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STOP THE FOLLY.

We see it stated in some of our exchanges that another effort is to be made to reach the North Pole, and right here we will state that it is from our unscientific standpoint one of the most stupendous follies of the 19th century, and should be characterized as a crime. The snow-roofed and ice-walled homes of the grizzly bear and the seal are not to be disturbed by the invasion of man, and all attempts so far to unravel the mysteries and read the secrets of that frozen silence which broods over everlasting winters, have been met by unnumbered privations, by acutest suffering, by slow torture, by gaunt starvation, and agonizing death. The shrouded bones of the brave and heroic spirits which dot those far away Siberian waste should arise with the breath of the wind, and speak out with storm tuned notes that the ice and the darkness of one eternal winter will not give up the secrets of their bitter home. Those impenetrable barriers have been assailed time and again and all in vain. Science, skill, experience, bravery, devotion have knocked at the frowning fortress and tried to enter that wintry realm, but the Great unknown of the North, marshalled together his battalions of snow and sleet and ice, and making an impassable wall, said to the brave mariners that not until Arctic seas should melt their thousand centuries of ice "into fervent heat" would the secrets of its home be told or the sanctity of its desolation broken.

DAVID B. HILL.

No star in the political firmament now shines with richer splendor and rarer brilliancy than that of David B. Hill of New York, who has just laid down the gubernatorial robes to don the more exalted ones of Senator. In passing from the Executive office to the National Senate Gov. Hill leaves behind him a record of service which history will honor and which all honest men will applaud when the passions he has baffled shall have passed away. He has made some mistakes, certainly. The World says that he erred in not signing the Republican Census bill. That bill did indeed provide very expensively for statistical work not contemplated by the Constitution and in itself wasteful of public money. But it would have been better to endure the extravagance than to give an excuse, of which the Republicans have been alert to avail themselves, for perpetuating an unjust and outworn appointment and maintaining minority rule in the State for six years. As an offset to that must be counted his courageous battle, in those closing months of his service, for majority rule and the integrity of the elections. With the best of excuses—nay, with the fullest justification—for resigning that responsibility into other hands, and in the face of revilement, he has, with great courage and energy, remained at Albany till the work of baffling fraud and securing the result decreed by

the people is fully done. He leaves office now with a conscience void of offense of any duty neglected, any responsibility shirked.

Senator Hill is now one of the most prominent figures in the line of Presidential aspirants, and many think that under his masterly and skilful and adroit leadership the Democratic hosts would be led to triumphant election in November. Be that as it may there is no doubt of the fact that Hill is unquestionably a most interesting personality at this time, and since he has entered a new and broader and more conspicuous arena of usefulness his majestic individuality will make a deeper imprint upon the public heart, and his thrilling fires of personal magnetism will start and quicken the pulse of enthusiasm into warmer and higher throbbings.

GROVER CLEVELAND.

The brilliant and ably edited New Berne Journal, in speaking of the statesman whose name heads this article, says: "He is pre-eminently the National Democrat. It was his strong arm that broke down the middle-wall of partition and made the stars and stripes again the flag of an indissoluble Union of indestructible States. Fully comprehending our complex system of Government, he maintained the integrity of the Union and the rights of the States, and wore without reproach the mantle of Jefferson. He was easily the first American statesman, and his administration was not only the admiration of contemporary Governments, but it will stand the test of ages and hold its rank as one of the ablest and most beneficent in the history of the Republic. Without leave asked of any, he boldly enunciated his political opinions, and his party with one accord followed his leadership and made Tariff Reform the slogan of the party and the touch-stone of Democracy. He staked his reelection, upon principle. He was defeated, but the principle survived his defeat, and to day it is the polar star of our political heavens. To his hands we would again commit the flag of the American Democracy."

STAMPS FOR MONEY.

Representative Alexander, of North Carolina, speaking of his bill in regard to redeemable stamps, said that he thought that this was a measure that if carried into effect would greatly benefit people in the rural districts, and especially those living remote distances from post offices. By his bill Mr. Alexander proposes that the government shall issue redeemable stamps of denominations ranging from five cents to three dollars. These stamps are to be sold at all post-offices and redeemed at any money order office. Mr. Alexander says that as the currency is now issued a man living five or ten miles from a small post-office is in a bad fix if he wants to send twenty-five, fifty or seventy five cents to a city: but if the government provides the stamp described in his bill convenient denominations will be handy, and people in towns who receive them will be able to have them redeemed at post offices, instead of having to rely upon the ordinary postage stamps, now so generally used, and which have to be sold at a considerable discount when disposed of. Mr. Alexander thinks that all

merchants in the cities, newspaper publishers, and others who have dealings with the country people, would be much benefitted if his bill became a law, and so would the country people themselves.

THE SOUTH'S PRODUCT

The Manufacturers' Record, of this week, in its annual review of the industrial and general business interests of the South during the past year, shows this section has made very solid and substantial progress and free from any speculative operations, notwithstanding the general financial stringency and the low price of cotton. The decline in the price of cotton is largely offset by the great increase in the South's grain crops; but cotton has so long been the staple crop that low prices cause a lack of confidence greater than is justified. This, however, will pass away with the general improvement in business throughout the country. The production of corn in the South in 1891 was about 568,000,090, the largest crop ever raised, exceeding the crop of 1890 by 117,000,000 bushels, against 16,000,000 bushels over 1890, the total yield of wheat and corn of the year being about 627,000,000 bushels.

MERIT WINS.

It is always pleasant to know that merit has been rewarded, and the pleasure is increased when the recipient is connected with us by ties of kinship, friendship or citizenship. As North Carolinians we are glad to learn that a native of this State has been honored in New York. The Sun says: "Mr. Nicoll appointed James W. Osborne of the law firm of Lamb, Osborne and Petty to succeed Mr. Lynn as a deputy assistant, at \$4,000 a year. Mr. Osborne was born in Charlotte, N. C., in 1859. He was graduated from Davidson College in 1879, and from the Columbia College Law School in 1885. He has practiced in this city since then. Mr. Osborne belongs to a family of lawyers. His father was the late Judge Osborne of North Carolina and his brother, Francis Osborne, is the District Attorney of one of the largest counties of that State. Mr. Osborne is a Tammany Hall Democrat. He is a member of the Democratic Club, the Southern Society, and the Bar Association."

COTTON PRICES TUMBLE.

The New York Times of Jan. 10 says: There was a most a panic in the Cotton Exchange yesterday, and the price of middling fell lower than it had been in forty years. The market had been in an unsettled condition for some time, owing to the unexpected large receipts at the ports, and the consequent growing belief that the crop will exceed all estimates and possibly even run ahead of last year's, which was the largest in the history of the industry. The trouble yesterday was precipitated by the intelligence of a decline of 4 to 5 points in the Liverpool market, and resulting general tendency of liquidation, which produced very large sales. Rumors of failure followed, of course, and there was a decline of 1 cent in spots and of 25 cents in futures, and even more for distant months.



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