

THE TAR HEEL.

Vol. 13,

UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA, CHAPEL HILL, N. C., WEDNESDAY, APRIL 19, 1905.

No. 24.

OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION.

A GREAT DEBATE.

Carolina Loses to Washington and Lee in a Debate That Was Full of Interest from Beginning to End.

The first intercollegiate debate between the University of North Carolina and Washington and Lee was held in the college chapel Friday night, and resulted in a victory for Washington and Lee. This being the first debate engaged in with Washington and Lee the outcome of the contest was doubly interesting, and Washington and Lee's representatives showed themselves worthy opponents.

Carolina's representatives were I. C. Wright and A. H. King, who had the affirmative side of the question. T. D. Sloan, of West Virginia, and W. F. Semple, of Indian Territory, were representatives of Washington and Lee. The judges of the contest were Congressman R. N. Page, Dr. M. D. Hardin and Prof. I. W. Cranford. State Senator A. M. Scales, of Greensboro, presided over the debate, and while the judges were out delighted the audience with some reminiscences of his college days.

Mr. Wright was the first speaker and developed the following ideas:

Every action and reaction in the world is the result of the working out of some absolute law. We don't believe in miracles any more. This age is the reign of law. Then what is the law of progress? And does the fact of the Solid South under present conditions conform to it or not?

It is an evolutionary process. Nothing is complete and perfect. The South can not sit still without going backward.

China thought she could, but we see the result. Never have England's institutions or politics of government been too sacred to be changed when conditions demand it, and that is the secret of her growth. Russia thought she could sit still and develop, but we see the result.

Until about thirty years ago Japan thought she could, but she saw she couldn't, so she obeyed the law of progress, threw aside her old ways of doing things, and changed her customs and practices where necessary, and as a result she has become a world power.

Stagnation kills progress. Then how do we prevent stagnation and secure progress? It is by change, competition and rivalry. Kites fly against the wind. You can not develop a football team without an opposing team, and if we are to have the best teams to lead the South on to progress, we must have an opposing team. We must have two strong political parties.

This is the foundation principle of American life. Two strong parties, each trying to do the best for the people and for improvements, all knowing that the people will support the one which does them

the most good, this has been the secret of our growth, and this is what the fact of the Solid South will have none of.

Competition is the life of trade, the life of thought, the law of life. In the "Solid" South there is only one applicant for the government, and he practically inherits the job. The same principle which condemns an absolute monopoly which is behind all this trust regulation and the Sherman law, demands competition in the public life of the South, demands the dissolution of the "Solid South."

The laws of Congress are passed with especial consideration for the wishes of the doubtful States. Then let the South be doubtful and her claims will receive greater consideration. Then and not till then will she reach her fullest growth.

Then what is the good of staying "Solid?" Slavery, war, reconstruction, force bills and negro domination made her solid. They have vanished. But we are told that we are the best people on earth anyway, why change? But the cry of negro, negro, drowns every sensible argument and policy of good and hence the South stays "solid" when all necessity for it has vanished.

What does this mean? It means that she has failed to recognize changed conditions. It means that one phase of the Southern white man's life controls his action and thinking on every question of good and of political life. And we respectfully submit that this keeps him from being free, restrains him, stifles all competition as to governmental policy, violates the absolute laws of progress, in that it is opposed to any change, and is detrimental to the highest development of the South.

FIRST FOR NEGATIVE.

Mr. T. D. Sloan, of Washington and Lee, spoke first for the negative side in the debate. His argument was a demonstration of the fact that the educational and social progress of the South were not being retarded by her political uniformity, and also included a treatment of the negro problem, showing its over-shadowing importance and the unfitness of the Republican party to deal with it.

In his argument to establish the educational progress of the South, Mr. Sloan after admitting a greater percentage of illiteracy in the South than existed at the North, produced statistics to show that the illiteracy was due to the fact of a negro population of 8,000,000, and the financial ruin, caused by the Civil War and the subsequent misrule of reconstruction days. He then spoke of the remarkable growth of public schools and showed a corresponding decrease in illiteracy in the Southern States.

The negro, he said, has received far more than the legitimate share of appropriations for education in the South as seen by the fact that he

has furnished less than \$5,000,000 of the \$140,000,000 appropriated by the South for negro education. While negro illiteracy is decreasing rapidly in the South the report of Hon. Sidney J. Boone to the Southern Educational Conference in 1904 showed that there was a decided increase in this illiteracy in the Western section of the United States, while in the North Atlantic divisions the decrease in illiteracy would not compare with the South. Hence Mr. Sloan concluded that educational progress in the South was greater than in the Republican and doubtful States of our Union.

In his treatment of the social conditions Mr. Sloan showed that there is a well defined determination on the part of the Southerners to eradicate the crime of lynching from the South. But lynchings are not confined to the South. Mob law knows no section. It is peculiar to no party. Democrats and Republicans are alike guilty. Is a man restrained from murder by his views of the tariff? Will a man's views of currency incite him to commit arson? I have no patience with those who are too blind to see that lawlessness is not an affair of the head but of the heart. The cause and cure of such crimes lie far deeper than a man's political preference.

He said that the solving of the negro problem till the present had failed because of Republican interference. This he illustrates by the most recent and promising of all the solutions yet attempted, the adoption of the State Constitution practically eliminating the most objectionable negro vote. "But for Republican interference the negro would quietly and contentedly have accepted this new condition of affairs. This party is unwilling to lose his vote. Consequently their repeated agitation of this question in Republican journals. The negro is beginning to feel that he has been unjustly treated and is becoming restless and insolent. To complicate the situation still further there is an increasingly larger element in the Republican party clamoring for a reduction of Southern representation."

In conclusion Mr. Sloan showed that it was not ignorance nor prejudice which kept the South a political unit, but the interest of self-preservation.

What use to tell her of retarded progress when the most wonderful development is going on under her very eyes? of what avail is it that the Republican party calls the negro problem a political constant pressure on it?

"In spite of direful warnings of Republican politicians the South continues to prosper as she rapidly advances toward that high station to which the God of the Nation has destined her. May her progress be unimpeded by discord in her ranks as she advances to the forefront in the sisterhood of States.

SECOND FOR AFFIRMATIVE.

Mr. King, second speaker for Carolina, spoke in substance as follows:

"Not only the causes which in the beginning modified the South have passed away, but new conditions which demand dissolution have arisen.

"Before the war the South was chiefly an agricultural people. The abolition of slavery wrought wonderful changes in our industrial life. New industries have sprung up. Some of her people seek livelihood on the farm, some in the mine, some in the factory. The South is no more bound solidly together by a oneness of interest than any other section of the Union, yet the South is the only section whose entire electoral vote may be depended upon with absolute certainty. No other section is solid all the time. What is it that holds the South solid? Is it the status of things with the causes all gone? Such a condition directly opposes the fundamental law of progress, throws competition to the four winds of heaven, and forms a party monopoly for which there is no substitute.

"In favoring the dissolution of the "Solid South" we neither condemn nor commend any particular party. We simply advocate the existence of two strong political parties as the exponents of Southern life.

"The people of the South, influenced by a fond recollection of the past, advocate the governmental theories of the past, theories that were then constructive, but now are ultra-conservative. The last campaign is proof of this.

"What will force the South to recognize the changed conditions and destroy the party monopoly? It is competition. Competition is the law of life. The competition of two strong political parties would give us the best administration possible, would drive the pettifogger from his profession, and would enact the laws most conducive to the progress and development of the South.

"People may say what they please about the Populist administration in this State 8 years ago, but it has been a blessing to disguise. When the Democrats were thrown out of power they went to work to get back in, not by corruption and bribery, but the representatives of the party saw the woeful ignorance of the State and seized the opportunity of crediting a good deed to their party. Competition had come. The pool of political stagnation was stirred, and from the moving of the waters came the healing virtue which is fast curing the ignorance in our State.

"The 'Solid South' robs Southern statesmen of the highest positions of trust and honor in our government. Before the South became solid her statesmen filled the chief

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