

The Rutherford Star

AND WEST-CAROLINA RECORD.

"BE SURE YOU ARE RIGHT AND THEN GO AHEAD."—DAVY CROCKETT.

VOL. VII.

RUTHERFORDTON, N. C., JULY 4, 1874.

NO. 21.

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PUBLISHED WEEKLY AT \$2 PER YEAR,
CLENDENIN & CARPENTER,
RUTHERFORDTON, N. C.

STAR & RECORD.

PUBLISHED EVERY SATURDAY.

J. C. CLENDENIN, } PUBLISHERS.
J. B. CARPENTER, }

RUTHERFORDTON, N. C.

TERMS OF SUBSCRIPTION.

1 copy 1 year in advance, \$2.00
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Single copy, .05
6 copies 1 year, 10.00
10 " 1 " 16.00
20 " 1 " 30.00

Specimen copies sent free.

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From the Lincoln Progress.

Tom Collins stands his Examination in political History.

No. 1.

Teacher—Well Tommy, my boy, I want you to come up here and tell the voters of the 9th Judicial District, not "what you know about farming," but what you have learned in the political field.

Tom—Well sir, in 1861 there was great commotion in the land about secession and anti-secession; and many violent spirits were spoiling for a fight when as yet no enemy could be found. And I do not know whether it was because that "they were a little lame, that they had started so early," or whether they became short-winded and blew out before the Southern soil was actually invaded or not. But true it is that, some of them after fighting all the women and children in the land with their blood and thunder blasts, and threatening to "raise a company of boys from the foot of King's Mountain, and help to whip North Carolina out of the Union if she did not secede," suddenly subsided, and never more donned a martial air, except as assistant in the Commissary department of N. C., under Col. Wm. Johnston for a short time in the year 1861.

Teacher—Well Thomas, can you remember the name of any one so valiant at that time, as you have above stated?

Tom—Yes sir, I should pay my memory a very poor compliment to say that I could ever forget the fiery zeal displayed by David Schenck in pursuing every body to the front to meet the enemy whom he had been so lately provoking upon us.

Teacher—Well, David marched out as his namesake of old, in front of the soldiers he had persuaded into it? Did he not?

Tom—I rather think not, but some how it occurs to me that there was some difference of opinion between David and the Military Board which had two military organizations in charge, as to the propriety of risking his carcass in the field, or remaining in a nice bomb proof commissary's place in Raleigh, where there was no danger of a stray blind bullet depriving the camps of instruction of his valuable services in dealing out rations of bacon.

Teacher—Well, how did this controversy between him and the military board terminate? I suppose of course he succeeded in prevailing upon them to let him go?

Tom—I do not understand what you mean by "let him go."

For my recollection is in this wise—that Col. Wm. Johnston appointed him at the instance of his friends and submitted to the board, and they declined to confirm the appointment, upon the ground that it would be paying a very poor tribute to his recent gallant and patriotic speeches, and that the policy of the State should be not to hold back its *chivalry* from glory, but to allow all the "bloods" a chance to distinguish themselves by deeds in the field as well as by so much shooting off of their mouths at their tardy neighbors.

Teacher—What! you do not mean to state this fiery David's ardor had so soon cooled down that he was willing to allow Col. Johnston to hide him behind a side of bacon and a poke of flour.

Tom—I do not know whether he was willing or not; but history has it that Col. Johnston through the influence of himself and other personal friends succeeded in getting the appointment confirmed, and the Colonel says he did not hesitate to serve when he notified him of the board's action.

Mirabile dictu! After this Not drum did he hear, nor a bugle's note

While he bravely, defended the nation,

But his little was won 'like picking a note,

While dealing out bacon by ration.

Teacher—Well, did he fight it out on this line during the whole war?

Tom—No sir, this department was abolished after awhile.

Teacher—Well, then I know he went to the front?

Tom—You are mistaken again. I think that he made another advance on his own people as some kind of *confiscation commissioner* to collect debts due by Southern to Northern men for the Confederate States. Merchants and all kinds of business men have a lively recollection of this collection.

Teacher—Ah, well! yes, his time had not come (you know Thomas, as is said "there is a time for all things") that was all right. He did at some time propose to go, did he not?

Tom—I do not know, but have heard that General Hoke said that at one time some of these officers (I believe they were called conscript officers) got to moving about here rather *regardless*, and David the ex-commissary took it into his head that it might be well for General Hoke to prepare him a *soft place*, in case one of these officers should think it meant that he should take a turn at eating as well as dealing rations.

Teacher—Did General Hoke do anything for him?

Tom—I presume not, and that with his usual adroitness David managed not to need any assistance of this kind any more during that terrible struggle which cost so many of our best men their lives.

Teacher—Well, well, well, and you say he never was in a battle during the whole war, after all his abuse of those who took a little time to deliberate before taking so serious a step, calling more prudent men, who when they did make up their minds went in and fought it out to the bitter end, or fell in defence of the principles they had espoused, "*submissionists*."

Tom—Yes sir, "tis true, 'tis pity, and pity 'tis true."

Teacher—Well since the "late unpleasantness" do you think that he is still imbued with the belief that "the post of honor is the *priddy* station?"

Tom—It appears far otherwise. and he forgets that Gen. Hill used to say about furloughs, "*shooters before tooters*," and has been upon all occasions since the war blowing his own trumpet, much to the disgust of the true soldiers.

Teacher—Have you always voted with the Democratic Conservative party?

Tom—Dat ish de kinds o' man I ish.

Political History.

TOM COLLINS ON RECITATION—NO. 2.

Teacher—When was the Democratic Conservative party organized?

Tom—It was organized, David Schenck informs me, on the 5th day of April 1868.

Teacher—What election was held about that time, and which side did this party espouse?

Tom—The adoption or rejection of the present abominable constitution. And the party was much exercised in trying to prevent the adoption.

Teacher—Have you heard of any one, and who was it, who did not come out against the constitution until after the Republicans had made all their nominations?

Tom—Yes sir, I heard it was David Schenck.

Teacher—Did a general election take place in August of 1868?

Tom—Yes sir.

Teacher—Of whom is it reported that he inquired of a prominent Republican, if his party would support him, if he should run for solicitor?

Tom—David Schenck.

Teacher—Who was the Democratic Conservative nominee for Congress in this district in 1870?

Tom—Frank Shober.

Teacher—Who voted against Shober on a written ticket, and also against Kincaid the Conservative candidate for the Legislature?

Tom—David Schenck.

Teacher—Who in 1871 instructed Gov. Caldwell to call a convention to pass upon the above mentioned constitution, and strike out its obnoxious and oppressive

Tom—The (Conservative (Legislature).

Teacher—Who wrote to Gov. Caldwell, after he had refused to issue his proclamation calling this convention and approved of his course.

Tom—David Schenck.

Teacher—Are you sure this is the same constitution which Mr. Schenck is said to have had his speech written out to take the stump in defence of in 1868?

Tom—A very prominent Republican so informs me.

Teacher—Who declared to Col. Jno. E. Brown that he would not vote for Judge Shipp if he got the nomination, but that he might vote for J. H. Wilson if he got in fairly?

Tom—David Schenck.

Teacher—Who asked Col. Brown why he had made this statement?

Tom—David Schenck.

Teacher—Whom did Col. Brown tell that he had made it according to what David Schenck told him?

Tom—David Schenck.

Teacher—What reply did David make?

Tom—He said, "Col. Brown you misunderstood me. I meant I would not vote for him for the nomination."

Teacher—What was Col. Brown's reply?

Tom—He said, why Mr. Schenck you certainly did not mean that, for he was your *only* prominent opponent, and it would have been idle talk in us to have been speaking of your supporting him for the nomination.

Teacher—How could he have voted for him for the nomination? Was he a delegate from any township in the district?

Tom—No sir, he was not a member in any manner whatever of the convention, consequently had no more support to give Judge Shipp there than I had, who was not a member either.

Teacher—How do you define his position here?

Tom—I understand, the uncompromising Union Editor of the *Southern Home*, (and I believe he is quoted as the best of authority in matters of this kind) denominates him a "*bolter by anticipation*," and I do not think I can improve on the definition.

Teacher—What do he, and his

friendly newspapers call those who vote against him?

Tom—Since the ring master has applied the party lash so heavily to no purpose, I have heard of their being called "*bolters*."

Teacher—Do you consider that these gentlemen have gone out of the party, or are they willing to support any other man than this "*bolter by anticipation*."

Tom—No, not at all, they stand ready to fall into the support of any other man.

Teacher—Do they think that David Schenck "*fairly*" as he said about Mr. J. H. Wilson, got the nomination?

Tom—They do not, and as said about Judge Shipp they "*will not support him under any circumstances*."

Teacher—Do you think the newspapers so-called Conservative are "*tooting fair*."

Tom—I do not; they are trying to stifle public sentiment by pretending that David has but a small opposition in the district.

Teacher—Do you think the people will be deceived by them?

Tom—Not to any great extent. Our people are becoming bolder and more independent, and going to try the experiment of thinking a little themselves instead of being used altogether for personal preferment of a few self styled leaders. It is high time that the honest yeomanry of the country were asserting their inalienable rights of free thought and free action and adopting the noble sentiment of Mr. William J. Yates in the Charlotte *Democrat* some time since where he says:

A member or any party who silently submits to what he knows to be wrong is a party slave, unworthy the name of man. Bootlickers and selfish creators who are dependent on party for support, or who want to carry favor with office holders and pretended leaders, may submit to the party lash, but honest men never will."

Teacher—What do you think of this charge which some of the papers have brought against Col. John F. Hoke, of taking advantage of this squabble in the party to push his own selfish interests

Tom—There is no truth in that whatever. Col. Hoke is known to be a high-toned gent, and a true Conservative. He did not consent to run until URGED by many of the leading Conservatives, many of them delegates to the Lincolnton convention. He says, to-day he will withdraw whenever his FRIENDS think he should do so.

Teacher—When do you think his friends will advise him to withdraw?

Tom—Not so long as Schenck tries to force himself upon the people claiming to be their nominee!

Teacher—Have you read Schenck's card in the "*Charlotte Observer*" defending his claim to the nomination, and what do you think of it?

Tom—I have read it, and read it entirely too *carefully* for him, if you think the audience will bear with me a little while I will expose some of its fallacies.

Teacher—Proceed. Many of the people say this is the first time they have had an opportunity of hearing anything on this side of the question. The papers only give them the *Partial* Schenck view of it.

Tom—Taking the statements in Schenck's "*card*" for the truth, one would easily arrive at the conclusion that he "*was fairly nominated*" according to any method of calculation, carrying a majority of the representative votes, 5, to 3 for Judge Shipp a majority of the *Merriam* vote, a majority of the *townships* and a majority of the *counties*." This is pretty nearly the same language in which Schenck himself sums up his plausible conclusion in his own favor in his late "*card*" and if the facts would justify his figures, the case would be a strong one. But unfortun-

ately for the self-styled "nominee of the party," his parade of figures like his statements in general must be taken *figuratively*, or as mere hypothetical claim lacking the essential foundation of *truth*. And I will now proceed to give you a fair exposition of this card, and I hope you will note carefully the points made. Schenck asserts that his nomination was "*regular*," because made in accordance with "all of the precedents of the Conservative party." That party, he adds was first organized in April 1868. So, his search for precedent extends backward *barely six years!* How little weight can be claimed for a precedent devised from the unsettled and shifting political manoeuvres of the past six years! Why not admit the truth, that the Conservative party is merely the Whig and old Democratic party associated under the name of Conservative for important patriotic purposes; and that if we would ascertain the party precedent, we must examine the records of those parties, not the undetermined action of the temporary coalition, the so-called Conservative party. The truth is that since the war the counties have been in the habit of instructing their delegates to district conventions; therefore the probable choice of the convention being known weeks before hand, the delegates considered it not worth while to insist on the old party rule of a two-thirds vote. In cases where there is great unanimity, the two-thirds rule is of course superfluous since the object in establishing that rule was to secure a candidate who party. Will any one deny that it is a good rule? That it is the best rule to preserve party harmony? That if it had been adopted at Lincolnton we should have harmony in this Judicial District. We will say further of this subject that both Col. Hoke and Judge Shipp instructed their friends to advocate that rule *though it would lay them both on the shelf alone with Schenck*. But Schenck was not so self-sacrificing. No, nor so Conservative. He declared to more than one person that he would neither give nor, nor vote for Judge Shipp or Col. Hoke if either of them should be nominated. Now, whose conduct looks the fairest under this light—that of Mr. Schenck or of Mr. Shipp and Hoke. Schenck's newspaper organs and peripatetic horn-blowers clamor very loudly for "*harmony*," and talk of surrendering private feelings to party fealty; but when told in the Lincolnton convention that they would disrupt the party by forcing an obnoxious and unworthy candidate upon it; when appealed to, surrender private feelings and unite upon Hon. J. Harvey Wilson, Hon. H. W. Guion, Maj. Dowd, or any other competent man (the Shipp and Hoke men freely offered to support any worthy candidate) they refused to yield an inch, and were for "*Schenck or disruption of the party*." But let us proceed with Schenck's "*card*." He claims a majority of the numerical strength of the district and figures up 1076 votes over Judge Shipp. To get this majority he claims every Conservative vote in Polk! every Conservative in Cleveland! every Conservative vote in Lincoln! every Conservative vote in Gaston! every Conservative vote in Cabarrus!

Will the people of these counties endorse a man guilty of asserting such a claim as this? That he does assert it may be seen in his "*Card*." When he claims the full conservative strength of the five counties, and summing up claims a majority of 1076 over Judge Shipp. Let us puncture this pretty bladder of arrogance he has blown up. He claims all of Polk county—224 conservative votes. Now, Hoke's popularity in Polk has been admitted for years, and it was confidently be-

[CONTINUED ON FOURTH PAGE.]