

pointed by the Governor, when they went there to demand possession.

How different did the old Republican Board act. Though lawfully then, and in possession, when relieved by these Democratic usurpers of authority then, like law-abiding citizens, gave possession when they had every reason to believe they were wrongfully cast out. This little instance shows the spirit of the two parties. One obeys the law, and submits even without judicial decision. The other defies the law, and refuses obedience even when the Supreme Court says they are wrong.

PENITENTIARY CRUELTY.
It was shown by the report of a committee to inquire into the management of the Penitentiary, that gross irregularities had been committed by Mr. Bledsoe's Board. Although shown by sworn testimony that the Directors had shamefully neglected their duty. Had allowed thousands of dollars of the people's money to be expended or wasted by allowing the contractors to build insecure foundations for the Penitentiary building.

Although the sworn testimony of Dr. Hill, the Democratic physician at the Penitentiary, showed that over sixty convicts have suffered during the past year with that dreadful disease called scurvy, when a few barrels of potatoes or onions, which have cost but a few cents, would have cured the year within a half mile of the Penitentiary, would have prevented the disease.

It was also shown by the sworn testimony, and Democratic testimony at that, that the convicts had actually eaten cats, rats, and a dog that had died of disease to sustain their lives.

Although I say, my friends, all this is neglect and criminal action had been shown by a committee appointed to investigate it, composed of a majority of Democrats, yet this Democratic Legislature refused to have this damaging report printed, and continued this same Board in charge to perpetrate further outrages on helpless inmates who, though ever so much steeped in crime, are entitled to humane treatment and wholesome food. The heart of every good man sickens at the thought of a long time to come, these poor convicts must be subjected to the treatment of Bledsoe and his Board, because perchance Mr. Bledsoe is a member of the Executive Committee of the Democratic party, and there was not enough patriots in the Legislature to do a simple act of justice and humanity at the expense of party.

PARTISAN BIAS.
It is much to be regretted that the late Democratic Legislature could not soar above mere partisan considerations in anything. The subject of Constitutional reform is one that they should have discussed as statesmen, not as partisans. It is one in which the whole people are interested. There was not a single member, either Republican or Democrat, in either branch of the Legislature that did not favor some amendments to the Constitution. The Republicans favored a few amendments and the Democrats a few. Under the circumstances some compromise ought to have been agreed upon by which all parties could have united in the support of such amendments, as all admitted some to be of vital importance.

But what was done? The Democrats, true to their instincts—"rule or ruin"—hurried up their bill, which they knew was obnoxious to all Republicans, and that it took the party lash to drive many of their own side to support, and passed it in the Senate before the holidays. The Republicans, though opposed in principle to the bill, showed a disposition to support it with some modifications, and Mr. Lehman introduced a bill that was a fair compromise of all difficulties. But few Democrats favored it, for it was a party advantage they sought, and not the amendments the people desired.

CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS.
Their pet scheme of a Convention having failed, whereby they were to fill the State with amendments of the fate of any other mode, and went deliberately to work as partisans to make the bill odious, thereby forcing Republicans to vote for or reject the whole thing. They refused to allow the people to vote separately on the different amendments proposed, but to vote the whole thing together, forcing you to take both the bitter and the sweet, or none at all. Had they supported the compromise bill of Mr. Lehman, this whole matter of Constitutional reform would have been taken out of party politics, and the Constitution would have been speedily amended in important particulars by common consent.

Their little game will not avail them. The people will understand their partisan motives, and rebuke them in August next, by trifling with their best interests, by thrusting their partisan malignity and personal ends into a matter far above the conception of such political tricksters.

The Republican party is not opposed to such amendments as the people want, and intends, if successful, as it doubtless will be in August, to do so, as soon as the Legislature convenes, ratify or re-act such of the proposed amendments as the people desire. The Democratic party attempted to drive us into a false position before the people on this question, but we will be understood and endorsed by the people in August next. It is their old game of political trickery, and has been so often practiced on the people that they fully understand it, and any word for it, they will rebuke them at the ballot-box in August.

I might detain you, my friends, a great while in exhibiting to you the deformities, and rehearsing to you the wrongs and outrages perpetrated upon the people for the past dozen years. That record for the past dozen years is doubly sufficient to seal its doom before the American people. Not content with attempting to destroy the government, not content with attempting to destroy this Union; not content with sacrilegiously robbing the Treasury and nearly all the treasure of the South; not content with entangling in this people a burdensome debt, created by that Democratic party in an attempt to destroy the government; not content with the many and varied attempts to deceive the people, they set on foot a new party, and never or scarcely ever attempt by answering argument to gain your votes, but like the cuttle fish, who nudges the water to hide himself, they attempt by ridicule and appeals to your passions and prejudices and to arouse them against the Republican or "negro party," and by this means to gain your votes. They do not appeal to your reason and show why Democracy should be supported, but by every species of calumny and all sorts of vituperation, they hope to crush this great Republi-

can party; and from the humblest in its ranks, the poor colored men to General Grant himself, all sorts of epithets are applied.

NATIONAL POLITICS—GEN. GRANT.
I have told you of only a few of the shortcomings of the Democratic party in the State, and will now take a brief review of National politics and the petty means adopted to defeat and destroy the great Republican party and its great chief, Gen. Grant.

The war of insinuation and vile calumny against the present administration of Gen. Grant, even alleging personal corruption of the President himself, in the end re-act upon those who wage it simply because it is entirely destitute of any basis of fact. It has become a common thing for Cross-Road Democratic Editors and politicians and self-styled reformers to declare that this is the worst period that the civil service ever saw, that it has steadily gone on from bad to worse for the past three years and that embezzlements and defalcations are more frequent than ever before. They never stop to enquire into the facts, but hurl their charges without regard to the real truth, simply because public sentiment and public virtue crushed them in New York so effectually for stealing, that they hope to arouse the same to destroy us.

But not so. The good sense of the people is almost always right and will distinguish between the innocent and the guilty, though he cry stop thief at every jump.

NATIONAL REFORM.
The truth is, that for the past three years, the administration of Gen. Grant has been practically, positively and persistently pushed in every department of the general government.

Every department of the government has been practically, positively and persistently pushed in every department of the general government.

Every department of the government from the day of the inauguration of Gen. Grant to the present, has been earnestly at work to reform the abuses; in rooting out corrupt and incompetent officials; and in infusing a greater degree of honesty and economy in the modes of transacting the public business. If it has not been able to correct all the abuses that exist, it is simply because the system of public affairs, bequeathed to this administration, by its predecessors, has covered so much that needs reform, that it has been morally and physically impossible to grapple with every existing evil in less than three years.

I propose to contrast the degree of official integrity shown by the affairs of this administration with those of past administrations, especially that of Mr. Andrew Johnson and if needs be, to make that contrast with facts and figures which can neither be successfully obscured or contradicted by the ebullience of personal hatred or calumny.

An administration is judged not so much by its success in carrying out measures of public policy, but by the degree of official integrity in its subordinates, and it is abundantly capable of proof, to any one who will enquire dispassionately; that in this regard the standard has been greatly improved within the last three years. The public mind is shocked more than formerly by the reports of defalcations and embezzlements, and this fact has spread the belief that the whole service is rotten. But a review of this subject for several years past effectually disposes of such a belief. The facts show that defalcations and embezzlements are less frequent than they have been because of the better enforcement of checks and safeguards.

The exposures of frauds of the present day are not only not the result of a decline of official integrity, but they are the direct result of the fact that the government is holding its subordinates to a more rigid accountability than ever before.

I assert, and the assertion cannot be successfully controverted that the defalcations which have occurred within the past three years, are in the main the result of a greater vigilance in guarding the public interests, and a greater vigor in prosecuting public offenders.

The records of the Treasury department and of the department of Justice prove this beyond question. The number of suits begun the number of indictments rendered, the number of convictions obtained which are all matters of record conclusively establish this fact.

There has been a rule in every department whenever a fraud or embezzlement occurred, to prove it to the bottom and this too, as a matter of conscientious duty, without ostentation and therefore without the knowledge of the press or the public.

It is a fact which no Executive officer claims, and none should expect credit, that when any irregularity is discovered, instead of turning away from it, there is a resolute and unsparring investigation of it. In a word, it is a rule of action with this administration to expose fraud. It was the rule of action with the last to conceal it. And if there be any place where evils exist, that have not been dealt with, (and that there are many no body will deny) it is only because, as I have already said, it has not been within the bonds of possibility for the Government, fettered as it has been by the customs and practices pertaining to the civil service through nearly a century, to achieve its purification within so brief a period.

The purpose to show to all unbiased minds, that will pay attention, that the facts, not mere statements, show that the civil service has been growing better, that crime and corruption in public officials of the nation have been lessened, and not increased. That officers have been more severely and swiftly punished, that the standard of official integrity has been raised, and that the administration is entitled to receive credit, for earnest effort, and successful achievements in this direction, instead of being maliciously assailed.

Let me now produce some facts in support of these declarations. I have in my hand the record of every defalcation and embezzlement known to any department of this government, which has been caused through a lack of official integrity on the part of its subordinates, and which have been disclosed since the 4th of March, 1869, the day on which Gen. Grant was inaugurated.

Internal Revenue	\$368,185 80
Customs (including defalcation of deputies)	34,000 00
Treasurer's Office	55,087 00
Pension Bureau	15,977 95
Land Office	
Money Order (Post office Department)	133,942 20
Nursing Account (Post office Department)	36,000 00
Pay-master General's Office (War Department)	468,200 48
Freightmen's Bureau (War Department)	5,500 00
Total	\$1,097,983 64

This includes every case in which the law officers of the Government have declared that the evidence is such as to warrant a prosecution for the crime of embezzlement or defalcation, and includes all the well-known cases which have attracted public attention during the past three years.

AN INTERESTING COMPARISON.
Now, as compared with this, the Government lost, in two single defalcations, in New Orleans, under Johnson's administration, an amount nearly equal to the above, to-wit:
The Sub-treasury, Treasury, and National Depository defalcation of Whitaker and May, in 1867, less amount supposed to be squandered, (gross amount, \$1,150,000.) \$850,000 00
Steelman Internal Revenue defalcation, discovered on his removal, April 12, 1869, 212,336 98
Total \$1,062,336 98

This comparison might be extended almost indefinitely, but it simply shows that the Government has lost less—taking into consideration all its Departments in nearly three years, than it lost in two single instances under Andrew Johnson.

THE TREASURY DEPARTMENT—INTERNAL REVENUE.

Let us now go into the Treasury Department, where, if common rumor and the statements of some of its assailants are to be believed, at least one dollar in every four is being squandered or stolen. We will take the workings of the Internal Revenue Bureau in that respect which relates most closely to the point under consideration—the accountability to which its officials are held. On the 1st of March, 1869, of the entire number of Collectors of Internal Revenue, who had, at any time, been in office during the existence of the Bureau, there were but sixty whose accounts were finally closed. This single fact fully illustrates the condition of affairs at that time. It is a striking proof that the critics want to know why no progress could be made in this direction between the years 1865 and 1869, let them summon Ex-Commissioner Edward A. Rohlin, who will tell a tale unfeigned. Since the 1st of March, 1869, the accounts of four hundred and thirty-seven Collectors have been closed, and out of 250 Collectors who have been superseded in office since March 4, 1869, the accounts of 145 have been adjusted and closed on the books of the office, and those of sixty-five more are in a favorable condition for that result. In other words, Collectors, suspended since March 4, 1869, the Bureau has ordered suit to be brought on their official bonds for the recovery of balances found to be due. These suits include not only the cases where embezzlement or defalcation is charged, in which criminal prosecution has begun, but the cases where from neglect, want of due diligence, official incapacity, or other cause, a settlement has not yet been obtained. In most of these cases the crime of defalcation cannot be charged, though so long as the accounts show an unsatisfied balance against them, they are technically held to be such. The following comparison shows to whom belongs the moral responsibility of appointing these delinquents, and the amount of both money and taxes for which suit has been brought on their bonds. It can be borne in mind that the investigation of their affairs, and their removal from office, has in every case been accomplished by Grant's Administration:

No. of Collectors.	Amount of Uncollected Money.	Amount of Unpaid Taxes.
Appointed by Lincoln	\$63,810 91	\$263,223 90
Appointed by Johnson	797,963 55	2,908,361 02
Appointed by Gen. Grant	10,175,955 65	342,613 40

The lesson enforced by these forty cases in litigation, thus condensed and classified, is, that the Democratic party to carry the next Presidential election, is, that the Republican party will split at the Philadelphia Convention, and that a bolt will be made, headed by the three distinguished Senators, Messrs. Sumner, Schurz and Trumbull, now acting with our party, and who are daily endeavoring to show some mal-administration of President Grant, and to render him unpopular with the American people. They are all masters of speech, and for replete and varied in the past are passing away. Let all who love law and order, and are in favor of an honest enforcement, come under the great Republican banner and march with us to victory in August and November next.

REPUBLICAN BOLDERS.
But they say all this won't save us; there will be a split in the party and the Democratic will win. The great hope and only hope of the Democratic party to carry the next Presidential election, is, that the Republican party will split at the Philadelphia Convention, and that a bolt will be made, headed by the three distinguished Senators, Messrs. Sumner, Schurz and Trumbull, now acting with our party, and who are daily endeavoring to show some mal-administration of President Grant, and to render him unpopular with the American people. They are all masters of speech, and for replete and varied in the past are passing away. Let all who love law and order, and are in favor of an honest enforcement, come under the great Republican banner and march with us to victory in August and November next.

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TREASURY DEPARTMENT—UNITED STATES TREASURER'S OFFICE.
Next we will take the office of the United States Treasurer—not in the nature of a comparison with other years, for it has been under one head for eleven years past—but in the nature of a contrast of its most important and sensitive amount of business, the percentage of losses from the crimes of embezzlement or defalcation on the part of the Treasurer's employees. I do this because Gen. Spinner is a tried and faithful officer, a steady Republican, and because his record shows results in this respect believed to be without a parallel in the history of financial transactions. The following table shows the aggregate yearly cash transactions of his office for a period of eleven years, six months and nine days—from the 30th of June, 1857, to the 9th day of January, 1872. This is simply the amount of cash and drafts—or, in other words, actual money—exposed to the cupidity and dishonesty of several hundred employees—and in no wise includes the large amount of bonds and securities deposited in the Treasury as trust funds. These amounts are the "clearings" of the Treasury office for the periods designated:

1861	\$231,458,546 07	1867	\$5,930,467 94
1862	2,294,674,642 09	1868	5,522,361,169 50
1863	4,945,434,259 56	1869	3,034,012,044 15
1864	7,322,885,024 15	1870	4,130,544,091 65
1865	9,117,855,012 58	1871	4,443,636,809 82
1866	6,403,203,990 72	1872*	1,748,808,820 09

Aggregate, \$55,104,232,282 84
Total net loss by defalcation and embezzlement in Treasurer's Office to Jan. 9, 1872, \$85,037 45
*Six months and nine days.
*The three Clerks who embezzled this amount, Edwin, Marden and Johnson, were appointed under former administrations, and continued thereafter.

Here are transactions involving an amount of money almost beyond human comprehension, fifty-five thousand millions, covering over eleven years of time, and passing through the hands of three or four thousand different people during that period, with losses sustained through a lack of official integrity on the part of the Treasurer's appointees of less than one dollar on a million—a percentage so small as to almost defy calculation, and infinitely

less than the loss from the abrasion of gold, the said gold and out of the Treasury during the same time. It is firmly believed that no parallel for such success can be found in history.

POST-OFFICE DEPARTMENT RECAPITULATION.
Thus, in three years, the defalcations exposed and prosecuted by the Post-office Department reach the sum of \$192,638 66, of which at least sixty per cent has been or will be recovered. The aggregate of less than \$40,000 of this is legitimately chargeable to the want of official integrity on the part of the appointees of the present administration. The receipts and expenditures of the Department for three fiscal years last past are as follows:

Aggregate receipts for three years	\$58,153,776 79
Aggregate expenditures for three years	72,057,073 21
Money Order Office transactions for three years	99,811,783 96
Total	\$230,052,638 96

Now, concede that every cent involved in the suits against postmasters and in the defalcations of money-order accounts is in jeopardy, and the account is \$24,377 21 or about one-tenth of one per cent, on the dollar! And this money tempts the cupidity and want of official integrity of over 30,000 persons. Is there a better record in any civil service in the world?

A CONTRAST OF LOSSES AND TEMPTATIONS.
Let us now contrast the business of the Government, for three fiscal years, with the losses sustained through the want of official integrity on the part of its subordinates in the internal revenue receipts and the expenditures for that time are as follows:

Aggregate receipts for three years	\$1,165,523,169 73
Aggregate expenditures for three years	924,697,026 80
Aggregate	\$2,090,220,196 53

Now the actual net amount retained by the Government, after the honesty of government officials during same time, including war and navy defalcations, is \$1,262,963 64 which is barely equal to one-sixteenth of one per cent, on the dollar. And if we add to this amount of loss by defalcation every cent in jeopardy, for which the Government has brought suit—most of which will be recovered—the total would be \$2,301,621 82 or about one-ninth of one per cent, on the dollar. Is there any private business in the world that can compare with this?

Now, my friends, if these comparisons were pushed into all the other branches of the service, namely: the War and Navy to a just and equitable ratio of official integrity in this administration will hold good and even increase in some respects; especially those concerning the prosecution of public officials, and be more striking to every candid and honest mind. I can take every prominent case that has come to the notice of the government for the past three years, and show that four-fifths of them were the appointees of Andrew Johnson, the great Democratic Apostle.

THE CIVIL SERVICE.
I deem it sufficient, however, to have shown by actual statistics, not from mere assertion, that the standard of the civil service has fallen very low. When men denounce the civil service as the worst the world ever saw, it only shows that they have read *The Sentinel*—don't know what they are talking about; that they are chattering, slander, and misrepresentations, without investigation or any regard for truth.

That it still needs improvement, I am willing to admit. But who is so anxious for its improvement as President Grant. He is doing all he can to make it as perfect as possible, and he will remember that here in the Southern States it is sometimes hard to find in localities competent persons to fill positions, because of the general feeling against the government and its employees. But I hope the passions and prejudices of the past are passing away. Let all who love law and order, and are in favor of an honest enforcement, come under the great Republican banner and march with us to victory in August and November next.

But they say all this won't save us; there will be a split in the party and the Democratic will win. The great hope and only hope of the Democratic party to carry the next Presidential election, is, that the Republican party will split at the Philadelphia Convention, and that a bolt will be made, headed by the three distinguished Senators, Messrs. Sumner, Schurz and Trumbull, now acting with our party, and who are daily endeavoring to show some mal-administration of President Grant, and to render him unpopular with the American people. They are all masters of speech, and for replete and varied in the past are passing away. Let all who love law and order, and are in favor of an honest enforcement, come under the great Republican banner and march with us to victory in August and November next.

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President's cabinet; and here, fellow-citizens, is where the shoe pinches. Here is found the mainspring of their disaffection towards his administration. These distinguished gentlemen would do well to remember the fate of one in years gone by—I refer to Aaron Burr, whose name is the most infamous in American politics. He at one time stood fair and prominent. His services in the Revolution, his skill in politics, his extraordinary genius and acquirements, his confessed superiority as a statesman and a jurist, did not save him from a fate as terrible, that is mournful even in its just severity—Aaron Burr was certainly the intellectual peer of any of this great trio, and at one time stood as high in the estimation of the American people.

He criticized Gen. Washington during his administration as these gentlemen criticize Gen. Grant—as a dull, stupid soldier and the centre of a military ring as grasping and dishonest as any that have surrounded this administration.

The unpardonable offence of Burr was that he entered into intrigue with the French Government to menace the National dignity. Is there not reason to believe that these gentlemen have committed the same great error.

In their moments of frenzied passion against Gen. Grant, they admit that the French Government was an attaché of the French Legation. Why did they seek his counsel? It was to prove that our Government had violated its neutral obligations by selling arms to France and to embroil us in a quarrel with England, with Great Power, and to prejudice our own case with the tribunal at Geneva by showing that we sinned as gravely against Germany as England sinned against this Government in the late insurrection.

Mr. Schurz, in his celebrated speech in the United States Senate, admitted counseling with this French dignitary. It is in violation of every principle of honor as a United States Senator, and it is a violation of an express duty passed as far back as the 5th Congress, during the presidency of the elder Adams, and made punishable by both fine and imprisonment.

I should regret to know that they had done this, but they are so greedy to know that they had allowed their hatred to the President to carry them so far, but the fact that a suspicion has been aroused against them shows to what desperate straits impatient and angry demagogues may be driven by disappointed ambition.

It is plain to the minds of all men that this last intrigue against the President is no less unworthy proceeding. Is there no real ground of opposition to General Grant that Senators must dishonor themselves as members of a party that risk the risk of indictment for violation of law in order to arraign him and his administration? Have these gentlemen lost all sense of that delicate and chivalrous loyalty to the Republic and its chief, that should lead us, no matter how frail and weak the administration may have been (when dealing with a foreign power) to imitate the patriarchal example and work backward to hide the shame?

What interest have they to show that our Government had violated its neutral policy with Germany by selling arms to France? Is it that they love France more than America. No, my friends, the answer comes in the bosom of all before me. It was because they desired to complicate the diplomatic relations of this country with Germany and render the administration of Gen. Grant odious to the nation, and to prevent his re-nomination, because while he rules they know and feel that they cannot reign. That's the answer to the whole of this matter.

I am the last man to curb in any one independence of thought, and all honor, as to those mainly by Senators who so calmly tread the path of duty and expose fraud and corruption whatever winds of destruction sweep over it.

But it is not independence or honesty to make a cowardly attack upon the President as the head of a military ring because he gave offense by trying to appreciate the valuable party services of Messrs. Sumner and Trumbull and this irritable and exacting young refugee from Germany, Carl Schurz.

DEMOCRATIC COMFORT.
In all this and such as this the Democratic party take hope. If it gives them comfort, my Republican friends, let them have it. Our party is greater than that of any other party, and we are office-seekers, and will stand the attacks or desertions from its ranks of ten times the number of bolters, aided and joined by all the Democrats in the country. These bolters will soon have to show their heads, and driven as they will be over to the Democratic party, they will cease to harm us, for then the modest garb of the sheep will be taken away and the wolfish garb of Democracy will entice but few followers from the great Republican party of the nation, destined, under God's providence, to rule and govern this American Union for years to come.

I think it is a cause of great congratulation to us to know, that our political antagonists find no hope in their own strength, but trust only in our own divisions for their success. Scarcely a leading organ of the Democratic party but is daily cheering on its followers with this chance of success; that Trumbull, Schurz and Sumner are going to bolt the National Republican Convention in June at Philadelphia, and that the Democracy of the whole country will support the bolting Republicans; and gain a victory by electing a bolting Republican over the regular nominee of our party.

What a spectacle to see this party pretending to be actuated by principle, yet willing to take Sumner the great abolitionist, and Trumbull the great free soldier, or Carl Schurz the German refugee for a leader, when they know that all of them hold principle entirely at variance with every principle of Democracy.

his party departed. New dogmas have taken the place of time honored principles, the love and thirst for office overrides all other considerations, and the only question with that party today is, not whether this or that principle in political economy is right, but how shall we manage to get the control of the Government, its patronage and the leaves and fishes.

Why my friends since the rise of the Republican party there have been several periods when croakers within its own ranks have foretold perdition, and when its enemies grew confident that its overthrow was approaching. In 1862, when disaster seemed to culminate against the national armies; in 1864, when peace at any price was the cry; in 1868, when the treachery of an accidental President threw the national administration against it; in 1870, when chronic office seekers raised their loud-est howl, and uttered their strongest malcontents, we were assured of its certain defeat and destruction, and we were defeated here in North Carolina by the scourging and whipping of many of our friends and the hanging of some.

But, fellow-citizens, the second, sober thought of the American people may be relied on, when reflection takes the place of impulse.

At each of these periods the unerring sagacity of the Republican leaders, Philip P. Thomas, M. C. of North Carolina, and Republican masses, brought ultimate victory to our standard and signal defeat to our enemies.

Again, we have reached a period when doubtful friends, and hopeful enemies are eagerly scanning the future.

Ambitious men, who do not think themselves fully appreciated; disappointed men, who are willing to serve their country for a consideration; but whose moral and intellectual qualities men who deem change a necessity, and who eagerly fasten on to new opinions, and new leaders, are uneasy and feverish.

They deal in oracular sayings, and give prophecies; hint at wonderful combinations against the party, and say it must be beaten next time.

But, my friends, the great mass of the Republican party take but little interest in small intrigues, and desperate ventures, and remain sternly true to their duty. They are convinced that this great organization represents the loyalty, the intelligence, and the sound morality of the people. They clearly understand that its continued supremacy is a necessity, and that patriotism and duty, alike forbid any yielding of the vantage ground it has obtained.

NATIONAL ADMINISTRATION.
It is not too much to say, that the administration of Gen. Grant commands to-day the confidence of the American people. Its foreign policy has been conciliatory and firm, and its management of our varied internal affairs has been marked by strict fidelity and the soundest judgment.

In all the departments of the government economy has taken the place of wastefulness, honesty of fraud, and sound principles of paltry expedients. The public debt has been so sustained that our bonds are reforms established in the most trusted markets of the world.

Its Indian policy attracts the approving commendation of all who value and appreciate the principles of National justice. Its steady and unwavering adherence to the duty of protecting and guarding from injury and wrong, the poor and helpless race we have enfranchised, gives to the administration that strength and true dignity which naturally springs from power, controlled by the claims of justice and humanity.

It is the judgment of a vast majority of true American people. Just criticism from our political enemies at all times proper. But let those who clamor for reform, come with clean hands to the work before them.

We do not point to this or any other administration as faultless. To say that there are needed reforms is simply to announce a proposition that will be true of all governments and all administrations for all times to come.

Still poor frail human nature is changed some unprincipled men will always prove false to some responsible trust that can be brought to bring such to swift and certain punishment is the object of the present administration. Faithful to its trusts, imbued with a spirit of patriotism and governed by fidelity and honesty, it commands respect and admiration throughout the length and breadth of the whole country who are not partisans by nature. And, I repeat that neither the efforts of vain and ambitious Senators, nor the appeals of vindictive editors, nor the violence of disappointed placemen, can shake the confidence of the people in that heroic leader, Gen. Grant, who stands in his fitting place at the head of the Republic.

Let not those who desire the destruction of this great party imagine that the hour is near. The graves of forgotten prophets have been passed by it from its first victorious march to the present hour.

As it has in the past swept from place and power, those who were faithless to its claims, so it will in the future crush with pitiless strength all who make personal aims and personal enmities, superior to the great duties which devolve upon every member of the Republican party.

Let us then look to the continual ascendancy of the Republican party, in the State of North Carolina. We must keep our eye steady on this. We must keep our eyes of loyalty and freedom which were originally, and are now, the basis of the Republican organization.

With Gen. Grant as our chief, our bright and unflinching leader, satisfied with his unwavering loyalty, his unspotted record, and his great ability, the Nation will turn to him now as it has in critical periods before, with the certainty that liberty and human rights are inscribed on his shield and that victory lies in the prestige of his name.

Judge Merrimon and his friends, in 1868, stumped the State against our present Constitution. Gov. Caldwell stumped the State for the Constitution. If Judge Merrimon had succeeded in defeating the adoption of the Constitution, where would your homesteads be? Who proved himself your friend poor men of North Carolina, Gov. Caldwell or Judge Merrimon?

CAMPAIGN ERA.
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The Presidential campaign will open in earnest in a few weeks. It will be the most exciting in its character as it will be the most important in its results, that has occurred since 1840. The Democratic party has temporarily struck its colors, and seeks, under false pretenses and a leader false to his teachings and precepts, to get control of the government for the purpose of undoing the work of the war, and re-inaugurating sectional strife. It hopes to find in Mr. Greeley a second Buchanan. The Republican party is arrayed against the unholy alliance of the Cincinnati Convention. It will nominate a candidate at Philadelphia—Gen. Grant, as we hope—whose election will deeply concern every man interested in the financial, commercial or political welfare of the Union, and whose triumph will secure for us peace at home and respect abroad.

The Press is recognized as a "tower of strength" in politics. The newspaper is the cheap and faithful missionary of the Republic. We intend that THE CAROLINA ERA shall bring to the support of the Republican party in the contest a full measure of earnestness and zeal, and we appeal to the friends of the cause for that assistance in the distribution and circulation of our paper, without which the best work of the journalist cannot be made effective.