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Address,
THE CAPE FEAR,
Wilmington, N. C.

CAPE FEAR.

CICERO W. HARRIS.

WEDNESDAY MORNING, DEC. 6, 1876

WHITT PATRICK HENRY SAID.

During all these troublous, revolutionary times we have frequently let our thoughts run back to the predictions of the "American Demosthenes" made while the subject of ratification or rejection of the Constitution was under discussion in the Virginia Convention. Gov. Henry, while a man of warm impulses, was long-headed and far-seeing. He was eminent as well for statesmanship as for oratory. This fact has not been always sufficiently borne in mind by those who have paid homage to his splendid genius. Patrick Henry had fears for the perpetuity of our freedom. He expressed himself in his masterly arguments, which were never fully answered even by Mr. Madison, so prophetically that Americans of to-day who read over his most wonderful passages in the light of recent events are forced to accord to him a prevision rarely found in the greatest of statesmen.

Almost as if he, with the eyes of a seer, glanced across nine decades of human history and saw Ulysses Grant and his co-conspirators at their work of dispersing Legislatures *vi et armis*, Gov. Henry uttered these terrible words:

"Your President may easily become King. Your Senate is so imperfectly constructed that your dearest rights may be sacrificed by what may be a small majority; and a very small majority may continue forever unchangeably this government although horribly defective. Where are your checks in this Government? Your strongholds will be in the hands of your enemies. It is on the supposition that your American Governor shall be honest that all the good qualities of this Government are founded, but its perfect and imperfect constructions put it in their power to perpetrate the worst of mischiefs should they be so disposed, and, worst of all, would not all the world blame our distracted folly in resting our rights upon the contingency of our rulers being good or bad? Show me that age and country, where the rights and liberties of the people were placed on the chance of their rulers being good men, without a consequent loss of liberty. I say that the loss of absolute privilege has ever followed, with absolute certainty, every such mad attempt. If your American Chief be a man of ambition and abilities, how easy will it be for him to render himself absolute? The army is in his hands and it he be a man of address it will be attached to him, and it will be the subject of long meditation with him to seize the first auspicious moment to accomplish his design. And, sir, will the American admit solely relieve you when this happens? I would rather have a King, Lords and Commons, than a government so replete with such insupportable evils. If we make a King, we may prescribe the rules by which he shall rule his people; but the President in the field, as the head of his army, can prescribe the terms on which he shall reign, so far that it will puzzle any American even to get his neck from under the galling yoke."

The army is in Grant's hands. In Louisiana and South Carolina the President has employed that potent arm of the service to thwart the will of the people. Only a day or two ago a Federal General caused soldiers to be stationed as a partisan guard at the doors of the State House, and they obeyed instructions to permit only those who could utter the Radical shibboleth to pass into the halls. This same armed interference has brought about the withdrawal of the Democratic members, who prefer peace and self-denial to scenes of blood and violence.

Thus it goes. Caesar has crossed the Rubicon and now advances rapidly on Rome. Soon there will be no more liberty, either patrician or plebeian, unless the people are aroused and put down the attempted tyranny. This we believe they will do through Congress and public sentiment. Still, let Grant be watched.

THE LEGISLATURE.

When it meets after the holidays this body will be not only refreshed and benefited by contact with the people, but it will have more ample scope of action. The provisions of the new Constitution, as we are prone to call the happily-amended instrument, are to go into operation on the first day of the new year. A number of vital propositions are up before the Legislature.

Among these is the transcendently important one of county and municipal government. Another is the question of the State debt. A third is the matter of usury. All these and other subjects will engross the attention of members until the limitation day throws its shadow over the halls of legislation and admonishes incipient Mirabeaus and Earl Chatham's that the time of their cessation from labor and excitement has come. This sixty-day arrangement will work wonders in the course of a few sessions. Mark the prediction.

TOO SOON.

The revolutionary programme of the Radical party is broached too soon. The talk of casting the electoral vote of the Republican States for Grant because he can be relied upon to play the role of Cromwell, and Hayes cannot, shows a desperation on the part of the conspirators which will stop at nothing within the limits of their power. They know the plastic nature of Grant as toward his party associates, and his iron determination in contests with those whom he regards as enemies. On this they rely with perfect confidence. It is not amazing, therefore, that they should conspire to abandon Hayes, who is comparatively weak in will, and return to Grant, whom they know to be relentless in carrying out a purpose. But their programme is developed too soon. The people have time to consider the end of these things. They will not tamely permit a military puppet to defeat their will. America is not the place and the second century of republican independence not the time for such things to be done with impunity. The movement to supplant Hayes by Grant is announced too early—it will defeat itself by giving the people time to rally in behalf of freedom.

THE SELECTION OF SPEAKER.

The House of Representatives has done itself great credit. Mr. Randall is the most experienced parliamentarian now in Congress. He is not only an adept at strategy and a student of legislative science, he is wiry, wary, sinewy, vigorous and progressive. We do not hesitate to speak of him as the man of all others to cope with the Garfields, the Fosters and the Townsends who will occupy the leading positions in the great Congressional battle of the next two months.

The first move of the Democratic forces is a brilliant stroke. Sometimes the choice of a leader alone decides a campaign. Samuel J. Randall will be fully equal to the crisis.

To-day the Electoral Colleges of the various States meet at the State Capitals and count the vote for President and Vice-President.

Even if we are not smart we know what to do when troubled with a cough or cold. No doctor bills for us. We take a 25 cent note, go to the nearest drug store and buy a bottle of Dr. Bull's Cough Syrup. One dose relieves us entirely.

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The new paper will give warm encouragement to the agricultural, mining and manufacturing interests of the State. It will urge immigration. But while it will extend the hand of welcome to the sturdy foreigner or other immigrant, it will seek to impress upon the people already here the necessity for economy, thrift, labor and fidelity to home and State. North Carolinians must build up North Carolina.

In presenting certain popular literary features THE CAPE FEAR is ahead of its contemporaries. No American daily newspaper places original fiction habitually before its readers except in the form of sensational intelligence. Stories for the fireside, both serial and complete, will be found occupying a short space in THE CAPE FEAR. The literary matter of the paper will, however, always be subordinated to the news.

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NATIONAL DEMOCRATIC PLATFORM.

We, the delegates of the Democratic party of the United States, in national convention assembled, do hereby declare the administration of the Federal Government to be in urgent need of immediate reform; do hereby enjoin upon the nominees of this Convention and of the Democratic party in each State, a zealous effort and cooperation to this end, and do hereby appeal to our fellow-citizens of every former political connection to undertake with us this first and most pressing patriotic duty for the Democracy of the whole country.

We do here reaffirm our faith in the permanency of the Federal Union, our devotion to the Constitution of the United States, with its amendments, universally accepted as a final settlement of the controversies that engendered the civil war, and do here record our steadfast confidence in the perpetuity of republican self-government; in an absolute acquiescence in the will of the majority, the vital principle of the Republic; in the supremacy of the civil over the military authority; in the total separation of Church and State, for the sake alike of civil and religious freedom; in the equality of all citizens before just laws of their own enactment; in the liberty of individual conduct untrammelled by sumptuary laws; in the faithful education of the rising generation, that they may preserve, enjoy and transmit these best conditions of human happiness and hope. We behold the noblest products of a hundred years of changeable history; a Union while upholding the bond of our Union and great charter of these our rights, it behooves a free people to practice also that eternal vigilance which is the price of liberty.

DEMOCRATIC FINANCE DEMANDED. We demand a judicious system of preparation by public economy, by official retrenchments and by wise finance, which shall enable the nation to assure the whole world of its perfect ability and perfect readiness to meet any of its promises at the call of the creditor entitled to payment. We believe such a system well devised, and above all, entrusted to competent hands for execution, creating at no time an artificial scarcity of currency, and at no time alarming the public mind into fore withdrawal of that vast machinery of credit, by which 95 per cent. of all business transactions are performed—a system open, public and inspiring general confidence, would, from the day of adoption, bring healing on its wings to all our harassed industry, and set in motion the wheels of commerce, manufacturing and the mechanical arts; restore employment to labor and renew, in all its national source, the prosperity of the people.

REFORM IN TAXATION. Reform is necessary in the sum and mode of Federal taxation so that capital may be set free from distrust and labor lightly burdened. We denounce the present tariff levied upon nearly five thousand articles as a masterpiece of injustice, inequality and false preference. It yields a dwindling, not a yearly rising revenue. It has impoverished many industries that subsidize a few; it prohibits imports that might purchase the products of American labor; it has degraded American commerce from the first to an inferior rank upon the high seas. It has cut down the sales of American manufactures at home and abroad, and depleted the returns of American agriculture and industry, following in its wake the people five times more than it produces to the treasury, obstructs the processes of production, and wastes the fruits of labor. It promotes fraud and fosters smuggling, enriches dishonest officials and bankrupts honest merchants. We demand that all customhouse taxation shall be only for revenue.

RETRENCHMENT IN EXPENSES. Reform is necessary in the scale of public expense, Federal, State and municipal out of Federal taxation has swollen from \$60,000,000, gold, in 1860, to \$450,000,000, currency, in 1870. Our aggregate taxation was from \$184,000,000, gold, in 1860, to \$730,000,000, currency, in 1870, or in one decade less than \$ per head to more than \$18 per head. Since the peace the people have paid to their tax-gatherers more than three times the sum of the national debt, and more than twice that sum for the Federal Government alone. We demand a vigorous frugality in every department and from every officer of the government.

WASTE OF THE PUBLIC LANDS. Reform is necessary to put a stop to the profligate wastes of the public lands and their diversion from settlers by the party in power which has squandered two hundred millions of acres upon railroads alone, and out of more than three that aggregate has disposed of less than a sixth directly to tillers of the soil.

CHRISTIAN CITIZENS AND HEATHEN CHIN

Reform is necessary to correct the mistakes of the Republican Congress and the errors of our treaties, and our diplomatic relations which have stripped our adopted citizens of foreign birth and kindred race recrossing the Atlantic of the shield of American citizenship, and have exposed our brethren of the Pacific coast to the incursions of parent stock, and, in fact, now by law denied citizenship through naturalization, as being neither acclimated, nor the habits of a progressive civilization, nor exercised in liberty under equal laws. We denounce the policy which thus discards the liberty-loving German and tolerates the revival of the Coolie trade in Mongolian women, imported for immoral purposes, and Mongolian men hired to perform servile labor contracts, and demand such modification by Congress within a constitutional limitation, as shall prevent the further importation or immigration of the Mongolian race.

REFORM IS THE CAMPAIGN ISSUE.

Reform is necessary, and can never be effected but by making it the controlling issue of the election. Rifting it above the two false issues with which the office-holding class and the party in power seek to smother it. The false issue with which they would enkindle sectarian strife in respect to the public schools, of which the establishment and support belong exclusively to the several States, and which the Democratic party has cherished from their foundation, and resolved to maintain without partition or preference for any class or creed, and without contributing from the Treasury to any—the false issue by which they seek to light anew the dying embers of sectional hatred between kindred people, once unnaturally estranged, but now reunited in one indivisible Republic and a common destiny.

REFORM IN THE CIVIL SERVICE.

Reform is necessary in the civil service. Experience proves that the efficient, economical conduct of the governmental business is not possible if its civil service be subject to change at every election—be a prize fought for at the ballot-box—be a brief reward of party zeal, instead of posts of honor, assigned for proved competency and held for fidelity in the public employment. That the dispensing of patronage should neither be a tax upon the time of all our public men, nor the instrument of their ambition. Here again persons falsified in the performance, attest that the party in power can work out no practical or salutary reform.

REFORM AMONG THE HIGHEST PUBLIC SERVANTS.

Reform is necessary even more in the higher grades of public service—Preside it,

Vice-President, Judges, Senators, Representatives, Cabinet officers. These officers, servants, their offices are not a private prerogative; they are a public trust. When the annals of this Republic show the disgrace and censure of a Vice-President, a late Speaker of the House of Representatives marketing his rulings as a peddling officer; their friends profiting secretly by their votes as law-makers; five chairmen of the leading committees of the late House of Representatives exposed in jobbery; a late Secretary of the Treasury forcing balances in the public accounts; a late Attorney General misappropriating public funds; a Secretary of the Navy, enriched by levying off the profits of contractors with his Department; an ambassador to England censured for a dishonorable speculation; the President's private secretary guilty of embezzling upon trial for guilty complicity in frauds upon the revenue; a Secretary of War impeached for high crimes and confessed misdemeanors—the demonstration is so complete that the first step in reform must be by the people, or honest men from another party. The disease of one political organization infects the body politic and thereby making no change of men or party, we can get no change of measures and no reforms.

DRIVEN FROM POWER.

All these abuses, wrongs and crimes—the product of the sixteen years ascendancy of the Republican party—create a necessity for reform, confessed by Republicans themselves. But their reformers are voted down in convention and displaced from the Cabinet. The mass of honest voters is powerless to resist the eighty thousand office-holders—their leaders and guides. Reform can only be had by a peaceful, civic revolution. We demand a change of system; a change of administration; a change of parties, that we may have a change of men.

THE STATE GOVERNMENT.

Names of Officers.

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Clerk of Supreme Court—W. H. Bagley, of Wake.
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Officers of the Municipality of Wilmington.

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