Wilmington Journal

WILMINGTON, N. C.

FRIDAY, MAY 21, 1875.

GRANT has had two Secretaries of State, Washburn and Fish; four of the Treasury, Stewart, Boutwell, Richardson and Bristow; two of War, Rawlins and Belknap; two of the Navy, Borie and Robeson; four Attorney Generals, Hoar, Akerman, Williams and Pierrepont; two Post-master Generals, Creswell and Jewell; two Secretaries of the Interior, Cox and Delano.

A Boston [illegible] German [illegible] Bismarck [illegible] Louis Republican.

M. in the Louisville Courier-Journal says that [illegible] South do not [illegible] the Mississippi River [illegible] Louis Republican.

[illegible] Johann Wilhelm Schumenus has been dissolved by the parents in full legal form. Follow this paragraph.

HON. W. M. RAGSDALE.

We had stated that Senator Ransom will be present at the celebration in Charlotte this week and will read the Mecklenburg Declaration. This, we regret to state, authoritatively, is a mistake. The condition of his health will not admit of his attendance. His absence will be a matter of regret by many thousands of North Carolinians, who had expected the pleasure of shaking hands with him and thanking him for his able, eloquent and manly defence of the State and the whole South in his recent truly great speech in the United States Senate. One or two gentlemen from distant States told us that they intended going to Charlotte and the pleasure of meeting Senator Ransom was among the greatest inducements of the visit.

COLORADO.

THE political complexion of the coming State of Colorado seems to be as follows: Political parties are rather evenly divided, and personal popularity will go a great way in the election of State officers. The northern portion of Colorado is settled from the Northern and Eastern States, and is Republican. The middle portion is to a great extent Democratic, and the southern portion is almost entirely Democratic, having been settled largely from the Gulf States. The election for members of the Constitutional Convention will take place in the fall. The Convention will be held in January, and the vote on the ratification of the Constitution will be held in July, 1875. Colorado is to be hailed the "The Centennial State."

CENTENNIALS AND RECONCILIATION.

The meeting together of our people around the tombs of liberty, precisely one hundred years ago, to renew their vows upon the altars of their country, is having a marked effect upon the sentiment of the people. And long ere we assemble to celebrate the centennial of that dividing glory of the war of the Revolution we may hope to see a reunited people and a prosperous country. Already the hatchets of Concord and Lexington, Charlotte and Thermopylæ are buried. The celebration of Mecklenburg and Bunker Hill makes the popular heart throb with patriotic emotion, with a common pride in the behalf of a common sire. These influences, by changing the current of men's thoughts, in bringing together those long estranged, and in restoring good feeling and friendship among our people, cannot fail of the happiest results.

The patriotic sentiments of General BARTOW are quoted and General VANCE, the orator whose words gleaned in the front ranks of the Federal columns during the war, find responsive echoes from Vice-President Wilson and Judge Kerner, whose services in the civil councils of the country have been heretofore marked by a bitterness almost unpardonable. A few years ago general orders prohibited the decoration of Confederate graves at Arlington, and guns and sentinels stood ready to arrest and punish offenders. Now, North and South, friends of both armies unite in the half-sad work of honoring their dead comrades and sharing each other's sorrow:

"Blue and brave is the blue,
Above and true is the gray."

Formerly the proceedings of the meetings of the Grand Army of the Republic were characterized by denunciations of the Confederate cause and its chief leaders, and no story of Southern outrages was too improbable to find ready belief in hearts filled with animosity and hatred to those who had lately met them in battle. Last week this same organization signalized its meeting by extending a full and cordial invitation to all who fought in the Great War, on either side, to join in the solemn commemoration of illustrious dead; in rejoicing over peace returned.

We see the much more seldom use and the opprobrious epithet is applied by Southern papers and speakers to the South and its people. The rapid approaching centennials of a successful "rebellion" seem to make the decendents of the "traitors" of 1775 careful of epithets, and possibly bring them to consider why the "rebels" of one hundred years ago are "patriots," and the "rebels" of 1861, their grandchildren, are "traitors."

If all the memories of 1775, which have for nearly a century bound together our people in a brotherhood of States, with a common pride which claimed and received allegiance through affection and not from fear, and rendered the United States of America the freest, happiest and one of the most powerful governments on earth, it is well that they are being revived. Upon these liberty let us rekindle the patriotism and renew the [illegible] our fathers made and laid down their lives.

NORTHERN REACTION.

For some cause the reaction in Northern sentiment towards the South has been as sudden as it was unprecedented. Our recent national celebrations seemed to have engendered a feeling of reconciliation which years of legislation have not brought about. In the speeches of distinguished Northern soldiers and politicians, who have heretofore preached only the doctrine of hate and unmeased oppression, in the columns of the leading newspapers, in the pulpit, in all, in the hearts of the people, we have the unmistakable evidences of a change—a very great change. The extremes were up and down swift running currents, and in joining the stream of the current we may be borne together beyond the point of safety. But there is a happy medium between the extremes, and we hope to see our people find it. The reaction has been so sudden and so complete that it has caught many of our public men and journals in the rapid current, and they are now trying to stem the tide. We hope they will not succeed. The South has done nothing to forfeit the good opinion of the North, and we see no reason why the South should not be as heartily united as New York and Pennsylvania, and, as a matter of fact, there is no longer such a thing in existence as sectionalism and interest opposed to another section. The national interest from the Gulf to the Adirondacks. Those who would raise the same effect, it appears that there is some other hopelessly blind or wicked. There are American interests, and there are common to the whole country. Every act, every word or utterance which obscures this fact is a blunder or a crime. It is a common thing to hear the Mississippi spoken of as the great bond of union between the sections. It is indeed a noble one, which the country should strengthen in every possible manner. But there are others equally important. The magnificent range of the Alleghanies, and the great chain of lakes, are place in the same granite coasts of New Hampshire and within sight of the gulf, are such a bond. On their flanks and in the valleys they hold coal and iron and timber forests, that must, sooner or later, give birth to industries such the world has never yet seen. Some are scarcely imagined, while the overwhelming water power from the streams that flow down their sides slope [illegible] ready to make the [illegible] In connection with these, and the harbors of the southern coast, from Norfolk to Mobile, every one of which will, in the course of time, [illegible] port and entrepot of a thriving commerce. Why should the possessors of such a heritage as this quarrel? We cannot look in the face of such a unanimity why should we not [illegible] the future and bury our petty animosities, which had grown out of the [illegible] ties, our stupid distrust of each other, our costly and [illegible] prejudices in the contemplation of the sure rewards that [illegible] our united pursuit. Great strides have been the progress of this country since it consisted of a hundred years ago, of a thin fringe of scattered settlements between the mountains and the seacoast, it has been almost [illegible] cant compared to that which [illegible] ble in the next hundred years. [illegible] should we postpone unnecessarily [illegible] entrance, in hearty accord, on the flattering career? We have almost unlimited resources; we have the labor, the skill, and in great part the capital required for the immediate future. All we lack, so far as the South is concerned, is political tranquility, and we supply that lack, as far as in our power, is the urgent, unquestionable duty of every American citizen. Most of all it is the duty of every member of that party which justly boasts that its essential purpose has been to establish the country in a perfect Union.

RAILWAYS IN FRANCE.

Some interesting statistics have been published concerning the highways and railways of France. It appears that there are 90,000 kilometres of routes nationales in France, which cost the State 1,200,000,000 francs, the interest of which, at 5 per cent, is 60,000,000 francs. To this sum must be added the [illegible] expense of keeping and repairing which is 30,000,000. In return for this the Government gets, by way of tolls and passengers and merchandise, only 5,000,000. The railways, now 19,000 in number, present a very different aspect. The State has guaranteed the interest of the expenses and receipts. The State has paid to the various companies, since the commencement of the work, 1,100,000,000. To the interest on this sum, which is 55,000,000, must be added 40,000,000 as State guarantee. The Government, therefore, annually pays 95,000,000 per annum to the railways. In return for which it receives, in money, 106,000,000, viz. 106,000,000 for services rendered, and 25,000,000 for the revenue of the lottery. Deducting the 95,000,000 from the 106,000,000 leaves a balance of 11,000,000 for the Government, but at the eleventh hour the French author announced that he would rather his history should be translated and published by Americans."

The Watkins Troupe play in Charlotte this week.

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STATE NEWS.

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