundred dollars in the transaction—a sum which this great statesman regarded as too small for consideration! My authority is the New York Journal of Commerce.

If the agents of the government would always be so observant of the trust committed to them, the country would have cause to rejoice. The department should be commended rather than condemned for even so little economy in one transaction, as the meager sum, as Mr. McKinley, the organ of his party regards it, of six hundred dollars. But my object in noticing it, is to call attention to one fact which the statesman establishes. It is this: Eighty per cent (the present rate of duty on blankets) is not needed for the ample protection of the manufacturers of blankets, for it is the manufacturer and not the laborer whose interests Mr. McKinley's party are so anxious to advance. Suppose the foreigner offered to deliver the goods at two dollars per pair, then the domestic producer—if Mr. McKinley is to be believed—admitted, by his proposition, that he could compete with 15 per cent duty. If they were of the value of three dollars then 10 per cent would cover the difference in the cost of production. If the grade was four dollars then only 7 1/2 per cent were needed. Now what is the profit to the poor laboring manufacturer when he gets 80 per cent advantage? Any man who is fit to be a freeman can make this calculation. Any tariff for revenue which is at such a rate as to cover the difference in the cost of production in this country and in Europe or elsewhere will place all our manufacturers and others on terms of equality, and thus allow them to have an even chance with all the world. Then we shall have the "survival of the fittest." If the

duty should be largely in excess of this our own people would have the advantage. No honest man can ask any more than this. But the party whose organ Mr. William McKinley is, wants the manufacturer to get a much greater advantage by having the taxes so exorbitant that he can monopolize the American market and then charge whatever he can get for his product, the laborer receiving just what his employer chooses to give. The purchaser of the goods pays whatever the manufacturer chooses to ask. The manufacturer, following a natural law of trade, gets his labor in an open market and at the lowest rate. He will do this, even if he has to import French-Canadians—as New England factories do—or Chinese, as General Benjamin Harrison desires to do.

Our Southern manufacturers do not need any protection at all. Nearly every vessel which leaves the port of New York carries out domestic goods, even to England, and, indeed, some goods made of iron and steel. They also take large quantities of cheese and leather. Examine the manifests as they are published in the Journal of Commerce, and they will find a tale unfold whose lightest word would "harrow up the soul" of every honest man who believes that good government is meant to "promote the general welfare."

MANUFACTURER OF COTTON GOODS.

From the telegram in to-day's morning papers, we learn that the tariff fight will be transferred to the Senate. It is positively asserted that an order has promulgated from Republican headquarters, directing the Republican members of the House to abstain from further dilatory practice and allow a vote to be taken on the Mills bill and it is thought a vote will be reached July 14th. The fight will then be transferred to the Senate, where the Republicans will offer a substitute, which will repeal the tobacco tax, the tax on alcohol used in the arts, and reduce the tariff on sugar forty or fifty per cent.—Durham Tobacco Plant.

KANSAS CITY, July 9.—The most disastrous storm that has visited Kansas City for years, raged from 9 o'clock last night until 12. During the height of the storm, Eighteenth street for seven blocks became a turbulent river which flooded all houses to the depth of two feet, and at Twenty-third and Vine, the fifteen foot culvert was inadequate to the immense volume of water which backed up, carrying away two houses, the inmates of which were only rescued with the greatest difficulty. Those who saw the storm say that it was undoubtedly a cloud burst. The reports of death and destruction are numerous, but thus far no fatalities have been verified.

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July 2nd, 1888. J. W. COLE.

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Rockingham, N. C.

April 4, 1888-4f.

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My stock of Dry Goods and Notions is now complete and consists of a beautiful line of Prints, Satines, Lawns in all colors, Fiques, Nainsooks, Linen Lawns, Embroidered Dresses and all-wool and half-wool Dress Goods in all qualities and shades, Ginghams and, in fact, everything in the line of Dry Goods and Notions.

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