

The Southport Leader.

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STEVENS & FARRELL

Editors and Proprietors.

SOUTHPORT, Brunswick Co., N. C.

SOUTHPORT, N. C., APRIL 9, 1891.

LAST WEEK'S NOMINATIONS.

The ticket selected by the Democratic Convention last week, of gentlemen who will be voted for as Mayor and Aldermen, to serve in such capacities, next year, is a good one, and must commend itself to all good citizens, irrespective of party. The important work of securing a ticket which will command the respect of the best people of Southport has been accomplished, and voters need have no hesitation in electing such men to represent them, and the best interests of this city. The nomination of Mayor Watson by acclamation was not only complimentary, but indicative of the estimation in which his past services were regarded. The LEADER must say for Mayor Watson that his official acts have always been just and according to a fair interpretation of the city ordinances, and while more might have been done in way of city improvements the financial policy and action in city affairs last year of Mayor and Aldermen is to be praised, perhaps, for its conservatism in desiring to preserve a sound city credit, instead of a showy administration.

The gentlemen, nominated for Aldermen, on the same ticket with Mayor Watson, do not need individual mention as they are well known to all here. The report that these gentlemen were nominated, and would be elected on the idea of a largely increased tax-rate for the city, would seem too silly a story to need contradicting. In the first place, the city tax-rate is now within five cents on the hundred dollars of the maximum, so that the rate can only be increased to that amount above what it now is. And secondly, these gentlemen are too largely interested in Southport's prosperity and advancement to act in any manner detrimental to its best interests and welfare. As it is positively announced that no other ticket will be nominated, the LEADER is glad to know and see that so good a selection has been made of gentlemen who will serve Southport's best interests next year, and while it may appear unnecessary to vote for a ticket which has no opposition, a large vote for the ticket will assure the new Mayor and Aldermen of the hearty sympathy and support of the citizens, whom they are elected to represent and serve.

With the improvements already begun, and those contemplated, not to mention the numerous possibilities which are liable to arise any day, it is imperative that Southport's interests should be managed by business men. Such men have been nominated, and it only needs the further approval of the citizens, of the voters of Southport to confirm at the polls what the convention has already done, and elect its nominees, one and all.

COL. W. L. SAUNDERS.

The announcement of the death of Col. Saunders brings genuine sorrow to thousands of North Carolinians.

But few men in the State have ever been so thoroughly esteemed. His friends are found in every section—personal friends, whose attachment to him has been heightened through sympathy in his sufferings, and political friends who have long regarded him as deservedly ranking among the truest sons of North Carolina.

He has had the confidence of the people and has enjoyed the admiration, esteem and respect of all who have been brought into relations with him. Indeed the opinion is widely entertained that he was one of the most remarkable men of his day. He was a strong man in thought; a strong man in action, and he wielded an influence among the thinking men of the State that was second to none.

As a devoted North Carolinian none surpassed him. He patriotically served his State in time of war, and when peace came he sought to advance her best interests. In council he was wise, and in conduct he was resolute. He rendered most valuable service as an adviser, and his trenchant pen was employed in behalf of the people. He devoted his energies, his great talents, his very life to North Carolina.

The first we knew of Col. Saunders was because of an article that appeared in the Wilmington Journal in the campaign of 1870. It was the strongest and finest newspaper article we had ever read. He was the author.

It was our fortune to become acquainted with him at the succeeding session of the Assembly, when he was clerk to the Senate, and after that we came to know him well. He was associated with his brother-in-law, Major James A. Engelhard, as editor of the Wilmington Journal, and at once was recognized as the strongest writer in the State. In his journalistic career, he never made a mistake. He never charged a fact wrongfully, but he was boldness itself in statement and like a whirlwind in denunciation.

Later he came to Raleigh with Mr. Hale and founded the Observer, but on the death of Major Engelhard, then Secretary of State, he was appointed to that office. Soon after entering upon its duties, he became interested in the Colonial Records, and that was the occasion of a closer association between him and ourselves than otherwise might have existed.

For ten years we had this common interest outside of personal friendship and political association, and the intimacy grew with the years.

As we have said, Col. Saunders was a remarkable man. He was a man of great capacity; of strong conviction and correct sentiments. His opinions of their own force exerted an influence beyond those of any other man in the State. He wrote with great vigor and force, yet elegantly. In this we think he excelled every other writer in the State. There was a precision and clearness of statement that was altogether admirable.

He was taken about 1870 with rheumatism that turned into rheumatic gout. This he attributed in some measure to the effect of exposure during the war. He was a great sufferer from it and at least for fifteen years he was almost constantly in pain, often suffering excruciating agony and frequently in peril of his life.

Yet he bore up so cheerfully, so patiently, with such resolution and fortitude, that his intimates were troubled when twelve months since they first discovered signs of impatience. They thought it a symptom of a weakening in his power of self control.

Shortly before he had finished his great work, the compilation of the Colonial Records, a friend remarked to him that by no means ought he to finish that work—for as soon as it was off his mind his desire to live would weaken and his struggle for life would be less resolute. The work was then about completed, and when the House in acknowledgment passed a resolution of thanks to him, by a rising vote, we told him of their action, and he was gratified beyond our expectation. The honor done him by the Assembly was most highly appreciated by him. It is indeed a great work and employed him for some ten years, entailing vast research and trouble that but few can estimate. But it is a monument to his fame. He gloried in it too, for he was enabled to bring out prominently matters that redounded to the glory of our people, illustrating their capacity for self-government, their devotion to Re-

publican principles and their resolute purpose to maintain their liberties.

In principle he was an ardent Democrat. We do not mean merely that he was attached to the Democratic party, but that he treasured the underlying principles of Democracy, the freedom of the people, their right to self government, the practice of local government and the Rights of Man.

In every aspect he was a true man, honoring manhood, robust virtue, scorning what is base and temporizing and ignoble.

He was kindly in disposition, and given to charity, liberal and generous, not living to himself.

Next to the Colonial Records the University of North Carolina was of greatest interest to him. He was the Secretary of the Board of Trustees and every plan, every movement for the benefit of that institution enlisted his warmest co-operation. His heart was in the work.

Indeed, a great and most useful public man has gone out from among us, and his departure leaves a void that no other man can fill.

The father of William Lawrence Saunders was a minister of the Episcopal Church, and resided in Raleigh, where Col. Saunders was born June 30, 1835. He graduated at the University in June, 1854, studied law under Judge Battle, and obtained license. In 1857 he settled in Salisbury, and in April, 1861, he volunteered as a member of the Rowan Rifle Guards and went with that company to Fort Johnston, at Southport. In June, 1861, he was appointed a lieutenant in Reilly's Battery, and went with it to Virginia.

In January, 1862, he became a captain in 46th N. C. Troops, E. D. Hall being the Colonel, and served with Cook's Brigade, Hoke's Division, A. P. Hill's corps. He was twice wounded, once at Fredericksburg in the right cheek and again at the Wilderness the ball entering the mouth and passing out at the back of his neck.

In 1862 he received his commission as Major; in 1863 as Lieutenant-Colonel; and on the first of January, 1864, as Colonel of his regiment.

He served till the end of the war, and surrendered at Appomattox. In February, 1864, he married Miss Florida Cotton, a daughter of the late John W. Cotton, of North Carolina, who, however, died in July, 1865. In 1870 he served as secretary of the Senate, and again in 1872.

Then for four years he was with Major Engelhard, who was his brother-in-law, on the Wilmington Journal; and in November, 1876, he with Mr. Peter M. Hale, founded the Observer. Major Engelhard was then Secretary of State, and upon his death, Colonel Saunders was, February, 17, 1879, appointed his successor by Gov. Jarvis. He has since been three times elected to that office.—Raleigh News and Observer.

SENSATIONAL JOURNALISM.

The radical and fatal defect in sensationalism is that it cannot be maintained at a steadily increasing intensity. The appetite to which it ministers requires more highly flavored food every day to satisfy it. The elopements, divorce cases, murders and all other and less namable scandals and crimes which constitute the daily bill of fare must be each day a little worse than on the preceding day. Sooner or later the point is reached at which further descent toward the very bottom of the gutters and cesspools of sin and crime is barred by the law forbidding the publication of obscene literature. If it were not for that law there is no telling what enormous fortunes might be made and what cloud-capped domes erected by the disciples of that kind of journalism which holds that the chief end of a newspaper is to publish that which will sell the best, without regard to moral or social obligations of any kind. But so long as the law stands it will make the permanent success of all newspapers founded upon sensationalism alone impossible.

Indeed, there is no kind of newspaper property more precarious than that of a simply sensational journal. Nobody reads it daily because he is attached to it, or because he finds it a necessity in any way, either in his business or otherwise. He is ready to drop it any day for another of similar type which affords him more of the same kind of amusement. Such a paper cannot be said to have a constituency in the sense that other papers have—that is, a compact body of readers who

adhere to it year in and year out, follow its views and associate themselves with the public causes which it advocates. A great party paper has a sure and safe basis of permanency in a constituency of this kind; so has an independent paper which devotes itself to a serious discussion of public measures and men; so also has a paper which does not concern itself much with public questions, but devotes large and intelligent interest to questions and news of commercial importance. Journals in each of these classes are a necessity to many people, who take them year after year, without much regard to the ups and downs of politics or changes in the newspaper world. But when the readers of a sensational newspaper get tired of its abilities to entertain their appetites and drop it, there is nobody else to stand by it and it must go down.—New York Evening Post.

PRESS COMMENTS.

"The Wilmington Star," instead of feeling satisfied with its past record and work, enters with vigor and life into the work of giving its city, and North Carolina a first class daily paper. Its local news department especially shows a decided improvement.

Bulletin No. 74, of the N. C. Agricultural Experiment Station publishes tests made in the Horticultural Division, of garden vegetables, fruits and fig culture. The Station will soon issue a complete work on the "Diseases of the horse," a work of great value to all horsemen or owners of mules. Sub-Alliances and Granges will receive copies free upon application from their Secretaries. Address Dr. H. B. Battie, Director, Raleigh, N. C.

Notice to County Alliances

R. B. Hunter, District Lecturer for Sixth Congressional District, will address the County Alliances as follows: Mecklenburg Co., Thursday, April 2; Union " " Friday, " 3; Anson " " Monday, " 6; Richmond " " Tuesday, " 7; Robeson " " Wednesday " 8; Columbus " " Friday, " 10; Brunswick " " Monday, " 13; New Hanover " " Wednesday " 15; Cabarrus " " Friday, " 17; Stanley " " Monday, " 20. County Alliances will change their time of meetings to the above appointments. R. B. HUNTER, District Lecturer.

The Pulpit and the Stage.

Rev. F. M. Shourt, Pastor United Brethren Church, Blue Mound, Kan., says: "I feel it my duty to tell what wonders Dr. King's New Discovery has done for me. My Lungs were badly diseased, and my parishioners thought I could live only a few weeks. I took five bottles of Dr. King's New Discovery and am sound and well, gaining 26 pounds in weight." Arthur Love, Manager Love's Funny Folks Combination, writes: "After a thorough trial and convincing, I am confident Dr. King's New Discovery for Consumption, beats 'em all, and cures when everything else fails. The greatest kindness I can do my many thousand friends is to urge them to try it." Free trial bottles at Watsons, Drug Store. Regular sizes 70c. and \$1.00.

Communications addressed to the LEADER for publication must be written on one side of the paper only. Letters from subscribers are always acknowledged whether published or not and are given the preference in the LEADER'S columns.

Happy Hoosiers.

Wm. Timmons, Postmaster of Idaville, Ind., writes: "Electric Bitters has done more for me than all other medicines combined, for that bad feeling arising from Kidney and Liver trouble." John Leslie farmer and stockman of same place, says: "Find Electric Bitters to be the best Kidney and Liver medicine, made me feel like a new man." J. W. Gardner, hardware merchant, same town, says: "Electric Bitters is just the thing for a man who is all run down and don't care whether he lives or dies; he found new strength, good appetite and felt just like he had a new lease of life. Only 50c. a bottle, at D. I. Watson's Drug Store."

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