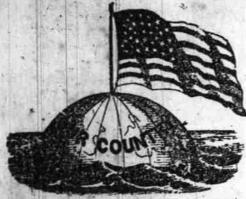


Oxford Free Lance.

JOHN T. BRITT, Proprietor. WILLIAM BIGGS, Editor.



PUBLISHED WEEKLY.

The only Democratic Journal published at the County Seat of Granville. Fearless exponent of true Democratic principles.

OXFORD, N. C.: FRIDAY, MARCH 15, 1878.

The Editor has been absent the past week attending the funeral services of his father, Judge Asa Biggs, in Norfolk Va.

HONOR TO JUDGE BIGGS.

It is a source of pride and satisfaction to us as North Carolinians that the occasion of the death of Judge Biggs should have called forth such marked demonstrations of respect to his memory as were exhibited by the members of the bar, merchants and other leading citizens of Norfolk, the home of his adoption.

This was eminently proper, not merely on account of the high posts of honor which Judge Biggs had filled in his native state, but also on account of the spotless virtues and sterling integrity of his character as a citizen.

The question where can we find another to fill the void created by his death spontaneously arises in the mind of all his friends and acquaintances, when they take a retrospect of his useful career. His life has been replete with valuable services as a public citizen and with examples in private life well worthy of the imitation of the rising generation.

THE RAILROAD.

At the Railroad meeting held in Oxford on the 12th inst., it was stated that it would be impracticable to raise money by taxation in Oxford and other townships, as had been supposed at the former meeting of the friends of the road.

The only plan then for raising the money for building the road is either by private subscription or by taxing the town of Oxford.

As this was an adjourned meeting Mr. T. T. Grandy, who presided at the former meeting, took the chair. Capt. Wm. Biggs, the secretary of the former meeting being absent, on motion Jno. T. Britt, Esq., and Jas. A. Robinson, Esq., were requested to act as secretaries.

Thereupon the Chairman called on the committee appointed to solicit subscriptions for having the route surveyed between this point and Henderson for their report. Capt. J. A. Williams and T. D. Crawford Esq., two of the gentlemen composing the committee, reported good progress in getting the necessary amount subscribed for that purpose.

The next thing in order was the report of B. H. Cozart, Esq., as to the amount of real estate in Oxford corporation and certain adjacent townships. The meeting which assembled here on the 12th was a brief one, as no speeches were made.

RESULTS OF THE WAR IN EUROPE.

The results of the struggle between Russia and Turkey may be succinctly summed up as follows:

Actual. That is to say, already achieved, which are: The absolute independence of Roumania, Servia and Montenegro, which consequently take their places in the family of nations; the semi-independence of Bulgaria, which is enlarged south of the Balkans, to take in a large part of Roumelia; the cession of Bessarabia, in Europe, and a large slice of territory in Asia, including Kars &c, to Russia; the cession of the Dobrudscha to Roumania; Reform in the administration of Bosnia, Herzegovina, Epirus and Thessaly, and the payment of a large money indemnity by Turkey to Russia.

Probable. The cession of Bosnia and Herzegovina to Austria, the purchase of Egypt by England, and the opening of the Dardanelles and Bosphorus to all nations.

Possible. The cession of Crete, Epirus and Thessaly, to Greece, and of part of the Turkish fleet to Russia.

It will be seen how crushing has been the defeat of Turkey, and her once gigantic power exists now only in name.

RADICAL BONDS.

We took occasion last week to bring to the attention of the people of Granville a most important question, namely, the practice of Democrats standing upon the official bonds of Radicals. Our language was as forcible as we could make it, and only in proportion to the necessity that called it forth.

The Raleigh News has the following sensible remarks on the subject.

The people of Granville have been much cursed by Radicalism. The good and true men of the county are still working for reform in the administration of its affairs. It is a fight against fraud and corruption, which must culminate in success or defeat at the polls in the coming election.

RAILROAD MEETING.

In conformity with previous notice quite a number of the "solid men of Granville" (to quote from the notice) assembled in the Court House on Tuesday the 12th to take into consideration the important question of getting a railroad to this place.

As this was an adjourned meeting Mr. T. T. Grandy, who presided at the former meeting, took the chair. Capt. Wm. Biggs, the secretary of the former meeting being absent, on motion Jno. T. Britt, Esq., and Jas. A. Robinson, Esq., were requested to act as secretaries.

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assembled here on the 12th was a brief one, as no speeches were made. It was evidently a meeting that convened for action. On motion of Dr. Z. M. Paschall the committee to solicit subscriptions for a survey were requested to employ a competent engineer to make a survey of the country over which it is proposed to run the road, with the view of ascertaining what it would cost to build it, so soon as they had raised the required sum.

The report of Mr. B. H. Cozart showed as follows; Oxford Township—No. of acres, 43,360—valuation \$197,298.00. Corporation of Oxford—Lots 145, valuation \$175,228.00.

Fishing Creek Township—Acres, 3,654, valuation \$183,637.00. Total valuation \$556,163.00.

The meeting then adjourned to meet again on Saturday the 23rd inst.

THE POLL TAX.

The Charlotte Democrat says very pertinently if the proposition of some radicals in this State to abolish the Poll tax is successful, then good bye to Free Schools. The Poll tax is devoted to free schools, and if it is abolished (for the purpose of putting radical demagogues into office) free schools will be virtually abolished as a consequence.

If North Carolina Republicans declare for abolishing the Poll tax (and it is already intimated that they will for the purpose of getting a solid negro vote and some others) let Democrats faithfully warn the people of the danger of free schools. Good people must resist the spirit of "communism" and "agrarianism" in every shape.

DR. GRISSOM RETAINED.

We learn from the Raleigh papers that the new Board of Directors of the Insane Asylum have retained Dr. Grissom upon the ground that his election by the old Radical Board was valid.

This action on the part of the Insane Board, no matter what their motives or excuse, will be unsatisfactory to the Democrats of the State, and is in our humble opinion entirely inexcusable. Without questioning the ability of Dr. Grissom as a superintendent, the Directors should have remembered that he was appointed by the Radical party in the days of its corruption and venality on account of his political course and affiliations.

While Holden, Littlefield and Kirk were the leading spirits in that fell reign of tyranny and oppression, the voice of Dr. Grissom was not heard in defence of his down trodden land, and if not in sympathy with the oppressors of his native State in that dark day, he ought to have shown his hand and joined in that patriotic movement which culminated in the redemption of North Carolina.

Our people when they redeemed North Carolina expected to see every vestige of Radicalism swept from power and we can imagine no earthly reason why an exception should be made in favor of Dr. Grissom, unless there is no Democratic physician in the State competent to fill the office. And this acknowledgment no sane man would make.

The Board should have elected a Democratic Superintendent every way worthy to fill the office, and then the question of Dr. Grissom's legal right to hold over could have been settled in a short time by the Courts and no one would have been to blame.

States, cities and corporations seem to be following suit with individuals in going into bankruptcy these hard times. The State of Virginia has just been declared in a state of insolvency by the auditor, and the report now comes that the city of San Francisco is dead broke, and that municipal affairs have come to a halt for want of funds. Washington is staggering along under a debt acquired in the improvement of the capital of the nation that must crush it unless some relief is secured.

THE PROPOSITION.

In the editorial columns of your paper, of the 8th of February, I see an article headed "An Abortive Attempt." It states that Colonel Hargrove, counsel and surety of ex-Sheriff Sneed, proposed to leave the entire indebtedness of the ex-Sheriff to two men, one selected by each party—their decision to be "final and binding."

I will briefly notice some of the features of the proposition. How can the opinion of two men be "final and binding" if from party bias, or any other cause, they should not agree, and their opinions be divergent?

The sheriff of a county is a sworn officer, and gives his bond with sufficient security (if the Board of Commissioners perform its duty) to collect and pay over all monies coming into his hands by virtue of his office. Suppose the Board had the legal right to release him from his sworn bonded obligations—could they do so, and enter into a new agreement with the principal without somewhat impairing the obligations of the sureties? The proposition is in direct conflict with equity, the express law of the land, and official fidelity.

If Col. Hargrove would not be willing to lose his own money (and I should not) by allowing the sheriff to hold on to it in defiance of law and equity, and pay him in county orders not worth over 40 cents in the dollar. Does any one suppose he would think such a course equitable and justifiable in law? Does any one suppose he would quietly receive the depreciated paper in lieu of money? Don't you reckon the Colonel would inform the Board and the sheriff that the sheriff's bond was taken to secure parties against loss, and that he should resort to the legal remedies prescribed by law for the recovery of his money?

If a sheriff's bond is sufficient to secure private individuals against pecuniary loss on account of official dereliction of duty, why should not the honest tax-payers have some protection and security also? If a sheriff collects money for private individuals he ought to hand it over to the party to whom it belongs. And if he collects school, or any other money for the county, he ought to pay it over as the law directs, or he and his sureties ought to be interrogated as to the reasons why it is not forthcoming.

The New York Baptist Annual for 1876, recently issued, shows that there are 873 churches in the State—an increase of 10; 645 pastors and supplies, an increase of 7; that 5,551 persons have been baptized during the past year, being 2,784 less than those reported last year; that the whole number of members amounts to 112,310, an increase of 2,070; that 648 churches have reported their church property amounting in the aggregate to \$7,529,810, showing an increase in the number reporting of 68; and an increase in the amount of property reported of \$347,010; that the indebtedness reported is \$761,238, an increase over last year of \$65,361; that less than last year has been paid for improvements by 45,331; that \$788,904 have been paid for maintaining public worship; and \$144,685 are reported for benevolence, less by \$109,710 than the amount given last year; 490 churches reported accessions by baptism which would make an average of 11 to each reporting church.

Some of the extreme men of South Carolina are now denouncing Gov. Hampton. He has done more than every politician in that State to bring about the present peaceable and promising condition of affairs, and yet revilings and denunciations are all that the ultras have to give him. He warns the Democrats to go slow, and tells them that the fight is not yet over, and the victory is not yet complete and assured. He says to them: "If you allow the extreme men of this State to take possession of it, just as sure as the sun will rise, it will rise on your failure."

BREVITIES.

Gov. Nicholls has called an extra session of the Louisiana Legislature.

The Prussian Ministry will send an agent to the United States to study the American system of tobacco taxation.

Crowds hang around the Philadelphia Mint for the distribution of the first silver dollars struck off.

There is a growing disposition among Southern journals to advocate Mr. Hendricks for the next President.

No less than 247 Indians have bitten the dust in frontier wars during the last year, and each bite cost the United States \$11,478 24.

A long line of fearful tragedies has led the Kentucky Legislature to pass an act forbidding the carrying of concealed weapons.

The electoral commission would not go behind the returns. The consequence is that Anderson goes behind prison bars and Hayes into the White House.

The Ohio Senate has passed the House resolution asking Congress to repeal the resumption act, the Democrats voting for and the Republicans against the measure.

Mr. Blackburn, of Ky, will at an early day, offer a resolution which virtually declares a want of confidence in the Secretary of the Treasury.

Gen. Sherman says that there ought to be at least 25,000 to 30,000 men in the army, and declares that at this moment there is almost absolute certainty of a renewed war with the Sioux.

Gen. J. Z. George, of Miss, a leading Democratic politician in that State, and a rival of Mr. Lamar for the U. S. Senatorship, has been appointed to the Mississippi Supreme Bench.

In Russia the tax on tobacco pays the cost of the religious establishments twice over, and the whisky tax (\$122,680,000) pays the cost of the army. About \$11,000,000 is paid for public education yearly, being twice as much as is paid for the church.

The Louisville Courier Journal wisely suggests that the bloody-shirt professionals in Congress would expire much sooner if no notice were taken of them. The best policy of the southern members is to treat all their attacks with silent indifference.

They are progressing very rapidly in Mississippi. Col. Parkdale of the Democratic Jackson "Clarion" gave a banquet to the members of the Legislature recently, and the half-dozen negroes were scattered among the whites without any attempt at discrimination.

We have no accurate information as to the number of sub-idi schemes before Congress. There are perhaps a dozen or more. The latest is a bill to appropriate \$2,000,000 to build 160 miles of railroad in Texas from San Antonio to the Rio Grande. It will hardly pass.

Let Hayes remember President Lincoln's advice—to keep near to the people, and take their advice instead of that of foreign money dealers, their agents and tools. This is the only path of safety for a Republican President. He must reflect the will of the people, or his government ceases to be representative or republican.—Inter-Ocean, rep.

In the ejectment suit of Gen. Custis Lee, son of Gen. R. E. Lee, it is stated that it is not the intention of the plaintiff to disturb the cemetery part of the estate if the suit should be decided in his favor. He is willing to sell that portion of the estate to the Government at a fair price, to be determined by a board of arbitration.

NEW ADVERTISEMENTS.

Oranges, Apples, and Fresh Candies made of Loaf Sugar just received and for sale by MITCHELL & SONS, OXFORD, N.C.

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Belmont Academy. MRS. FAUCETTE'S school is now in session but pupils will be charged only from the time they enter school, and the terms are made to suit the scarcity of money. Board for month, \$10.00; Wash, & Lights, &c. per month, \$1.00; Tuition per month, \$3.00; and \$4.00. Entire charge for 20 weeks, \$65.00. For particulars address, REV. T. U. FAUCETTE, Sassafras Fork, Granville County, N.C.

Important Notice. All persons holding County orders issued by the County of Granville, prior to 1st June 1868, are hereby notified and requested to present them to me immediately, at my office in Oxford, to be audited with a view of their speedy payment. M. B. JONES, Treasurer, feb 22 1878 County of Granville.

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