

# THE OBSERVER.

FAYETTEVILLE, N. C.

TUESDAY, AUGUST 18, 1896

E. J. HALE, Editor and Proprietor.

E. J. HALE, Jr., Business Manager.

## THE REAL ANARCHISTS.

The alterations in men's beliefs—or, we might better say, in the application of their beliefs—which circumstances bring about, supplies a curious study. There is nothing more striking in this way than the changed tone of the revolutionists of the anti-slavery period in our own country. As a rule, our observations of this phenomenon are necessarily confined to the violent contrast which the gilded youth of New England and New York of the present day present to the generation of agitators who preceded them—a sort of vicarious comparison, as it were. Once in a while an individual of the latter class lingers upon the stage whose own life affords the contrast. There are not many left now, but the alert editor of the New York Journal has just brought to light the record of a distinguished one.

In the period alluded to the South ruled, and against its conservatism nearly all the brains of our Eastern States was arrayed. The learned editor of the New York Sun—who now numbers among his putative anarchists, as the Journal points out, the present as well as the coming President of the United States, Henry George, W. D. Howells, Governor Altgeld, Rev. Lyman Abbott and many others equally diverse in their personal beliefs—was a shining light among the younger agitators of that eventful period. In working themselves up over the woes of the African slaves (no longer their own property), these apostles of change let their sympathies go far afield, and the revolution of '48 supplied a rich outlet for their expression. It is in one of his outbursts over the misery of the revolutionists against the Continental despotisms that the Journal catches and now reproduces Mr. Dana. Here is what the then managing editor of the New York Tribune had to say before the tide of wealth had shifted the seat of conservatism:

"Would to God that this hot and bloody struggle were over, and that Peace might come at last to the world! And yet I invoke no seeming peace that the weaker may ever anew be plundered, but a peace with Liberty, Equality, and honest man's and not robber's Order for its condition. What is the way to such a peace? Through war and destruction, through such war as that at Rome, and that in Hungary—perhaps, too, through such as that of June, 1848, in Paris. The history of the past and the examples of the present instruct us that the privileged and powerful, by whatever name they are called, do not yield their privileges except as they are compelled. When will Russia lay aside the pretension to dictate darkness and despotism to Europe? When she is compelled. When will the bourgeoisie consent to live by their own labor and not by the labor of others? When they are compelled. How can that compulsion be exercised? In a free State through the ballot and the independent action of the people under the influence of ideas. How shall States be made free so that ideas and the people may act? Hitherto Providence has freed them by revolution, nor is it apparent that other means are now to be employed. It may be that the day of revolutions is past, but if so why are they there in such abundance? \* \* \* Let others give aid and comfort to despots. Be it ours to stand for liberty and justice, nor fear to lock arms with those who are called hotheads and demagogues when the good cause requires."

Circumstances do, indeed, alter cases. But if we go to the bottom of this matter, we shall find many other surprises. Governor Altgeld is called an anarchist by Mr. Cleveland's followers. Yet even the gold Democrats who frequent the Iroquois Club in Chicago, as this writer happens to know, say that he is one of the best Governors Illinois has ever had and resent the charge that he is an anarchist.

On the other hand, it is but little more than a year since Mr. Cleveland knowingly and deliberately violated the Constitution in order to appoint one of his purchased legislators to office.

Who are the real anarchists—Bryan, Bland, Morgan, Jones, Vest, Sewall, Altgeld and others who are striving to restore the government to its Constitutional moorings, or the hypocrites who cover up their own violations of the letter as well as the spirit of our laws by designating others by that offensive epithet?

### CURRENT COMMENT.

One of our contemporaries inveighs against the State Democratic executive committee for making it "a new test of party fealty for one to be in favor of silver," and yet the committee has neither passed a resolution to that effect nor taken any action whatever that looks to the making of such a test. On the contrary, the same committee, which by a vote of 29 to 5 wisely adopted Chairman Jones's plans for electoral fusion, had ten minutes before elected Mr. J. P. Caldwell a member of the Central committee in order to proclaim its complete freedom from the spirit of "proscription." What a very funny world this is anyhow.

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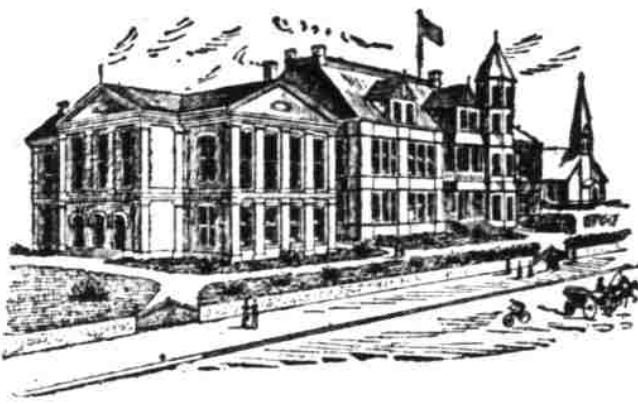
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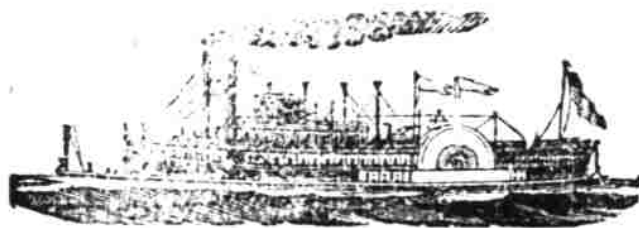
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