

CHARLES L. STEVENS. EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR.

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NEW BERNE, June 4, 1896.

ACTUAL DEMOCRATIC ISSUE.

The Democrats of North Carolina should not, in their zeal and enthusiasm, for the free coinage of silver, or the present monetary standard, lose sight of several things, which are of the most vital importance to them, both as a party and as citizens of this great commonwealth.

The fact that the majority of the people in this State are for free silver, is too evident to need discussion, and this very self-evident fact should make all currency controversies between Democrats of merely minor importance, and the united efforts of Democrats, regardless of opinion on the currency issue ought to be directed towards presenting a solid front against all political enemies on questions and issues affecting our municipal, county and State affairs.

In fact there is no reason why all citizens should not take a common stand, and vote for only those candidates who are recognized as safe men to entrust to office and to control and govern all interests, whether those interests may be municipal, county, or State.

The actual Democratic issue is a good and safe home government, one in which not only the people of this commonwealth can have full assurance of safety under its control and management, but one which will inspire confidence outside of the State, so that the housekeeper or investor, can come here to live, or purchase our lands and erect manufactures, in the perfect confidence that their homes and properties will be safe, and in communities which have safe protection guaranteed to them at all times.

The good local government issue, is not one which ought to divide the people of this State, in fact it ought to be the paramount issue which will unite them, and make their selection of candidates one of extreme importance, as it ought to unite them to their support, when nominated.

The success of a good, stable State government is the real issue in this State, and while the currency question ought to have proper discussion given it, there is no reason why it should override and separate those who have at heart the welfare and best interests of North Carolina.

THE RUSSIAN CORONATION.

The recent crowning of Nicolas Alexandrovitch, Czar of all the Russias, at Moscow, was an event of grand and imposing ceremonies in that land, so little known to the outside world.

The very vastness of the country over which the new ruler now assumes control, is appalling to contemplate, stretching as it does from the Baltic Sea to the Pacific ocean, and the Black and Caspian seas to the Arctic ocean. A great part of its resources remain undeveloped, its forest belt being about one fourth under cultivation. With a population over 120,000,000, comprised of the most diverse race elements—the Great, Little and White Russians, Lithuanians, Letts, Finns, Poles, Germans and Jews.

From the time of Peter the Great, Russia has been advancing, although slowly, towards a position in which she might claim to be ranked with the Christian powers of the West. The most marked movement was the emancipation of the Serfs, which had for its object the creation of a peasant class.

When it is remembered that about five sixths of the population are peasants, the greatness and importance of the agrarian question to Russia, is apparent.

The main party tenet, supported by the Russian rulers has been the reduction of the whole Empire to uniform slavism. All differences of nationality, religion and political ideas have been crushed down, with the object of making one church and one party; progress and freedom of thought have been stifled.

But the repression sought, with procriptions on the press have resulted in the many bloody assassinations, which have so shocked the outside world.

But Russian despotism is being gradually but effectively undermined by the opening up of that country; railroads increasing its industrial activities, and bringing it into the current of outside ways and opinions.

In this way European politics and morals are undermining the restraining despotism of the Imperial party, and the time is not distant when the entire political emancipation of all Russia will be accomplished.

In spite of her secret police and the restriction of public education, Russia's future is not an altogether dark one.

WHAT DOES IT PROVE?

The general public in these days is quick to stamp with its disapproval, any change upon the part of a man who suddenly alters from his usual course, whether the change may be of a social, religious or political character.

Condemnation for a change in political faith is especially severe, and many men not politicians are deterred from changing their party allegiance through this fear of public sentiment, and remain in the ranks of a party whose political tenets they do not believe.

It is this very fear of "what people will say" that causes thousands of men to keep away from the polls, and to gradually lose all interest in elections, thus giving the very worst elements control of affairs.

The usual "flap" of the politician is accompanied by such a display of newspaper "hurrah," that to claim that "principle" was the cause of the change of heart, would be ridiculous. The politician expects what he receives when he becomes a party seceder, and his real object the public are not long in discovering, when in due time his name is mentioned for "office" by the party into whose ranks he falls.

But of the plain every day business man, farmer or laborer, does their change of party prove anything, or does such a change warrant that ulterior motives be imputed to them?

By no means, rather should they receive commendation, for in the majority of cases their change of party is due to deep seated abuses within the party of their affiliation, which they have been unable to endure and which they realize cannot be corrected unless by teaching those in control that they are only in power so long as they obey the will of the people.

It is these very uprisings of the voters which prove the soundness of our institutions, and give political character and stability to our commonwealth.

The revolt in the Democratic party in North Carolina in 1894, resulting in its defeat, was caused by the belief among the rank and file of the party, that the party leaders had been unfaithful in their trusts, and thousands of good Democrats expressed their disapprobation by staying away from the polls or voting the Fusion ticket.

The rebuke thus administered has been unquestionably beneficial to the Democratic party of this State, and it remains for the party to put in nomination this year such a ticket as will unqualifiedly prove to the voters of North Carolina, especially to those of Eastern North Carolina, that the party means to administer to only the best interests of this commonwealth, and in a way which means an honest, capable, good and safe home government.

With such principles strongly expressed and men nominated who will be recognized as faithful and sincere in the discharge of the trusts given into their hands, there need be no question as to the result in this State next November.

MAY'S CYCLONIC RECORD.

The month of May, 1896, will go upon record as a month peculiarly disastrous in cyclonic disturbances, which have wrecked fortunes and destroyed lives.

All these storms have occurred within a space of about ten days, and covered a great many districts in this country.

Cyclones have usually been regarded as working their destruction upon crops, farm houses, and country places, but thus far the larger country towns and cities have been visited, with most fearful results.

Beginning May 16, the cyclonic period commenced its awful work in Texas, wrecking portions of some half dozen towns, and killing more than two hundred persons.

Two days later, cyclones swept part of Kentucky, Illinois and Kansas, resulting in great damage to property and death to a hundred or more persons.

Michigan and Iowa, have been visited with great losses of property and lives.

The great disaster which has overwhelmed St. Louis, is a fearful closing of the month's record from cyclones. From all accounts the storm at St. Louis was more of a tornado than cyclone in character.

The weather bureau reports a maximum velocity of 90 miles an hour at St. Louis, which does not seem as frightful to persons living along the Eastern shore of North Carolina, where the wind velocity reaches at times 100 miles and even a greater velocity.

It is hoped that these disasters will cease, and that for the rest of the year, cyclones will be absent from every section of the country.

THE RALEIGH'S GIFT.

We learn from a contemporary that the \$700 raised by Editor Stevens of the Southport Leader for the purchase of a testimonial to the cruiser Raleigh, is to be laid out in a silver punch bowl weighing 300 ounces and holding six gallons. A part of that \$700 was good Buncombe money, and we doubt if a

THAT NEW JOURNAL EDITOR.

The State Press Very Kindly Notice His Move to New Berne. The new Editor of the JOURNAL has ever been appreciative of the many kindnesses and courtesies shown him by his brethren of the Press of North Carolina, and not least does he value the sentiments expressed so generously throughout the State on his removal to this new journalistic field of labor in New Berne.

Below are a few of the Press comments.

The New Berne Daily Journal, made its appearance yesterday under the proprietorship and editorial management of Mr. Charles L. Stevens, who for several years has conducted the Southport Leader with such marked ability. Mr. E. E. Harper, former proprietor of the JOURNAL, announces in a card that he has sold to Mr. Stevens his entire outfit, good will, subscription list, books and all accounts, and expresses his best wishes for the success of the paper under its new management. Under Mr. Stevens' management the JOURNAL starts out with its best foot foremost. It has a pretty dress of new type, the make-up is improved, and it takes the press dispatches. Editor Stevens promised New Berne a good paper, and he has the fact, the ability and experience to do all he promises. The Messenger wishes him the most complete success in his new field. We go to meet with Brother Harper, who retires from the JOURNAL. He has made it the best paper, for the size of the city, published in North Carolina, and New Berne owes him a debt of gratitude that no could have been shown him in many ways. Will Messenger, May 29.

Mr. Charles L. Stevens, the clever and talented editor, and one of the proprietors of the Southport Leader, has purchased the entire plant of the New Berne daily and weekly JOURNAL, from Mr. Edgar E. Harper, late proprietor. Mr. Stevens has moved to New Berne and will become active in its editorial and business management, and will make the JOURNAL one of the leading newspapers of Eastern North Carolina. The JOURNAL will take telegraphic news, and have able correspondents to furnish it news.—Raleigh Press-Visitor, May 25.

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VOICE OF THE PEOPLE.

Mr. Clark's Position. I notice in your paper of yesterday that the Democratic party at Fort Barrow expressed its preference for candidates in various ways, naming my first choice for the nomination for the State from this Senatorial district provided the free and unlimited coinage of silver at the ratio of 16 to 1 is endorsed by the parties recommended. I have never sought political preferment and have fostered no political ambition, yet I have always taken an active interest in such political questions and theories as promised directly or indirectly to affect the happiness and prosperity of the great mass of American citizens, most of whom are bearing the same burdens and suffering from the same lack of individual prosperity as the people of Craven county. My views upon the financial question which is agitating the whole country, views which have been entertained and proclaimed for some years were I had supposed well known in this county.

The National Democratic platform adopted in 1892, makes this declaration of the "test of democracy." "We hold to the use of both gold and silver as the standard money of the country, with the addition of both gold and silver, with a dividing ratio against either metal or change for either, but the dollar unit of coinage of both metals must be of equal intrinsic and exchangeable value or be adjusted through international agreement or by such safeguards of legislation as shall insure the maintenance of the parity of the two metals at all times in the market and in payment of debts." This declaration of principle, made to meet the financial views of President Cleveland, has my full approval, containing as it does nothing in favor of the free and unlimited coinage of silver at the ratio of 16 to 1.

I believe that the consummation of the plans and theories of the advocates of silver would cause want, distress, ruin and desolation to stalk abroad in our midst destroying the very class who now clamor most for such legislation.

In reaching my conclusions upon this subject I have been influenced not by personal motives since I am neither an office seeker nor a capitalist, nor have I permitted myself to be influenced by a desire to be in harm's way with an aggressive, enthusiastic and proscription throwing embracing a large majority of the people of this State and county. My views may be erroneous