

# Rockingham Rocket.

H. C. WALL, EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR.

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## WASHINGTON NOTES.

It was a gala day in the House on Saturday, the 21st ult., when Mr. Mills made his closing speech on the tariff question. Of the 325 members only 14 were absent or otherwise failed to vote when the great question was submitted by Speaker Carlisle. Mr. Mills, evidently the lion of the day and hour, stood at his seat, and, after many hand-shakes with congratulating friends, watched the progress of the "yeas" and "nays" with manifest anxiety. Now and then, as a member scored a "surprise" by his vote either for or against the bill, the House came down with applause according as the action pleased either party. Sometimes the scene was uproarious—very like such as we may see in a State convention. It is said that Mrs. Cleveland, seated in the Executive gallery, violated the rules by frequent participation in the applause. The gallery occupants, of whom there were hundreds, could with difficulty restrain their enthusiasm; but it was well they were so restrained, for those on the floor made noise quite sufficient. When the result was announced McMillin, of Tennessee, moved an adjournment to the Wednesday following, on the principle, we suppose, that the House deserved to have a holiday. Some member amended by moving to adjourn to 8 o'clock Saturday night, but both motions failed. Boutelle, of Maine, in a spirit of sarcasm requested that the House immediately adjourn in honor of the day as the 27th anniversary of Bull Run, which battle was fought on the 21st day of July, 1861; whereupon Kilgore, of Texas, said to him, in tones loud enough for all to catch: "This day marks the Waterloo of your party." The feeling among Democrats at Washington over the happy issue of the great struggle is one of supreme satisfaction. Randall's following must be low down in the "blues"; indeed, it is not understood why now he may not consistently align himself and satellites squarely with the Republicans, and have the manliness so to declare—He can play his little role no longer to the delusion of the people. The logic of the situation is that "protection" Democrat is a misnomer—a nondescript whose province is to aid the cause of the Republican party, as formulated in its Chicago platform, and obstruct the progress of tariff reform indefinitely.

Of course those who had the honor of shaking the President's hand at Monday's reception had no opportunity to ascertain how Grover feels just at this time over the success of the Mills bill, coming so soon after the confirmation of his appointment to the Chief Justiceship by a hostile Senate, but it was a common remark of the multitude that the President appeared chippy and cheerful as, clad in a sixteen dollar gray suit, he stood in the East Room doorway and said a pleasant word to each passing visitor. He seems to be literally at home when receiving the people. There is no stereotyped form any more than the interest of expedition and convenience requires. He does not "dress up" for the occasion as if going out to be seen of the world. Not so when he is to be seen outside his imposing domicile known as the "White House." For instance, the Seventy-first New York Regiment, returning from a visit to Richmond and its usual anniversary trip to the Bull Run battle-field, asked to be reviewed by the President on Monday afternoon, 23rd. At a given hour the President, accompanied by Secretary of the Navy Whitney and the City Chief of Police, walked rapidly to the stand fronting the White House, on Pennsylvania Avenue, and looked upon the splendidly equipped command as it marched by to the strains of inspiring music by the band. He was a different looking man from an hour ago. His portly presence was heightened immeasurably by the shiny silk beaver that sat gracefully upon its intel-

lectual dome, and not a Cleveland hat either. Was this little fact significant as additional evidence of the man's usually discreet diplomacy? Anyhow, he is prolific in surprises. The Chief of Police wore a Cleveland while the Secretary sported a jaunty Derby hat. As the President ascended the review stand—which was draped with the "stars and stripes"—his suit of black moulded to his fine body, he looked every inch an Emperor fit to lead a glorious party and shape the governmental policy of Earth's grandest country.

The Presidential reception to the public, coming three times a week, is usually attended with pleasing incidents. At the Monday reception was an Englishman just over from the proud little island where royalty is profuse in red-tape splendor. He had come to the White House not expecting so great an honor as a personal introduction to the President but only to get such enchantment as distance might lend to the view. He was astonished when told that he could have the pleasure of shaking the President's hand; and after such pleasure, and the additional cordial greeting of Mr. Cleveland, there was one Englishman less wedded to ideas of royalty and more appreciative of democratic government.

The President is said to be fond of having the children introduced to him at these receptions. On the occasion referred to he placed his hand on the head of a little six-year-old and won the little fellow's vote by saying, "How are you, my son? glad to see you." A North Carolinian, after indicating what precinct he hailed from, said, "Mr. President, we are all office-seekers down there—not for ourselves, but for you, sir," to which the reply came quickly, "I hope to see your people gratified."

VISITORS TO THE White House usually form the acquaintance of Arthur Simmons, the colored porter, a model of politeness and gentlemanly manners. Arthur is a New Berne N. C., darkey, and boasts of his aristocratic Carolina connexion, having been brought up as a servant in the "old families" of the eastern section of our State. He was best acquainted with the Attmorees and Stanleys of New Berne. Arthur has been in the "service" of the White House ever since 1865, and speaks of President Johnson, whose favorite servant he was, with feelings of affectionate remembrance. He says their common North Carolina nativity drew them closely together in friendship, and that the President's habit was to turn over to him the "skippernong" wine, of North Carolina vintage, which friends would send to the White House—the President preferring other kinds for his own use. Arthur says that, as regards voting, he stands upon "principle" and has never cast a ballot. He has been in full accord with all administrations and is a warm admirer of President Cleveland. He has saved money in his position and is now the owner of several lots in Washington. While other colored men "sunk" money in the Freedman's Bank, he was all O. K. for he would not trust it, placing his money in another bank. When General Howard turned it over to Fred Douglass to manage, Arthur felt more than ever that the Freedman's Bank was the place not to have put his money in, for—said Arthur—"when a white man hands his coat over to a negro you may be sure there's a hole in it." And the result proved the correctness of Arthur's judgment.

SOME DAYS AGO we heard a conversation between a Democrat and a Republican, the latter a member of Congress, on the subject of the tariff. The Republican represents an Illinois district in the present House, and is an iron-bound protectionist. All of which did not so much surprise us; but when he, a Congressman, denied that the Supreme Court of the United States had ever decided that a tariff tax laid for other purposes than those of revenue was unconstitutional, amounting to "robbery," we confess to very great surprise. Here was a member of Congress ignorant of a great fact known to the commonest debating-club speaker of the land. Marvelous, but true, and it is not to be wondered at that one so poorly informed voted "no" when the Mills bill passed in the House. To what does that member owe his distinction, if not simply to the blind following of party? Otherwise he is a clever gentleman.

## LET THE TOWNSHIPS NOMINATE.

We favor the primary plan of making nominations for the Legislature and the various county offices. The will of the people can be better ascertained and, as a result, more general satisfaction will be secured. Therefore we suggest that when the County Executive Committee of the Democratic party, to meet here next Saturday, appoints a day on which the various townships shall select their delegates to the County Convention, the voters of each township shall indicate their choice of candidates by depositing their ballots, either written or printed, in boxes or hats for the occasion. When the voters of the townships, as many as may interest themselves to turn out, come together in primary meeting on the day set by the County Executive Committee, first let the prime object of their assembling be attended to, to-wit, the selection of delegates to the County Convention according to the number each township is entitled to under the Democratic plan of organization. Then let three judges be appointed to supervise a ballot to be taken to ascertain the preferences of the Democratic voters present for the offices to be filled, one of the judges to act as clerk. All bona fide residents of the townships, who are Democrats, to be allowed to cast their ballots, subject to the right of challenge on the part of any Democrat in good standing, and all challenges to be decided by a majority of the judges. Let the boxes, or hats, be kept open until 6 o'clock in the afternoon for receiving the ballots. At the close let the judges count the ballots and certify to the same in duplicate, making one return to the township Executive Committee and the other to the delegates appointed to represent the township in the County Convention. Then in the County Convention, where all the townships will be duly represented, every candidate balloted for in the primary meetings shall be entitled to his proportionate share of the vote of the several townships as ascertained at said primary meetings, and the same shall be cast by the several township delegations. Provided, however, that if there should be a tie between the candidates, or if it appear that no candidate has a majority of the whole vote, or if there be a failure to vote for a candidate, delegates from the several townships shall, in convention assembled, make the nominations. The plan above, with a little change, is the one now in practice by the Democratic organization of Mecklenburg county, as we find it outlined in the Charlotte Chronicle. We think we should find in the adoption of such a plan, made known generally, an increased attendance at township meetings and a more general participation in the work of conventions in our county.

## A LICK AT DOCKERY.

The Republican Party's Former Prohibition Attitude.

From the Spirit of the Age.  
Yes, let it be remembered that in 1881, when the churches and the preachers and the good women of North Carolina were doing all in their power to carry Prohibition, the Republican State executive committee held a meeting here in the city of Raleigh and decided and resolved to oppose Prohibition, and to throw the vote of the Republican party of the State against it.  
And let it be remembered that Col. Oliver H. Dockery, as soon as the campaign of that year opened, took the field against Prohibition and did all he could to defeat the preachers, the churches and the prayers of the women; and that the defeat of prohibition that year, was mainly due to the action of the Republican party, with Col. Dockery as one of its leaders.  
And let it be remembered that in 1882, when a Congressman for the State-at-large was to be chosen, the liquor dealers' association, under the name of the Anti-Prohibition Liberal party, held a convention in the city of Raleigh, and nominated Col. O. H. Dockery, and that he accepted the nomination of the said liquor dealer's association. And don't let it be forgotten that, a week later, the Republicans met in convention here, in the same hall, and endorsed the nomination made by the liquor party—that party which had the year before made sport of preachers, calling them crazy fanatics.  
And then let it be remembered that Col. Dockery stumped the State again in 1882, telling the people as he went, that prohibition would take away the peoples' liberties, and charging that the Democratic party was the Prohibition party.  
And then let it be remembered that Colonel Oliver H. Dockery, who is now a candidate for Governor, and who is so anxious to canvass with his brother Walker, the third party candidate for Governor, because he hopes to make a cats paw of him and his party to pull the gubernatorial chestnut out of the fire, is the same Col. Dockery who hated prohibition so bad in 1881 that he would not divide time with a prohibition speaker at Concord.  
And finally, let it be remembered that, if the Democratic ticket, which has seven prohibitionists on it, is not elected, then Col. Dockery, the wheel-horse of the Liquor Dealers' Association will sit in the gubernatorial chair for the next four years with a full cabinet of Antis in the State offices sitting around him. And truly may he then exclaim: "I have conquered at last."  
Prohibitionists, if you would save your cause in North Carolina, vote for that ticket that stands the best chance to beat the old wheel-horse of Anti-Prohibition.

## THE REPUBLICAN SIDE-SHOW.

We regret to think that there are some good men who will be deluded into the support of the third party movement in this State. We honor their devotion to the cause of Prohibition but, at the same time, we are confident they will act under a serious delusion to support that party in the present campaign. By so doing they will only be putting farther in the future the glorious day for the coming of which they vote and pray. It is not the year for a Prohibition campaign. That is a question that should be disconnected from politics. To interject it now into the heart of the campaign can have no other effect than to imperil the success of the Democratic party, the continued supremacy of which in the public affairs of North Carolina is of first importance to the people. There are men in the movement who, under the idea that their favorite cause must be kept in a state of independent organization, still would tremble to think that Democratic success was in peril, if once they could realize that such is a possible contingency. They have no hope of carrying the election for their ticket, nor do they fear that the Democratic party will be beaten. They propose to support that ticket in the way of perpetuating the Prohibition organization. They will lose more than they will gain, for we believe the effect will be to disgust many hundreds of staunch Prohibitionists who would be found battling for the cause in an off-year but who, appreciating justly the importance of Democratic success this year, will lose sympathy for a cause that thus wantonly places the safety of the State at hazard. Many of them may

conclude not to follow so unwise a leadership in future trials of the issue at the ballot box. We lay no store by the efforts that are pretentiously being made to attach the negroes to the third party standard. Their solidarity as Republican voters is not to be broken, to any appreciable extent, even if the efforts are sincere. If, as we believe, these efforts are deceptive, then the white Democrats who, for the time, go back on their party, may wake up too late to atone for their folly. For us no better evidence is needed that the third party is, practically, a Republican sideshow than Col. Dockery's suddenly aroused friendship for its cause and its candidate, as exemplified by recent manifestations. Everybody knows Col. Dockery's hatred for the cardinal principle upon which the third party professes to stand.

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