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R. KENNEDY, Business Manager.

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA.

TREASURY DEPARTMENT.

RALPHIGH, Nov. 6th, 1876.

Mr. Secretary, C. H. Tappan, Governor of North Carolina.

Sir:—I tender you my resignation of the office of State Treasurer to take effect on the 21st of the present month. I have lately seen the more important reasons which justify this action.

The unusual delay of several days in the settlement of State taxes for the present year, only one having been paid to date, indicates financial embarrassment among the people and I thought it necessary to call attention to the fact.

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THE FLUCTUATING VOTE.

How a Contrasted Presidential Election Can Be Decided.

From an interview with Senator Morton in San Francisco (Call).

"Can you tell me how the question of a disputed electoral vote can be settled?"

The old politician's eyes gleamed and his tone became excited as he said: "In 1860 the twenty-second joint rule was adopted. It worked as follows: When the Senate and House assembled in joint meeting to count the electoral vote, if any objection, no matter how trivial, was made with regard to the vote of any State, the two bodies separated and a vote without debate was taken. If either of them supported the objection, the vote of that State was cast out. Recognizing the suicidal policy of this rule, I battled against it until it was finally repealed. I then introduced a bill providing that, in the event of an objection being raised to the vote from any State, the objection could only be sustained by a two-thirds vote from both Houses. For three years I struggled to get this bill through, and it did pass the Senate twice. On the first occasion it was quashed by Democrats in the House, but on the second, last winter, Senator Thurman, who had been its strongest advocate, fell overboard and the bill went to the wall. I was wearied with striving, and said, 'This is all well.' Just before the close of the session the Democrats became alarmed at the situation and were anxious to have prompt action taken in the matter, for they found out their mistake, but it was too late. And now we are thrown back upon the rule of 1860, which prevailed prior to the twenty-second joint rule, thus leaving the power entirely in the hands of the Vice President. The present Vice President is not a Democrat, and that party fear the sting of its own action. This custom of leaving the decision to the Vice President arose from a custom on the 6th of March, 1847, when the effect was made evident in the case of Wisconsin in 1857. Before your day, old Will, the matter stood thus:—Owing to a severe snow storm the Presidential electors in Wisconsin failed to meet on the appointed day, and cast their votes on a later date. When the electoral vote was being counted by Congress, an objection was raised against Wisconsin, on the ground of non-conformity to the law. Vice President Mason, of Virginia, refused to entertain the objection, and the vote of Wisconsin was counted, as he alone had the right to throw it out. So you see, the power is in the hands of the Vice President, and must depend upon the judgment and impartiality of one man. I grant you it is too great a power to be vested in one person, and therefore that is what I tried to remedy it."

Centennial Snake Story.

On Saturday last we were asked by Mr. Jonathan Falford if we had "heard about the snakes." We hadn't, and he proceeded to tell us a story that we first thought incredible, but which we were at last fain to believe and which we now know to be true, having seen the horrid sight, and can vouch with sworn affidavit if necessary, as can others who may have visited the scene within the past two weeks, as to the truth of what we have to relate.

On the 21st, toward evening, young son of Mr. A. Thompson, who lives about eight and a half miles from town, southward, was crossing over a hill on the farm of Mr. Gibbs Myers, the neighbor, in quest of his father's cattle, when he accidentally stepped into a small hole, and, drawing his leg out quickly, drew with it several serpents. The sight frightened the lad, and he ran home with all speed and repeated his experience. He soon gathered, however, with an elder, and found that the hill-top was the home of a community of crawling reptiles, and before they left the spot they had dispatched forty-six.

Day after day this killing went on, until last Sunday the dead snakes were picked up and counted and placed in a pile near the mouth of the stream. The number of 1,776 was counted, and still the work of killing goes on from day to day. We went to the place on Monday accompanied by L. H. Smith, and the astounding sight of near 2,000 snakes in one pile met our gaze, with live ones still in apparently undiminished numbers upon the hill. We killed fifteen in an hour's minutes and took enough, while two little lads were all the time at work. And the work of killing has been going on ever since, until now we hear that about 3,000 have been dispatched, and there are hundreds, perhaps thousands, left.

The snakes are of the species called the blue racer, with a sprinkling of adders, and vary in size from the thickness of a man's finger to that of his wrist and in length from a foot to four or five feet. They run with remarkable speed and at first were cowardly, endeavoring to escape and not disposed to show fight. They are now, however, becoming vicious and show fight, and at times get startlingly aggressive.

The above statement is absolutely true, and the sight is worth a pilgrimage to see.

Now, what is to be done? A work of extermination should be set about and carried to completion. A blast has been set off in the hills, and a snake is an ugly mass of pebbly venomous reptile. A plan is being devised, a time set and a snake killing force organized to see what may be done in the gloomy depths of that infernal hill.—*Concordia (Kan.) Enterprise.*

Novel Sport in Nevada.

The reporter found a crowd of the patrons of the turf, consisting of a strong delegation of the leading sports of the Coast, together with a number of young boys and Plute Indians, who took considerable delight in the maneuvers of the monkeys. Two o'clock arrived, but of course there was no disposition to begin the races. No race ever came off as that track as advertised, since the memory of man. In order to fit the time, however, there is generally some sort of game started, which affords the crowd as much amusement and excitement as the race itself. This time the game was filled by the usual operations by sinking a candle box on the ground until the top was about two inches above the level of the earth. In this he placed a duck, which protruded its head through a hole in the lid.

"Now, gentlemen, three throws for a quarter and the duck who hits the quarter gets a dollar."

A man stepped up to throw, and, being furnished with three light sticks, only consisting of half a broom handle, slung away at the bird's head. With becoming modesty the retiring duck withdrew into the candle box, and allowed the stick to pass harmlessly over, and the applause of the crowd. In a few seconds he popped it up again with a loud quack of victory, and the man let it fly a second shot, which went somewhat astray and planted itself in the capacious stomach of the post, journalist and sport, Pat Holland, while the duck, seeing no special necessity of withdrawing its head, gave a squawk of defiance, and the duck was back to the hole to be refreshed.

The third missile also flew wide of the mark, and hitting a horse in the head, came very near starting a runaway.—Several more enthusiasts joined in the game, until about 200 men were standing about the box in a furious state of excitement, vociferating wildly and laying heavy odds on the ducks while they were being reaped a harvest of quarters at a most astonishing rate.—Finally a man who had made several close calls on the duck laid aside his coat and as he grabbed the sticks there was a fire in his eyes which evidently meant business. Carefully gauging the distance, he waited until the duck, somewhat excited, looked to one side, and then he let fly a stick, the butt end of which hit the fore square on the head, causing him to hang his neck over the side of the box and die.

"Why didn't you put on a clean collar before you left home?" called out an impetuous young fellow to an opponent who had just been reaped. "Cause your mother hadn't sent home my washing," was the extinguishing reply.

When a man is seen walking out of church with a lady on each arm, and seventeen more following on a carpet, it is not a sign that can be relied upon, that he is a Mormon.

The Colored People.

It is a significant fact that to the colored citizens of the south has been given the casting vote in this contest; and they have not betrayed the trust reposed in them. Hunted and persecuted; threatened and scourged; driven from their homes into the swamps and the everglades, they have yet remained true to the party that befriended them, and, disregarding threats and bribes alike, have attested their gratitude and fidelity by this act of devotion. They owed the Republican party for their freedom, and they have paid the debt. Well done, colored men of the south!

But there is another phase of the matter to consider here. The colored men have shown their votes that, having been given their liberty, they knew how to maintain it. They have been beset as no other voters in this country were ever beset. Every expedient and device has been exhausted to turn their votes over to the enemy. We are not at all sure that the same number of men selected miscellaneous consideration and respect than they have been accustomed to receive at the hands of the Democratic party. The colored man is a power in our politics; and if no better motive exists for granting him justice, selfishness must come in and prompt a recognition of his rights and extort guarantees of protection to him from all political parties.—*After Ocean.*

A Great Pigeon Roost.

Pigeons have come into this part of the country by millions. Of evenings the sky is darkened with them in the neighborhood of Dr. Dodson's on the Aglaizle. They have made Dodson's farm their headquarters, and at night the trees and underbrush are loaded down with multitudes. As this roost is but a short distance from our house, we have ample opportunity to watch their manoeuvres and to hear the incessant noise they make. A little before sundown large armies of pigeons are seen coming from different points on the compass, but each army passes onward as if they intended to change their roosting-place. After a while they return and settle on the trees around the roost, not many of them nearer than a mile of the place. They make sudden flights from these trees, and the sound of their wings is like that of a great storm. There is a constant roaring in the air as myriads of the birds fly to and fro. About dark they fly toward the roost, and for a long time they fly round and have the appearance of bees swarming, although the vast number and torrid-like roaring they make surpasses anything in the power of man to describe. After awhile they alight on the trees and bushes, and the limbs are bent downward, often are broken off.

The pigeons keep up a constant chattering, which can be heard for miles away. They are never still during the night. So far as sleepers concerned, such a thing is out of the question with a pigeon. They are disturbed by themselves, such things assembling in a spot that none can be still for a moment, and the incessant discharge of firearms among them causes them to change their location almost constantly. This roost is visited every night by crowds of men, some with guns and others with poles, which they use in thrashing down the pigeons that happen to be at the point struck.

Hundreds are killed every night; but when light appears the vast armies go forth with apparently as much vigor as before. Pigeons have been killed in New York with undisturbed rice in their crops, which they had evidently gathered in the rice fields in the Carolinas. From these and other circumstances it has been estimated that a pigeon flies at the rate of a mile a minute. These birds, on an average wing and tail same time, over a space of country not more than two miles square and a faint idea of the noise they make may be obtained. But no one can ever fully imagine what a pigeon roost is, or how much noise they make, until one is so near.

There is an abundance of mast here now, and we suppose the pigeons will remain here until it is gone. One curious circumstance is that in the neighborhood of this roost we never see a pigeon from the time they leave of mornings until they return of evenings. They are not eating the mast here at all, but somewhere they are all feasting luxuriantly, for they are all fat.—*Southland (Mo.) Rustic.*

One of the F. F. Negro Minstrels.

Isaac Ray, better known by his stage name of Sam Johnson, died recently at River View, Ky., in the 72d year of his age. He introduced Jim Crow Rice and other famous burnt cork artists to the public, and was himself a performer of great talent. He was the manager of variety theaters in New York and other cities, and traveled extensively with negro minstrel troupes. At one time he was connected with Dan Rice in the show business, but many years prior to his death had abandoned the stage. In some respects he was a remarkable man. Last summer he appeared to be in the enjoyment of his usual health and vigor, and although 72 years of age, would have passed for 50. He brought out Dan Bryant and his brother when they were small boys, bringing them upon the stage in a bag, and turning them out before the footlights as colored cupids.

A Queer Fish Out of Water.

Yesterday one of the oddest and ugliest specimens we have ever seen was caught in the trap of Wm. Weaver, off Taylor's Point, Canonicut Island. It is about three and a half feet in length, by about one and a half feet in breadth in its widest part, with skin like that of a shark, an ugly mouth, with four rows of teeth, and its shape is something like that of a bellows fish. Its mouth is on the head extremity, and not at all underlaid, while its side fins are more like the clipped wings of a toad. It was very savage, and when an attempt was made to take it from the trap with a large iron rimmed scoop net, it sprang forward, seized the net, and hung to it until it was placed in the boat. One of the fishermen afterward attempted to poke him with a short stick, and the fish seemingly contracted his body, and then sprang savagely forward, seizing the man's finger and lacerating it severely. The roadside weights were thirty pounds.—*Providence Journal.*

The Gold of the World.

An exchange says: "An English writer has been engaged in estimating the amount of gold in the world. He says that it could if melted in a lump, be contained in a cube twenty-four feet square by sixteen deep. A small lump, indeed, to cause so much crime and sin and misery. It may seem singular that such recklessness should really exist, and yet we think that we could lay our hands on a man who would be perfectly willing to have that lump stowed away in his cellar and staked for his own use, while he went to the aid of the friend of our would do it. His address may be procured by writing to us and inclosing a sample of the gold.

Previous Close Counts.

The electoral vote for President will be closer this year than it has been for many years. In 1797 John Adams received 71 votes in the Electoral College and Thomas Jefferson 68. In 1801 Jefferson received 73 and Burr 33, and the election was decided by the House. Since then there has been no close count in the Electoral College, though there have been several occasions when there have been more than two candidates, no one had a clear majority of the electoral vote, and the election was completed by the House of Representatives as the constitution in such cases provides. It is time to abolish the Electoral College and allow the people to vote directly for President.

The Election of General Butler over his Two Opponents, Hoar and Tarbox, is Another Proof of the Busy It's Inevitability, if not in a least in pace.

He points to be a lively element in the next Congress, since he bears his claim to political preferment mainly on his despatch and ability to combat the heretical theories of the ex-Confederates in the House. The ex-Confederates will in turn doubtless labor to keep their end even and make it warm for the Lowly Statesman.—*Washington Star.*

The Temple of Jannus is Always Open.

A young man of twenty-eight, writing to the *Pull Mall Gazette*, says that ever since he can remember—that is for about twenty-two years—the "cannon of the world has never ceased to roar." His earliest recollection is the Crimean war. After it came the Indian mutiny; Garibaldi's exploits in Italy, and the Franco-Austrian contest about Italian affairs. Then came the four years war of the rebellion in this country, followed by the Prussian attack upon Denmark and the annexation of Schleswig-Holstein. The momentous struggle between Austria and Prussia ensued, culminating at Sadova. The Carlist war, beginning then has raged almost all the time since, and the Cuban insurrection opening two years afterwards, has been going on eight years. Then came the great Franco-German war, with its extraordinary results, including Napoleon's fall in Algeria; Mexico during the interval, has also had her little wars in Abyssinia and Ashantee; India and the Malay peninsula; China and New Zealand. The Dutch have had their Atcheen war; Russia has fought Kokhland and a half-dozen other Oriental States in Asia; France has had her untimely expedition to Mexico and a desultory strife in Algeria; Mexico has been in almost chronic insurrection; Brazil has fought Paraguay; a half-dozen South America republics have had their insurrections; there have been outbreaks in Jamaica, San Domingo and Barbadoes; Egypt has fought Abyssinia, and a native war is now progressing at the Cape of Good Hope. In the United States there have been repeated Indian wars, besides trouble in the South. And to-day, whilst Dahomey is threatening England, and the Continent of Europe seems tending to a general convulsion, whilst Russia is attacked in Asia, France and Algeria, and the English in China, the young man says he is still taught, as a quarter of a century ago, that this is "the era of civilization and peace."—*Philadelphia Ledger.*

A Big Farm.

A gentleman who came down from the North Pacific the other day gives to the *St. Paul Pioneer Press* the following interesting notes in relation to Dalrymple's great wheat farm. The amount of ground sown to wheat this spring was 1300 acres. Harvesting commenced on Monday with nine self-binding machines, and the work was stopped for a week, and a dinner, and the result per day is 180 acres. One man is employed to each team and 12 men follow the machines, shocking the wheat as soon as it is cut. The entire 1300 acres were to be cut and shocked during the week; stacking and threshing will of course follow. Dalrymple is harvesting his crops for about one-fifth the cost required under the system in vogue ten years ago. At the time harvesting commenced it was estimated the yield per acre from the tract would not be less than twenty bushels to the acre. Grasshoppers had done but little damage, the excessive hot weather came too late to blast the crop, and everybody who saw the waving grain pronounced it big wheat farming on the North Pacific success. The farm on which this crop was grown consists of 30,000 acres, on which next season 9000 acres will be sown to wheat, the sod of it having been broken this season. During the breaking season Mr. Dalrymple had as high as one hundred teams at work. The furrows turn were six miles long, and the teams make but two trips a day, travelling with each plow, to make the four furrows, twenty-four miles. The location of this farm is eighteen miles west of Moorhead, Minnesota, in the west new territory of Pembina, and this is not the only big farm in the vicinity, but is the "show" of a dozen of more running from 500 to several thousand.

Training Canaries.

A gentleman residing at Phoenixville says the Redwing Eagle, Queensland, Australia, has several very fine canary birds to which he has given much attention. One of the birds he has taught to sing "Home, Sweet Home," clearly and distinctly. His mode of instruction is as follows: He placed the canary in a room where it could not hear the singing of other birds, and suspended its cage from the ceiling, so that the bird could see its reflection in a mirror. Beneath the glass he placed a musical box that was regulated to play no other tune but "Home, Sweet Home." Hearing no sound but this, and believing the music proceeded from the bird he flew in the mirror, the young canary soon began to catch the notes, and finally accomplished what its owner had been laboring to attain, that of singing the song perfectly. This is an experiment easily tried, and one we should be glad to know the result of from some of our own bird fanciers, if they make the experiment.

Liberia Mocha Coffee.

Liberian coffee is rapidly growing in demand, especially in Europe, where it has been longer and is better known than in this country. A leading African merchant in Liverpool says that he has received applications for Liberia seed coffee from various parts of the world, including Ceylon, Natal, Barbadoes and Arizona. The gentleman alluded to, Mr. James Irvine, offered a few months ago a prize of £20, about one hundred dollars, and a silver medal to the Liberian planter who should send him a ton of the best Liberian coffee, the quality to be decided upon by competent judges in Liverpool. Mr. M. T. Decourcy, of the St. Paul's river is adjudged the successful competitor, and Mr. Irvine has already sent him the £20 and is having the medal in solid silver and exquisite workmanship now prepared. The medal will have on one side the Liberian and English flags across each other with motto above from Proverbs xxviii: "As that tilloeth his land shall have plenty of bread." On the other side the following: "Prize won by M. T. Decourcy, Esq., Moravia, for the best growth of Liberia Coffee during the season of 1876. Presented by James Irvine, Liverpool." This will no doubt stimulate the interest now being felt in Liberia in the growth and cultivation of coffee. By Agriculture, not commerce, is Africa to be elevated. It is believed that a mine of wealth lies, not at all concealed, in the culture of coffee in Liberia, and beautiful homes may be enjoyed on coffee plantations in that prosperous Republic.

Boiled Corn Beef.

It should be put into cold water and skimmed till no more scum rises. It should boil slowly, and a piece weighing five pounds requires three and a half hours to boil. Nothing is poorer than underdone corned beef. Now let me tell your readers how to make the nicest corned beef. The following will be found a very superior way of preparing it: Meat to corn or pickle should always be of the best quality. It is poor economy to pickle poor beef. To one gallon of water take one and a half pounds of salt, half a pound of sugar, half an ounce of saltpetre and half an ounce of potash. In this ratio the pickle to be increased to any quantity desired. Let these be boiled together till all impurities rise from the water, and skimmed off. Then add three or four weeks. The meat should be well covered with the pickle; should not be put down for at least three days after killing, during which time it should be well rubbed with salt-petre.

A Curious War Scene.

A correspondent of the *London Standard*, writing from the Turkish army, says: "The officers on their way to Nish at the first cannon-shot returned to their regiments, but I was detained by a slight, which even in the midst of this sanguinary fight, deserves to be recorded. Among the drivers who bring provisions to the camp in carts drawn by oxen