The Lexington Dispatch.

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THE

LEXINGTON DISPATCH.

FOR

1873.

Official Paper of Lexington County.

PUBLISHED EVERY WEDNESDAY,

By Godfrey M. Harman,

AT LEXINGTON C. H., S. C.

CAPT. W. D. M. HARMAN

EDITOR.

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The Charleston News is the leading Democratic Journal of this State, and has a large circulation in the Southern States. Advertising inserted at liberal rates.

Retrenchment in the State Government.

The liberal and generous attitude which this journal has maintained towards the present administration from its inauguration up to the present time, is well known, and is, we believe, universally conceded. Our indignation at the foul wrongs which have been heaped upon this helpless State in the name of liberty, equality and republicanism, has been deep indeed, and our contempt for the shameless perpetrators of these wrongs has been not a whit less than that of those who have expressed it in wholesale anathemas against any and every man associated with the dominant party. We, however, have acted, and still propose to act, upon the conviction which we entertain, that we can best serve the public interests by refraining from factious opposition to the powers that be. It has been our effort to sink the partisan in the patriot, and, by freely commending the administration in what it might do of right, add strength to our censures of what it might attempt of wrong.

The Republicans have a grasp upon the State, through the ignorance and fears of the negro population, which cannot easily be shaken. In a normal condition of things the gross misdeeds of their official representatives, debasing the public morals and so fatally affecting every material interest of the State, would have damned the party forever, and hurled its minions to the depths of infamy, even in the estimation of their party adherents. As it is, such a result has but partially followed. Scott and Parker, Chamberlain and Neagle, the ring-leaders of the previous corrupt administration, have been thrown overboard, and while a great number of unprincipled adventurers have retained political power and position, there has surely been a slight infusion at least of a better element. It is not, therefore, altogether to be despaired of that the Republicans of the State may ere awhile give us a government measurably decent and honest.

Such, at any rate, being the main hope held out to us, we have deemed it wise to promote the sloughing process by assisting the better men of the party. But while we may thus consent to endure a Radical we shall not share a rascal; and while, on the one hand, we shall hasten to hail the administration for every proper or approximately proper act, we will not be tardy, on the other, in condemning in them everything manifestly evil.

The present administration went into power under certain solemn pledges to the people. They promised so much that it was impossible for the most incredulous to believe that they would not fulfil a tithe. They were to give us thorough retrenchment and reform in the conduct of public affairs. All useless offices were to be abolished, salaries to be reduced, and expenditures generally curtailed, within the compass of a moderate rate of taxation. Have they kept these promises in whole or in part? We regret to be forced to say that they have not. The expenditures have not been visibly diminished, and the rate of taxation is higher than ever before, though no provision is made for the payment of interest on the public debt. There is no assurance either that even the enormous rate of taxation will be sufficient to meet the extravagant expenditures, and the probabilities are that November next will find us with almost as great a deficiency as had to be provided for during the current fiscal year.

The people have been forced to pay this year a rate of taxation thirteen times as high as before the war, and five times as high as in 1867, the last year of Democratic rule. With all this additional burden we came out in debt. The administration have one more year in which to make good their pledges. Let them see to it that is done, or else let them retire to private life, that better and more capable men may take their places. —*Charleston News and Courier.*

A Chicago widower, who has been married nine times, says that which a man most wants of a wife is her companionship, sympathy, courage and love. He is right. The true man wants his wife's companionship when he has to get up in the night and see what noise is in the cellar. Her courage is eminently valuable in the general debates of the neighborhood over the possession of some domestic article, and her love is absolutely indispensable when he gets in late at night. But her sympathy! Well, any one who has ever picked up the wrong stove-lid with his bare hand can estimate the value of that.

Theory of Appointments.

It is popularly supposed that any official is compelled to place in position all the supporters who may have labored for his election, or have been instrumental in securing his appointment. The conduct of the public service appears to be a secondary consideration, and the private character of the applicant is generally lost sight of.

This erroneous idea is the direct result of the democratic dictum "To the victors belong the spoils." It is needless to say that such a theory of appointments is not republican, neither is it in accord with any principle of good government. The public service demands that none but efficient officers should be placed in positions of public trust. The question of capability once settled, the trustworthiness of the applicant should be decided. If these two questions are satisfactorily settled, party claims and personal preferences may legitimately follow.

The purity of American politics can be secured in no other way than by a strict adherence to these principles, for the basis of political principle with most office seekers is the probability of securing a snug berth at the public expense, and any political action resting upon such a theory is sure to be characterized by all the tricks and subterfuges of reckless trade and speculation.

In National and State affairs it must be admitted that too much of this debasing business has been indulged. It is not so much the fault of any party as it is of some men, and the time has come for a radical reform in this particular.

It is for this reason that we have constantly urged upon the good people of this State that without prejudice or partizenship they should take an active sensible part in current politics. The citizen who stands aloof and washes his hands of all responsiblity in politics, is really responsible for the apparent lack of virtue in public officials, and nothing so much tends to correct the evils and demagogism of party strife, as the earnest honest efforts of all good citizens to secure integrity and ability in public life. Let it be possible for public men to select from among their active supporters, honest and capable subordinates, and they will do it. The natural pride of every official in a fair just administration will lead him to select the proper men, if they will only place themselves in the position of active reliable advocates of popular men and measures.

They may also determine what men and measures shall be popular, and if they fail they are at least free of blame for they have discharged the first duties of citizenship.—*Charleston Morning Chronicle.*

PRIVATE PRAYER.—In the morning the mind is calm, the temptations of the day have not beset you; the duties of the day have not filled your mind and begun to vex you. Before you go to the duties of the day, to its cares and anxieties and temptations, begin the day with prayer. Temptations you certainly will meet; trials of virtue and patience will overtake you; and many times before night you will need the aid of your Father to shield you. Go to Him, and ask His counsel to guide you. His power to uphold you, His spirit to sanctify you. Then will you have done what is equivalent to half the duties of the day, when you have thus engaged His care and assistance. And when the evening comes, when you have done with the duties of day, the body is wearied, the mind is jaded, deficiencies have marked it, how many imperfections still cluster around you; how many sins stare you in the face, how little you have done for yourself or for others, or for God, the day passed then is the hour of prayer. It will be sweet to feel that you have One to whom you can go, and who will hear you, if you are penitent, and ask in the name of Jesus Chaist; One who will accept your evening sacrifice, and give you strength for the morrow, and gird you with His righteousness. This hour, if rightly improved, will be like the cheering countenance of a most beloved friend. Take care that nothing comes between you and these hours devoted to God.

A piece of red pepper the size of your finger nail dropped into meat or vegetables when first beginning to cook, will aid greatly in killing the unpleasent oder arising therefrom. Remember this for boiled cabbage, green beans, onions, chickens, mutton, etc.

Sponging season has commenced at Key West. Fourteen vessels have arrived with 10,000 pounds, worth $1 per pound.

IMMIGRATION.—A correspondent writing to the Columbia *Phœnix*, under the signature of "Steam," dated Stamford, Conn., July 1, 1873, says:

"I notice that your people are waking up to the importance of immigration, with a view to increasing the wealth of the State. It is a *capital* idea, but you can never make it work until you send a couple of honest and intelligent men, who would spit upon a bribe, offered from whom it may, with power to look into *both sets* of Kimpton's books, and report to the public what he has done with the proceeds of the State securities placed in his hands to negotiate as trustee; how much, if any, he has divided with his Columbia partner and the ring. How many bonds have been stolen and *held out*, in the hope of ringing them in under the Morton, Bliss & Co., suit, now being vigorously pushed by Kimpton's partner in Columbia and the Ephraim Smooth of the State, in fraud of an over-taxed people, who held these bonds under the false pretence of being innocent holder, "bought them in the open market." Perhaps Leannell of Maden, a couple of clerks at a salary of $500 or $800 a year! In short, the debt of South Carolina must be determined and honesty set forth to the public, (whether the thieves are punished or not,) before a healthy immigration will ever consent to make that State their home. Of that you may rest assured."

SWIMMING AND BATHING.—Encourage the boys and girls in learning to swim, as it may be the means of saving their own lives and rendering them instrumental in saving those of others in days to come. Also impress upon their minds the great necessity of caution ere they learn how to take care of themselves in the water. The deaths from drowning, so prevalent during the summer, are among the saddest incidents of the season, coming as they do so suddenly, and what renders them particularly distressing is the fact that the great majority of them are caused by heedlessness. Bathing and swimming are healthy and delightful sports, and when participated in with moderation, as all pleasures should be in order to make them enjoyable, conduce greatly to the mind and body. It is the excess in this, as well as everything else, which produces the harm, and this should be strongly guarded against. Many a bright and promising lad has lost his life or undermined his health and become a sufferer by being too venturesome in the water, or going in too often. From such items may we be spared the chronicling during the present season.—*Cape Ann Advertiser.*

THE CARAT.—Probably many people have speculated upon the precise meaning of the word "carat." It is an imaginary weight that expresses the fineness of gold, or the proportion of pure gold in a mass of metal; thus, an ounce of gold of twenty-two carats fine is gold of which twenty-two parts out of twenty-four are pure, the other two parts being silver, copper or other metal. The weight of four grains, used by jewelers in weighing precious stones and pearls, is sometimes called diamond weight, the carat consisting of four nominal grains, a little lighter than four troy, or seventy-four and one-sixteenth grains being equal to seventy-two grains troy. The term of weighing carat derives its name from a bean, the fruit of an Abyssinian tree called kuara. This bean, from the time of its being gathered, varies very little in its weight, and seems to have been, from a very remote period, used as a weight for gold in Africa. In India, also, the bean is used as a weight for gems and pearls.

LIME AND SALT.—Prof. Johnson recommends for fertilizing purposes to mix one bushel of salt and two bushels of dry lime under cover, and allow the mixture to decompose gradually, thus forming chemical union. For this purpose the mixture should be made six weeks before use, or still better, two or three months, the heap being turned over occasionally. This salt and lime mixture, when applied at the rate of twenty or thirty bushels per acre, forms an excellent top dressing for many crops. It acts powerfully on the vegetable matter of soils; fifty-six bushels applied to turnips have produced as large a crop as barn-yard manure. It is destructive to grub and insects in the soil. Like salt it attracts moisture from the air, and is useful against drouth. Its decomposing power is remarkable, and if three or four bushels of it are mixed with a load of muck, the latter will be thus thoroughly powdered.

SUMMER PLAY.—Nothing can be more cruel and nothing more foolish than to place children where they must be dressed every day in fresh and fashionable clothes, and their freedom to play curtailed for the sake of their appearances. What childhood needs is perfect freedom among the things of Nature—freedom to romp, to make mud-pies, to leap fences, to row, to fish, to climb trees, to chase butterflies, to gather wild flowers, to live out of the doors from morning until night, and to do all those things that innocent and healthy childhood delights in—in cheap, strong clothes provided for the purpose. Exactly that which childhood needs, manhood and womanhood need—perfect liberty and perfect carelessness. So whether the dweller by the sea go inland for his summer play, or the resident of the inland city goes to the sea, he should seek some spot unvisited by those devoted to fashionable display, and employ his time in unrestricted communion with Nature, and in those pursuits and amusements which, without let or hindrance, perform the office of recreation.—*Scribner's for July.*

DEFENCE OF THE MODOCS.—A Washington letter states that the Hon. J. K. Luttrell, Congressman elect from the Third District, writes to Commissioner Smith, of the Indian Bureau, an account of his recent visit to the scene of the Modoc war, and says he has been able to arrive at only one conclusion in reference to it, namely, that it was caused by the wrongful acts of bad white men. He was informed, on what seemed to him reliable authority, that the Modocs were compelled to slaughter their horses for food on the Klamath reservation, and having exhausted this means of subsistence, were compelled, by hunger, to seek the fishing and hunting grounds on their old reservation on Lost River. Mr. Luttrell urges an investigation of the causes of the Modoc war, and regrets to say that never was there a time since the organization of the Government where there was so much corruption and swindling, not only against the Government and the people, but against the Indians—as is to-day being practiced on the Indian reservation on the Pacific coast.

POOR GIRLS.—The poorest girls in the world are those who have never been brought up to work. Rich parents have petted them, they have been taught to despise labor, and to depend upon others for a living, and are perfectly helpless. If misfortune comes upon their friends, as it often does, their case is hopeless. The most forlorn and miserable women on earth belong to this class. It belongs to parents to protect their daughters from this deplorable condition. They do them great wrong if they neglect it. Every daughter should be taught to earn their own living. The rich as well as the poor require this training. The wheel of fortune rolls swiftly round—the rich are very likely to become poor and the poor rich. Skill to labor is no disadvantage to the rich, and is indispensible to the poor. Well-to-do-parents must educate their daughters to work; no reform is more imperative than this.

BLOODY WORK IN GEORGIA.—It is rumored in Atlanta that an attack was made in Union County upon certain United States officers, which resulted fatally. It seems that two United States Deputy Marshals, Manchester and Ray, and a citizen named Ledford, who probably acted as an informer, were in Union County, looking up and arresting illicit distillers. On last Wednesday, the party of three were ambuscaded by a squad of Union County men, at least twenty strong. They had concealed themselves on the road, and the first intimation of their presence was a shot-gun volley fired upon them, killing Mr. Ledford. The two remaining tried to escape, but Deputy Marshal Ray was captured.

WHAT THE MODOCS DID.—Commissioner Meacham's report of the Modoc fighting says that during the war the Modocs killed and wounded three soldiers for every warrior in their force, at times numbering not more than sixty-five, and that during the first three days' fight this band not only held out against eight hundred troops armed with every appliance of modern warfare, but kept a passage open for retreat which even the Warm Spring Indian scouts could not close. Meacham's idea of the best policy for the future is, that all tribal lines be abolished; that the Indians be made amendable to the laws, and be placed on the same footing with other murderers.