

STAPLES.  
A Greensboro correspondent of the News, noticing a speech recently made in Guilford county by Mr. John N. Staples, says:  
"He showed up a good deal of spirit, and called attention to the people to the fact that Holden signed the ordinance of secession, and then held his pen above his head and wanted it to go down to posterity."  
Well, now, everybody will be obliged to Mr. Staples for discovering the historical fact that Holden signed the ordinance of secession. How much Mr. Staples knows, we are delighted at the progress which the young man is making in his studies. He is digging deep into the "archives of gravity." Precious archives! They yield rich gems of history to our Staples.  
"And still the wondrous grow,  
That one small head should carry all the news."  
But seriously, is there not some basis in the future, some pithy and happy time which coming years shall roll upon us, when our people shall cease to have it dinged into their ears, "Holden signed the ordinance of secession, and Holden was the only man in that Convention who there did not sign the ordinance?" Were there not one hundred and twenty signers of that ordinance?—and was not Holden only one of them? And will Mr. Staples, whose ingenuity is equalled only by his capacity for a search, inform a listening world what would have been Holden's fate if he had not signed that ordinance? With the whole State government against the Unionists, with a park of flying artillery in capitol square, with the Governor ready to wave his white handkerchief that the cannon might follow, and the bells ring, and the flags wave, and the people shout, and that the blood of brethren should commence to flow in torrents which all the handkerchiefs in the wide world could not stop or staunch, with thousands of State troops in Raleigh, with the cry of "treason," "abolitionist," "Lincolnite," roared and shouted at every man who was supposed to have, down deep in his heart, a trace of attachment to the Union of our fathers,—what we ask Mr. Staples, could Holden have done but sign the ordinance? Was Holden in love with sudden death? Did he want to die then and there? Of course Holden signed the ordinance. He has never denied it, and never will.  
This perpetual iteration of "Holden signed the ordinance of secession," reminds us of the old preacher and his promising son. The son was himself a preacher, and the fond father went to hear him preach his first sermon. His text was, "And Peter's wife's mother lay sick of a fever." The sermon pleased the old man that he thought he would attend the next appointment. He did so, and the son preached from the same text, "And Peter's wife's mother lay sick of a fever." The old man was disappointed, but concluded to go on with his son and hear the next sermon. He did so, and his son rose in the pulpit and gave out the same text, "And Peter's wife's mother lay sick of a fever," whereupon the old man rises too, and called out—"Son, ain't that old woman dead yet?" It is just so with Holden and the ordinance.  
But Gov. Holden requests to present his compliments to Mr. Staples, and say to him that while he has done many things he ought not to have done, and left undone many things which he ought to have done, he did not do as Mr. Staples says he did on the occasion referred to. He signed the ordinance with the same quill pen used by his colleagues from Wake, Mr. Badger and Mr. Battle, and he did not make a John Donkey of himself by "wielding his pen above his head." It was a poor unhappy pen! Better would it have been that the goose which bore the quill that made this pen had remained unattached.  
"All Birnam wood had come to Dunsinane."  
Carl Schurz.  
This great man is now stumping in Ohio for Hayes, speaking of his speech at Cincinnati, the New York Tribune has this to say:  
"Administrative reform is the foremost which the Democrats have planted their flag with a flourish of trumpets. Mr. Schurz, in his speech at Cincinnati, goes behind the intricacies and meets them on their own ground. He reduces civil service reform, to its simplest terms, and after contrasting the letters of acceptance showing that Gov. Hayes has promised to abolish the demoralizing system of spoils, while Gov. Tilden merely aims to distribute them anew. He insists that Gov. Hayes has embodied in his letter the cleanest and simplest programme of civil service reform ever put forth by a public man in the United States. This is the estimate which the country people will place upon the speech."  
The Confederate States government issued its treasury notes and made them receivable in payment of all public dues. Although the honor of the Confederacy was pledged for the redemption of these notes, it deliberately repudiated one-third of its debt and broke faith with all our people. Yet Z. B. Vance, as Governor of North Carolina, dug closer to the Jeff Davis despotism, and called for more men to help make yankee legs and arms stick out of the windows of hell.  
Z. B. Vance stood ready during the war to sacrifice the lives, liberties and property of all our poor white men in the state to keep the negroes in slavery. Now he's a reformer and ardently desires all the poor white men who were not killed in the war to vote to make him governor again.

DEMOCRATIC VIEW OF THE SITUATION IN NORTH CAROLINA.  
[From the Raleigh Gazette.]  
Raleigh, N. C., August 26.  
One would suppose that any animal endowed with reason would be content to play at home and try to keep cool in the nineties. But such is not the fact, if we are charitable enough to credit the greater part of the people of North Carolina with reasoning faculties. For in spite of the very warm weather the campaign is now fully inaugurated, and the fight is growing hot and bitter. The Democrats are very enthusiastic, particularly in the towns, and are working hard, forming campaign clubs, and raising poles and flags graced with the names of Tilden, Vance and the other candidates. Nearly every village in the State can boast of something of the kind, and such a display of buntings and flags is to be seen as has not been since 1840. Their organization is better than it ever has been, and they are sending out speakers everywhere to stir up the enthusiasm of the people. In this respect they have a decided advantage over their opponents, who are not so well supplied with either speakers or newspapers. The Republicans, however, are very cool and determined, and are putting in their work well, making up in the number of good workmen for their want of speakers. They have the great advantage of a perfect organization and a majority of nearly two thousand to begin with. This added to the prestige of success at every former election, the patronage of the general and State governments and their admirable organization, places them in a position, at the opening of the battle, rather superior to that of their opponents, whose new-born enthusiasm will hardly make up the difference.  
Since my last letter the candidates for Governor have agreed to make a joint canvass of the entire State. This arrangement has been very reluctantly entered into by Gov. Vance. At first as I told you in my former letter, he frankly told Judge Settle that it was not his desire or intention to canvass with him. The arrangement has been made, however, and it will be carried out. For some time I was at a loss for a reason for this evident desire on the part of Gov. Vance to avoid a joint canvass, as I could not suppose it came from fear of his competitor. I think I have at last found the clue to it. Many Democrats here think that Gov. Vance has lost votes by his joint canvass with Judge Settle in the counties west of the Blue Ridge. They argue that in these counties, where the population is almost entirely white, the Republican party has come to be regarded, even by some of its own members, as the "Nigger party," and made up in this and the other Southern States mainly, if not entirely, of negroes, and though many white men in that section have heretofore voted the Republican ticket on account of their strong Union feeling, they have done so under protest as it were, and at this election could have been induced by their prejudice against the "nigger" to vote with the Democrats. But when they see and hear Judge Settle, and hear even Governor Vance endorse him as a gentleman, they begin to see that there are respectable people in the Republican party, and they gain courage to vote as before, and their party is thereby strengthened, and the Democrats lose. This is Democratic talk here, and it really seems to me reasonable, and it was no doubt some such idea and feeling as this which induced Gov. Vance to refuse to canvass with Judge Settle.  
The two candidates for Governor are nearly of the same age, and were in college together. They get along quite pleasantly, and in their personal intercourse are perfectly friendly and courteous, though they deal each other terrible blows in their speeches. You may form some idea of the mere physical labor of the campaigning when I tell you that these gentlemen speak about three hours nearly every day, and when they cease speaking their clothes are as wet with perspiration as if they had been at work in the harvest field. In spite of this both of them are in fine condition, with the exception of a slight hoarseness, which soon wears off when they begin to speak. As to their personal appearance they are entirely unlike. Judge Settle is something over six feet high, and weighs about 190 pounds. He is very erect and has a good figure, straight, well formed nose, a little inclined to the Roman order; dark brown eyes, nearly black, and a high, rich color. He is, perhaps, the handsomest man in North Carolina, and one who would attract attention anywhere. Governor Vance is not so tall as Judge Settle, but heavier, weighing about 225 pounds, broad-shouldered and muscular, with grayish blue eyes, deep set in his head, and a face strong, but not very handsome. Their manner of speaking is so entirely different as to make it very difficult to compare them. Gov. Vance is probably the strongest stump speaker in North Carolina, and it is no disparagement to other distinguished gentlemen to say so. He is full of anecdotes, with which he aptly illustrates the points he makes, and at the same time is well supplied with the heavier weapons of argument and rises not unfrequently to the level of genuine eloquence. The effect of such a speaker on a vast throng of country people may be imagined. He never fails to

rouse his friends to enthusiasm wherever he goes. Judge Settle, on the contrary, though not the equal of his competitor in telling anecdotes, can handle that light weapon with effect when occasion offers; but his main strength lies in the terrible attacks which he makes upon the "war record" of Gov. Vance and the incivility force with which he flings at him, as it were, every charge which he makes. Though he does not rouse his friends to the same pitch of enthusiasm which Gov. Vance produces in his friends, he always attracts them, and shows them that their banner has been placed in hands well able to bear it aloft in the very thickest of the fight. In the language of the Charlotte Observer, a good Democratic paper, Gov. Vance is evidently "matched against a giant." The Democrats complain greatly that Judge Settle harps all the time on the "war record" of Gov. Vance, and his speeches are made up of comments on that. But it seems to me that the "war record" of Gov. Vance, or any other man, is a perfectly legitimate subject of discussion. There are about seven thousand Union men in this State who will decide the coming election, in order to gain these men Gov. Vance announces himself as the white man's candidate, says this must be a fair and equal government, and talks of the achievements and manifest destiny of the Anglo-Saxon race, &c. Judge Settle offsets all this by appealing to these men who are Union men not to vote for a man whose record against the Union is such as he shows Gov. Vance's to be. I must say that I see nothing in this but what is legitimate.  
The effect produced by the canvass so far is difficult to estimate correctly. The reports of the newspapers are not to be relied on at all. Gov. Vance is accompanied by two reporters, one for the News of this city, and the other for the Sentinel, also published here, but they are expected and required to give none but good Democratic news, and their estimates are therefore valueless. Judge Settle has no reporter with him. I have been on a visit to the mountain district, where the candidates have been speaking, and have endeavored to get some information that may be relied on, and have met with pretty good success, and I give you the benefit of the news I have gathered, which is correct as far as it goes: The candidates for Governor have spoken in the counties of Henderson, Buncombe, Madison, Yancey, Mitchell, Watauga and Ashe, lying west of the Blue Ridge. Gov. Vance was born in Buncombe, and in this his native section, he expects to make a large gain on the vote given to Senator Merrimon, when he ran for Governor in 1872. The counties of Cherokee, Haywood, Jackson and Macon, have not yet been canvassed, and these are the counties in which the heaviest Democratic majorities west of the Blue Ridge will be given. In spite of this Gov. Vance already claims that he will gain at least three thousand on Merrimon's vote west of the Blue Ridge. But when one remembers that this is the birthplace of Senator Merrimon, also, that all his relatives and warmest friends live here; that there are many strong Union men in this section who have served in the army of the United States, and that Merrimon has a strong Union record, and Gov. Vance has not; above all, when one remembers the splendid abilities of Senator Merrimon, and recalls the magnificent canvass which he made in 1872, it is difficult to conceive what rational ground Gov. Vance can have to hope for so large a gain. Senator Merrimon in 1872 got a majority of about two thousand in the sixteen counties west of the Blue Ridge. Now I have reliable information from the counties in this section in which the candidates have spoken, and the counties of Ashe, Henderson, Madison and Mitchell, which went Republican in 1872, will give an increased majority for that party this year, and the counties of Alleghany and Watauga, formerly Democratic, will also go Republican. These will offset any gains that Gov. Vance may make in Buncombe and Yancey, and if he makes a gain of three thousand west of the Blue Ridge, as he claims that he will, he must make the entire gain in the counties of Cherokee, Clay, Haywood, Jackson, Macon, Swain and Transylvania. Now a reference to the vote given in these counties in 1872 will show that, in order to make his gain of three thousand on Merrimon's vote, Gov. Vance will have to get every vote in these counties, both Republican and Democratic. You can calculate the probability of his doing this as well as I can. I am forced, therefore, after a careful survey of the field, to think that Gov. Vance's estimate is extravagant, and I am reluctantly compelled to believe that if he gets the same majority in these counties that Merrimon did in 1872 he will be fortunate. That majority was two thousand. The candidates for Governor have also spoken in the counties of Rutherford, Polk, Wilkes, Alexander, Iredell, Davie, Yadkin, Surry, Forsythe and Stokes east of the Blue Ridge. I have not been able to get accurate information from these counties in detail, but the Republican majorities in Rutherford, Polk, Wilkes, Yadkin and Forsythe will probably be increased. This is due mainly to the fact that during the last campaign the Democratic candidates for Congress, prominent distillers, who are very numerous in these counties, that if elected they would have the revenue laws so modified that they would not bear so hard on their peculiar business, but the late Democratic House, so far from fulfilling these promises, have actually made the law more stringent than before. The Republicans are using this with effect among the distillers, and

will be able to increase their majorities and damage their opponents by gaining recruits from this class of persons. In this Congressional District (the Fourth) the State candidates have not yet spoken, except in this city, when they were first nominated, and one speech of Gov. Vance's in Johnston county. But the campaign is carried on in a very lively style by the candidates for Congress and the district electors. Both sides are very sanguine of success, but as far as I am able to judge amid the noise and confusion I incline to the opinion that the Republicans will win.  
The great battle ground of this campaign, however, is in the Fifth district, now represented by Gen. Seales, Democrat. It is not probable that Gen. Seales will be defeated, as he is quite popular in the district. But his personal influence, though possibly quite strong enough to prevent him from being greatly damaged by Mr. Boyd, the Republican candidate, cannot protect Gov. Vance from being hurt by the stronger influence of Judge Settle, an influence which is very strong in this, his native district, even outside of his party. Some idea of the extent of this influence may be gathered from the following facts: In 1870 Gen. Seales, Democratic candidate for Congress, beat his opponent 1,233 votes in the Fifth district. In 1872 Gen. Seales was again a candidate for Congress against Judge Settle, and was elected by only 263 votes. The race was well contested, and very close, and Judge Settle would undoubtedly have been elected, but for the vote of Caswell county, which, though having a clear Republican majority of nearly 500 was so manipulated as to give him a majority of about 50 only, and Gen. Seales was thus enabled to come in. In 1874 Gen. Seales, the present Democratic member, beat his opponent about 1,600 votes. From this statement, which is perfectly correct, you will get a good idea of the extent of Judge Settle's influence in the district where he lives. Now Gov. Vance cannot reasonably expect to get a much larger vote than Gen. Seales did, as the latter is an able and experienced campaigner, and has never been defeated before the people. There are besides local causes at work in some of the counties of the district which will certainly increase the Republican vote to a considerable extent. All these things taken together show that Judge Settle will, in all human probability, get as large a vote as he did in 1872, and if he does it will be a reduction of Democratic majorities in the district by 1,000 votes.  
In the Seventh district, formerly represented by Mr. Ashe, Democrat, the candidates for Congress are Col. Steele, Democrat, against Hon. O. H. Dockery, Republican. The candidates for Governor have not yet spoken in this district, but it is quite certain that Col. Steele will not get so large a vote as Mr. Ashe did in 1872. I infer this from the fact that Mr. Ashe is one of the most estimable and popular gentlemen in the State, and Col. Steele was a violent secessionist, and is now opposed by Hon. O. H. Dockery, who, besides being one of the ablest campaigners in the State, is very popular personally, and has great strength in the district. It is, besides, well understood that Mr. Ashe was prevented from being renominated by the opposition of the friends of Governor Vance to his claims, if not by the connivance of Gov. Vance himself, and this, though it may not drive Mr. Ashe's friends into the Republican ranks, will certainly not add to their zeal for the Democratic cause, and will place Gov. Vance in such a position that he cannot increase his own vote in the district. I consider this to be a rational ground for concluding that the Democratic majority in this district will be diminished.  
From the other districts I have no news that will justify me in expressing an opinion. I notice that in all the papers North Carolina is put down as one of the doubtful States, even by the Republicans themselves. But from the foregoing statement, which covers most of that part of the State where the white population is the strongest upon whom the Democrats rely entirely for victory, it really seems to me that the State will go Republican. This opinion is at variance with that of many professed politicians, but I am compelled to admit that this is the present aspect of the campaign, however unpleasant it may be to be obliged to say so.

CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS.  
I have shown that if these amendments are adopted, the Supreme Court will have power to take from the jury the trial of a great many of the most important cases, and to sit upon and determine them, both as judges and jury, in the absence of witnesses, and at a distance from the homes of the parties to the action.  
I cannot think it necessary, Mr. Editor, farther to dwell upon this class of amendments. I cannot think that the people of this State are ready to give up a judicial system, well-erected and regulated by a written constitution, every word of which is beyond the power of any Legislature to change—a judicial system every officer of which, from the highest to the lowest, is elected by a direct vote of the people. A judicial system every branch of which has its power and jurisdiction wisely allotted and so fixed in the constitution, that it requires the vote of the people, to change it materially. A judicial system declaring how many courts there shall be, and how many judges in each district. I cannot think that the people of this State are ready to surrender their great system of constitution, which, like an ordinary statute, may be amended, repealed or annulled by every succeeding Legislature that may convene. A constitution, so constructed by a party which dared to call a convention contrary to the known will of the people, a constitution amended by this convention, called contrary to the will of the people. A constitution amended by a majority of that convention, who were in a majority only by a vote taken upon the purity of the ballot. A majority who were in a majority, only by the ratification, adoption, and effectual use of the vilest fraud that ever stained the fair escutcheons of this proud old State. A fraud more dangerous to the liberties of the people of North Carolina, than all the midnight scourgings and murders, that marked the bloody reign of the Ku-Klux in this state. More dangerous because it was perpetrated under a pretended color of the law, and was ratified by those who professed to have been the representatives of the people of this state in a solemn convention assembled for the purpose of amending the constitution, as they said, in order to promote the peace, the prosperity, and the happiness of our people. Oh! liberty how much of foul treachery, shameless infamy and black hypocrisy are clothed in thy sacred garb. More anon.

Of the people. That when changed, it should be changed by the vote of the people.  
I believe that the constitution of this State should be so sacred in the eyes of the people of North Carolina, that a Legislature would not dare attempt to expunge its most trivial provision. Why have a written constitution, if the strongest safeguards which it has thrown around the liberties of our people may be swept away and annihilated by the fold breath of any partisan Legislature that may deem it necessary to their party success to trample upon our liberties.  
Why have a judiciary established by a written constitution, to be elected by the people, if the varying will of succeeding Legislatures may destroy or create judges at their pleasure? Why have an elective judiciary existing under a written constitution, if the Legislature may say how many judicial districts there shall be in the State, and of what territory these districts shall consist?  
This amendment declares that the General Assembly may reduce or increase the number of districts. Increase them to what extent? Their power is only by their will. Of what territory are these districts to consist? Just whatever territory they shall select. What shall the relative voting population of these districts be? One district polling ten thousand votes may elect a judge; another by its side, polling one thousand votes, may elect a judge. The power will exist. Such power has been exercised in the case of the City of Raleigh, and will again be exercised, whenever party success demands it. In fact, Mr. Editor, one would think from these amendments, that the only object in having a written constitution in North Carolina, was to insure the success of the Democratic party.  
It were better far (if the great judicial system created by the constitution of 1868 is to be thus butchered) to grant to the Legislature the power to elect the judges. Because if each succeeding Legislature is to have power to re-organize and renovate the judicial system of the State, our law will never become settled.  
It is useless to farther consider the amendments to Article IV of the Constitution. I have shown that these amendments, if adopted, confer upon the Legislature the power:  
1. Of creating as many courts, as inferior to the Supreme Court, as they may deem proper.  
2. Of saying of how many officers these courts shall consist.  
3. Of electing the officers of these courts.  
4. Of conferring upon them whatever jurisdiction they may see proper, except the jurisdiction of the Supreme Court.  
5. That they may deprive the Probate Court of its present jurisdiction, and transfer the same to a county court.  
6. Of saying how many judicial districts there shall be in North Carolina, and of what territory they shall consist.  
I have shown that if these amendments are adopted, the Supreme Court will have power to take from the jury the trial of a great many of the most important cases, and to sit upon and determine them, both as judges and jury, in the absence of witnesses, and at a distance from the homes of the parties to the action.  
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