

OXFORD PUBLIC LEDGER.

F. M. PINNIX, Editor and Owner.

ONE YEAR \$1.00 SIX MONTHS50

Entered through Oxford, N. C. Post Office as mail matter of the second class, in accordance with the Act of Congress March 3 1879.

Meeting of the Southern Commercial Congress at Atlanta.

(News and Observer.) Atlanta, Ga.—The opening address on the program of the Southern Commercial Congress was made by its President, John M. Parker, of New Orleans, who congratulated the delegates upon the progress made already through organization by the commercial secretaries throughout the South, of "young men looking forward with hope. He deprecated what he termed a decline of the nation into idleness, luxury, extravagance and wild excesses.

President Parker said: "Fifty years ago a meeting of this character would have been beyond the conception of the wildest dreamer and the greatness of the United States is typified when the great men of the nation now assist in making the world appreciate the vastness of Southern possibilities.

"The patriotism of the men who come from the North and East and West at their own expense to preach to the whole world on Southern advantages shows the perfect unity of the greatest nation on the globe.

"In 1776 we were the most patriotic people on the globe and had no millionaires.

"Today conditions are reversed and we have thousands of millionaires and few who are willing to sacrifice their personal benefits for the general good.

"Dollar blindness threatens to become a national curse, withering many desirable traits of character and warping others.

"Gold is rapidly becoming the god of nation and, by many, wealth is held above character."

President Parker said the time was ripe when the great thinkers of the United States should work out some equitable basis of taxation by which vast fortunes "may not be transmitted to some future generation, when the fool, of the knave, may use it to the misery of humanity," and a large part at least, should be used for public purposes for the benefit of the people from whom it was taken.

"The natural laws of supply and demand," he continued, "should govern our agricultural products and producer and consumer alike, should be protected from speculation.

"We have no royalty in this country and should tolerate no class distinction or snobbery," said he, "but throughout the lengths and breadth of our land, in every church and in every school we should impress upon our younger generation that we have a nobility that can aspire, a nobility of the higher order is represented in young men not affected to do any kind of honest, work, and the earnest and efficient workmen should be held up as the true class of American nobility which should be an incentive to every man, that by his own efforts and his own abilities, he can achieve and carve out that recognition which is denied in the old countries.

False pride is the greatest curse under which the South has ever labored and many have been deterred from pursuing congenial vocations for fear of the loss of caste socially. That sentiment is now rapidly disappearing and the man of honor, integrity and ability is being accepted for what he is, for what he has made himself.

"For nearly forty years, the trend of the brainest and best of our young men has been to the great cities of the East and the West, but now it turns to the Sunny Southland and today is, as much as ever, the young man's day.

Organized as it was by the commercial secretaries throughout the South, the Southern Commercial Congress has largely an organization of young men looking ahead with hope.

"Since its beginning the Southern Commercial Congress on the broadest lines and absolutely free from politics and religion has earnestly worked to intelligently spread broadcast truthful information in regard to the South and her possibilities.

"That work has not been in vain as is eloquently attested by the able, thoughtful men who have attended this convention to assist a greater nation through a greater South, but whose hearty support in assisting to overcome those obstacles which confront our people is bound to make us 'the greatest nation through perfect unity.'"

Response by Gen. Julian S. Carr, Atlanta, Ga.—Responding to Governor Brown's address of welcome at the opening of the convention of the Southern Commercial Congress, General Julian S. Carr, of Durham, N. C., second vice-president of the congress, delivered a brief tribute to each of the Southern States.

"For Maryland, my Maryland," he said. "I speak to you, for the State which is honored in having been the first of all the colonies to grant freedom of religious worship; the State which in its infancy gave to the Nation Francis Scott Key, and his 'Star Spangled Banner.'"

"I speak for Virginia, mother of presidents, in whose hallowed soil rest the ashes of her great men, the first Chief Magistrate of the United States. Within her borders grim visaged war reaped bloody harvest, but from her battle-strained fields sprang the seed of a new generation, one that has placed the dew-damp State in the very forefront of thriving communities.

"I speak to you for that sturdy State carved from the lions of her

noble mother—West Virginia. Wealth beyond the dreams of avarice is held in her mines, her forest, and her rivers. The railway railleage of West Virginia in the rapidity of its growth challenges comparison; and on her rivers hundreds of steamships carry the products of her industry.

"For North Carolina, I cry 'All hail.' Adversity she has borne with dignity, and prosperity has not in her dried up the sources of kindly sympathy with all whom that struggle painfully along the pathways of life. Rich in all that contributes to make a State truly great, she is keeping even step in the grand forward march of our dear Southland.

"I speak for South Carolina, State of the cavaliers, that State which gave Calhoun to the Nation and could rest her claim to recognition and fame on that one fact alone, if there were none other. She has been steadfast in adversity. In those dark days of reconstruction, when carpet-baggers and scalawags plundered her, she sat like 'Patience on a monument smiling at Grief.' She waited for the dawn that ushered in the glorious day of her political and economic regeneration.

"I speak of Tennessee, the State of Old Hickory, and numberless others, whose names are inscribed on the honor roll of the Nation's records. Her iron and steel industries, her lumber trade and other wealth-producing interests; above all the energy and thrift of her people give her a leading place in that wonderful progress which the Southern Commercial Congress so fittingly represents.

"For queenly Alabama, I speak, the development of whose marvelous natural resources has proceeded by leaps and bounds within this generation, and is one of the wonders of this wonderful country of ours. In her leading industries the output and values have been doubled, trebled and quadrupled.

"From Mississippi I bring greetings; from the State of Jefferson Davis—the great leader of the Confederacy, the luster of whose name and fame no praise can add to nor any cavil can tarnish. Nor can I fail to name that gracious son of the Bayou State—Lucius Quintus Cincinnatus Lamar—Representative, Senator, Justice of the United States Supreme Court, who adorned with his learning and eloquence every public station to which the Nation called him.

"Next in the roll call is Arkansas, whose progress in material wealth has been the wonder of the last decade. Arkansas is a shining example of that unquenchable spirit of determination to get there, which today animates the whole South and is bound to make this entire section what Nature intended it should be—an earthly paradise.

"The State of fair women, swift horses and Marse Henry Watterson greets you through me. In all the forty-six commonwealths of the Union there is none that can boast of greater glory than Kentucky has shed upon the Nation, whether in the men that have done the State some service, or in the field of commerce and industry.

"I speak to you for Missouri than whom none other of all the States bears prouder title. Her history ever since the Louisiana Purchase has been an uninterrupted procession of civic triumphs. There is not a page in our country's history on which Missouri has not stamped her impress.

"Let me speed to the state of summer breezes—fair Louisiana. New splendors will come to that State after the Panama Canal is opened, for New Orleans is the port from which the bulk of this country's commerce with Latin-America will go forth.

"Again I fare on to the land of flowers, to fair Florida. Indescribable is the charm and the attraction of Florida, and it need not cause surprise that the largest increase in population shown by any Southern State is disclosed by the last census taken in that State.

"Imperial Texas speaks through me to you—State of the Lone Star. With room enough to accommodate a population equal to that of the United States today, what power will she not yield in the councils of the Nation, or in the direction of its commercial and industrial activities?

"Youngest of all the Southern States, Oklahoma, makes her bow with an area as large as that of all New England, with natural resources of greatest variety and unlimited abundance; her people as enterprising as any in the land, she will not long lack a commanding place.

"I have saved the best for the last. How, indeed, my friends, shall we ever be able to forget the warm hearts of Georgia's people, who

through their Governor, have bid me welcome today. Magnificent as is the State in everything that is grand and imposing, the whole-hearted hospitality with which we are received is but a symbol of that grandeur and that magnificence."

See Davis Before Buying. Davis will sell you Field Fence and hog wire cheaper than you can buy same for wholesale, write Davis the "Wire man", Clarksville, Va.

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Dr. N. Rosenstein, Eye Specialist, of Durham will be in Creedmoor Monday March the 27th, and at Oxford Tuesday, March the 28th, for one day only. Don't forget the days and places.

Interest in Public Debate. Interest is running high in and around Stem, in anticipation of the debate that will be held at the Stem High School March, 31, under auspices of Calhoun Literary Society.

The question to be discussed is "Resolved That The United States Should Not Retain The Philippines." The following men will uphold the affirmative side of the query: K. R. Mangum, E. A. Jackson, Negative, Mr. W. L. Gooch, Amos Latta.

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