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VOL. 2.

The Observer.

RALEIGH, N. C., TUESDAY, JUNE 4, 1878.

SENATOR RANSON.

A leading Republican newspaper, received last evening, referring to Senator RANSON, says that "RANSON has been quiet, firm, courteous, fair in all things, and devoted to his party. He has, through his general social qualities, won the confidence and regard of everybody; and to-day we think he occupies a position in the national Democratic party far higher than that held by JORDAN, LAMAR, HILL, or any other Southern man. THURMAN, BAYARD and RANSON are the Democratic giants of the Senate."

The remark sets us to thinking. The people of North Carolina learn slowly, but they learn exceedingly well. A conservative cast of mind and thought has made them feel their way into new fashions of politics and beliefs, and has preserved them from falling headlong into many humiliating and sometimes absurd errors that have overcome some of her more sensitive or more haughty sisters. One great fact that has grown into a part of the State creed, slowly but very surely, is that the people are entitled to right to their public servants, and when they know this, they cling tenaciously to the higher privilege of forming and expressing opinions about the words and actions of their Representatives. As a consequence of this mental activity comes in due course the determination to follow great principles and to regard public men as worthy of honor and trust only when they are the exponents of principles, and when they frown down efforts to subordinate the interests of all which have an equal share to their personal influences.

One marked characteristic of the teachings of THE OBSERVER from the day when it was first printed until now, has been its intense North Carolina faith, pride and love. Our faith is a practical faith. Our pride is a just and an honorable pride—not leaning for support upon accidents, but founded on her past and recent deeds and upon her future capabilities. The love we have for the State is a part of us, and we have with us, has lived with us and will die with us. We can no more explain it than we can our love of what is right. It comes naturally to our duty to teach it to our people. We believe with the simplest faith that there is an immense undeveloped love for the State in our people, but, we repeat, it has not been educated to vent itself. The channel through which this great mine of future wealth for us is to be reached is a proper pride in our resources. We have stood by with our hats in our hands and have allowed other States to take their very self-confident strength to take the precedence of us in national affairs. We have men to our high places who are the peers of the sons of any State. It is a great wrong that we do ourselves when we throw high honors upon one of our noblest citizens and then quietly look on him as once a King among a King, and to be nothing beyond. If he is worthy and loyal the whole people should bear him on their shoulders to the highest dignities. There is a chief of our class who was born upon the banks of the Roanoke, was nurtured in our State schools, bore off the honors of the State University, served his country and commonwealth in every employment, and when he came to the State and South with a dauntless courage and a sweet courtesy that won for him the name of the SIR PAUL SNEYD of the army. His devotion to his mother State did not waver while she wept a widow over her lost children. He was called by his old friends and his new ones to the councils of the National Senate. Since his appearance upon the floors of this august body his influence and usefulness have grown apace with his opportunities for good. Addressing the Senators but seldom making a speech, he has shown himself willing and trusting ears. Like other great North Carolina Senators, WILLIAM P. MASON, his very silence gives him power, and it is not unsafe or unfair to say that he has a reserve force and a national following that no other Southern Senator has been accorded since the war between the States. He is wiser and greater than the erratic HILL. He is a safer leader than that other great Georgian who has lost, we think, something of the dignity of the White House. LAMAR, a Roman in his own right, has thrilled the Nation with an oration that will be enrolled in our classics, and that, to use the language of WILLIAM EATON, one of our best lawyers and purest men, "will be declared as a model of eloquence by the lads of our schools long after his name has rested on his great laurels from his greater labors."

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OUR INDIAN POLICY—GEN. SCALDS.

The House of Representatives on Monday passed the amendment to the Army bill transferring the Indian Bureau from the Interior to the War Department. It provides that an officer as high in rank as a colonel must be placed in charge of the Bureau, and that no officer of lower grade than first lieutenant shall be an Indian agent. These officers are not required to give bond for care to be tried by a court-martial for an improper discharge of the duties of their office.

We trust that the Senate will concur and that our Indian policy may be altogether changed. From the beginning the history of the dealings of the white man with the Indian has been a record of bad faith involving lawless violence and deceit. The first and fundamental principle of our faith seems to have been that the red man had no rights that the white man was bound to respect. We have made treaties with the Indians only to break them, and then because the Indians have defended themselves and their rights we have slain them. Their lands have been stolen from their maidens, their warriors, even their squaws and papooses, murdered. Nothing that an Indian had been safe from the greed or lust of the white man. So has fared the Indian at the hands of our forefathers, and so has fared at our hands. Yes, he has fared worse in the latter than in the former days. For this, they cling tenaciously to the higher privilege of forming and expressing opinions about the words and actions of their Representatives. As a consequence of this mental activity comes in due course the determination to follow great principles and to regard public men as worthy of honor and trust only when they are the exponents of principles, and when they frown down efforts to subordinate the interests of all which have an equal share to their personal influences.

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WASHINGTON, May 28, 1878.

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And if the opinion of Chief Justice Waite is correct, which I have no doubt is, there is no exemption in our State as to "old debts" (to use the ordinary expression). Now this is the law of North Carolina. Every Judge in the State is bound to observe this as the law. It results, therefore, that there is no exemption in North Carolina from execution for debts contracted before the Constitution of 1868.

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