

# THE COMET.

N. C. T. LOVE, Publisher.  
ROBT. L. TAYLOR, Editor.  
ROBT. BURROW, Editor.

Johnson City, Tenn., May 31, 1884.

## APPLES OF GOLD IN PICTURES OF SILVER.

FOR PRESIDENT:  
SAMUEL J. TILDEN,  
OF NEW YORK.

FOR VICE PRESIDENT:  
THOMAS A. HENDRICKS,  
OF INDIANA.

FOR GOVERNOR:  
WM. B. BATE,  
OF DAVIDSON.

Hon. Frank Hurd of Ohio is the greatest orator in Congress.

Auntie Helm, if you don't quit slandering democrats and the democratic party, you will go to Helm with the m-off.

A greater day than ever dawned before on the American people, will be the day when the scales shall drop from their eyes and they shall rise up in their wrath and brain the robber, high protective tariff.

Veterans of the Mexican war, there's a good time coming. The day is not far distant when a bit of the gold you won for your country will jingle in your pockets. God hasten the day.

We had intended to make mince meat of Aunt John Helm this week but our respect for old women forbids us. Life is too short, our time is too precious to be wasted in a controversy with an old growling granny.

The cranky imbecile who writes letters to the Bristol News over the signature "D. S. H." is not Rev. D. S. Hearon, of Sullivan College. Strangers might be misled into thinking so. The News ought to make its correspondent use something else for a news paper name. We suggest "Idiot" as being appropriate.

The impression grows that Bob Taylor actually kissed Bate. We don't believe it. We don't believe Bate would suffer himself to be kissed by any political prostitute or organist less beautiful and seducing than Mr. Cherry's World. Besides all which, Bate has heretofore expressed a very healthy disgust for the "Tayl' of the Comet," (if Bob Taylor will pardon a threadbare and, as rendered by his own facile pen, a much abused expression.)—*Morrison Gazette.*

The impression is full grown, Auntie Helm, that you are only angry because Gov. Bate wouldn't kiss you and call you his darling superintendent. Don't get mad at us because you couldn't get into the penitentiary ring—as you call it—we couldn't help it.

## County Convention.

The Democratic county convention at Jonesboro last Saturday was composed of representative men. Comparisons are odious, but the Democratic convention will compare favorably with the Republican convention of a few weeks ago, with reference to intelligence and respectability. There were a number of candidates and considerable interest, but after the nominations were made, each one of them went home as good a Democrat as he was before, and determined to support and help elect the nominees of the convention. Mr. Ed. H. Carr, the nominee for Sheriff, is not a politician, and the convention sought him. That he will honestly and faithfully discharge the duties of the office, if elected, there is no doubt. Mr. J. C. Robertson, the nominee for Trustee, is said to be a model citizen. Honest and capable, he will command the support of his party, and if elected Trustee the people may rest assured that their interests will not suffer. We publish the proceedings of the convention in another column.

The Bristol News is not so far wrong as usual when it asserts that we have about thrown up the sponge. Yes, we have about despaired of the editor of the News ever telling us why he "jined" the Republicans. We are sorry the News thinks us impolite. We have tried not to be personally offensive, because we wanted the controversy to be decent and free from personalities. It is mighty hard to write about the Mahonies and be polite. They were Democrats two years ago, but as soon as President Arthur divided the Federal offices in Virginia among them they turned Republicans. We think they turned for spoils. If the News thinks that is impolite we will put it a little milder and say they were convinced of the "error of their way" by the "liberalism" of Arthur and joined the Republican party in order to find "reforms" that they had despaired of finding in the Democratic party.

The News seems determined not to understand that it is no answer to a question, to ask another. When asked again why he did not discover that he was opposed to a "tariff for revenue only" twenty years ago he gets us by asking "why did not THE COMET start on its orbit twenty years sooner than it did?" We frankly confess we don't know why. The fact that 20 years ago the publisher and editors of THE COMET were all Carter county boys

less than fifteen years old, may have had something to do with it. Perhaps the News wants to know why we were boys? We have to give up again. We don't know. But the editor of the News has at last struck oil. He has made a discovery that ought to give him some peace of mind and prevent him from being utterly wretched while in the Republican party. He has made the startling discovery that the Republican party gave us a protective tariff and the protective tariff made Johnson City and that without Johnson City there would be no COMET, therefore THE COMET owes its existence to the Republican party. That ought to be a great consolation to the News. A party that could create such a luminary as THE COMET cannot be altogether bad. But we fear even that will not save it. Seriously, there is just as much foundation for the statement that the Republican party made THE COMET as there is for the statement that the tariff made the Johnson City Narrow Gauge R. R. and the Johnson City tannery. The News gives the tariff credit for everything. The building of new towns and the prosperity of the people is not due to the increase of population and to energy and labor, but to a protective tariff. Railroads, though built with English iron owe everything to a protective tariff. The protective tariff erected Mr. Anderson's magnificent bank building at Bristol, of course. The splendid wheat fields now yellowing for the reaper are the result of a protective tariff, and not of God's sunshine and rain. And of course, the agitation of the tariff question caused the panic among the Wall Street gamblers. Oh, yes, everything good is the result of a protective tariff, and to be sure, everything bad is the fear of free trade. That is the argument of the protectionist.

The News is anxious to know if we are going to make a Democratic party at Chicago. No, the Democratic party is only going to make a President. It may be Carlisle, but hardly Randall—that is the July convention. "Will the Democratic party when it comes in power require us to spend our money in America or England?" It will do neither, Mr. Fowler. It will say to every man: "You are free to spend your money where you please; we do not compel you to buy and sell to an American. You may sell where you can get the best price, and buy where you can get the cheapest bargain. 'What else will the Democratic party do?' If we were to follow the News' way, in showing the blessing of a protective tariff, we would say it will 'heal the sick, feed the hungry, clothe the naked and cast out devils.'" Certain it is that it will "turn the rascals out," and perhaps some who are not rascals.

The News wants to know if the DeGolyer pavement swindle and the whiskey ring frauds, differ from the Polk swindle in Tennessee, in a moral sense. We think they do. Polk was a Democrat, but he was indicted, tried, convicted and sentenced to the penitentiary for twenty years, by the Democratic authorities. The DeGolyer conspirators were, after their complicity in the bribes, given high office in the Republican party, and to-day the name of O. E. Baebcock, the leader of the whiskey ring, is before the U. S. Senate, where it was sent by President Arthur, awaiting confirmation to an exalted position in the U. S. army. Does the News now see any difference?

We do not care to discuss local Va. matters. Our space and the reader's patience will not allow us. We again remind the News that Sam Randall and Jubel Early are not the Democratic party any more than Wayne McVeagh is, or Chas. J. Giteau was the Republican party. The Democratic party is now, and will be, after the Chicago convention, in favor of a "tariff for revenue only," and upon that issue will sink or swim.

## Let Us Exhibit.

How would it do for the counties of upper East Tennessee—say the first Congressional District—to club together and make an exhibit of their mineral resources at the International Exhibition at New Orleans? In iron it is one of the richest sections in the world, and a proper display of its ores at New Orleans would call the attention of the world to the fact. We make this proposition: let the counties of the First Congressional District appropriate \$100 each for this special purpose. Sullivan has already appropriated \$250 and Hancock \$150 for the purpose of making an exhibit of their resources; \$100 of this in each county could be set aside for the purpose mentioned. What say the other counties of the District? Let the papers agitate the question, and let prominent men bring it before the quarterly Court on the first Monday in July.—*Bristol Courier.*

We endorse. We hope our people will wake up to their own interests. Shall we forever be called the backwoods? Shall we let the golden opportunities of to-day slip away from us? Shall we forever lounge and sleep in poverty while the very hills we languish on, are mines of wealth? Let us exhibit our minerals at the World's Fair and invite capital and enterprise among us.

## The Chalmers Case.

The House Committee on elections by a vote of 9 to 1, to-day decided to report in favor of seating Chalmers

in the contested election case of Chalmers vs Manning, of Mississippi. In the case of Massey vs Wise of Virginia, the Committee agreed to report in favor of Wise by a vote of 7 to 4. An effort was also made to agree upon the report in the contested case of Campbell vs Money, of Ohio. Six Democrats voted in favor of Campbell, Messrs. Adams and Cook, Democrats and five Republicans refused to vote, thus breaking the quorum. It was said by those who refused to vote, that they were not acquainted with the merits of the case.

## Greenback Convention.

INDIANAPOLIS, May 28.—The National Greenback Convention assembled at English's opera house at 11 o'clock, and was called to order by Jesse Harper, of Illinois, Chairman of the National Committee. Hon. John Tyler, of Florida, was elected temporary chairman; George C. Hackstaff, of Missouri, and Cornelius Dowdy, of New York, secretaries. All the States are represented except Delaware and Mississippi. South Carolina is represented by Massachusetts as proxy. A Committee on Credentials was appointed. The contest from Maine set off the delegates headed by Solon Chase, anti Butler, is the only one of importance.

George O. Jones, of New York, attempted several times to get in a resolution favorable to a Chase delegation but was not recognized by the chair, and was hooted down. The Convention adjourned until 2 o'clock to give the Credentials Committee time to report.

## Two Negroes & Ten White Men.

We have received from the office of the Democratic Advance a lithographic print published by that paper and sold to anybody for thirty cents. It is a good thing to buy. In type and in portraits, it presents a very comprehensive summary of the most shameful chapter in American history.

The pictures themselves tell the story. At the four corners we have the black faces of Kenner and Casenave, and the white masks to the black heads of Tom C. Anderson and old J. Mad. Wells. The rest of them appear in two groups of four each: Morton, Garfield, Strong, and Alvinde Joe; Edmunds, Frelinghuysen, Miller, and the smug Hoar. William Almon Wheeler is not there, but there is a blank oval quite expressive of oblivion. Hayes is not there, but four of the creators of his Fraudulency frame the space from which his likeness has faded away. We can suggest only one improvement on this idea. The brand of Fraud should have been left. Like the grin on the face of the celebrated vanishing Cheshire cat, this feature remains visible even after all the other traits of R. B. Hayes have disappeared from memory.

Here, too, is the San's carefully compiled list of the participants in the electoral conspiracy rewarded with public office after the success of the fraud, with salaries aggregating \$1,104,500 for the four years of Hayes's term. We have extracts from the fruitless appeals before the Electoral Commission in behalf of justice and right; the violated oath of the members of that tribunal to impartially examine the evidence; the declaration of the House of Representatives of the Forty-fourth Congress that Samuel J. Tilden and Thomas A. Hendricks received one hundred and ninety-six electoral votes and were duly elected President and Vice, president of the United States for a term of four years from March 4, 1877; and finally, this very striking presentment of the case as it stands to-day:—

1876.—THE RECORD OF HISTORY.—1884. Living.—Samuel J. Tilden, Thomas A. Hendricks, and the Issue of the Fraud of 1876.

Dead.—Zach Chandler; Oliver P. Morton, James A. Garfield, E. W. Stoughton, James E. Anderson, and Eliza Pinkston.

Under a Cloud.—George F. Hoar, George F. Edmunds, Joseph P. Bradley.

Forgotten.—R. B. Hayes, William A. Wheeler.

The crime is unpunished, so far as the Republican party is concerned. Boys who were in their Latin grammars when the Presidency was stolen will vote next November.

## Democratic County Convention.

Pursuant to a call of Chairman Reeves the Democracy of Washington assembled in County Convention on Saturday last. Every district was fully represented.

Chairman Reeves called the convention to order promptly at 12 o'clock, after which R. A. Kinsloe was nominated and elected temporary secretary.

Dr. H. H. Carr moved the appointment of a committee of five on credentials.

Dr. Hoss moved an amendment, so that the same committee could prepare the basis of representation. The amendment carried.

The chair appointed the following delegates as the committee: J. E. T. Harris, H. H. Carr, W. B. Bowman, B. N. Mathes and John M. Morrow.

On motion of Capt. Allison, the convention took a recess until one o'clock in order to give the committee on credentials and representation time to prepare a report.

On motion, H. H. Carr was made permanent chairman, and R. A. Kinsloe permanent secretary. The Chairman thanked the Convention for the honor placed on him, and announced the meeting ready for business.

On motion of R. L. Taylor, the two-thirds rule was adopted, which made it necessary for the successful aspirant to have 42 votes.

On motion of Capt. Allison, H. H. Carr was elected, by acclamation, Chairman of the Executive Committee for the ensuing two years, with power to select his own members of the committee.

At this point the name of W. R. Fink was substituted for that of J. C. Aikin, as a delegate from the Jonesboro district.

On motion of Dr. Hoss it was agreed to proceed with the balloting for candidates, and to continue until nominations were made without putting in nomination any candidate.

The chair appointed Capt. I. E. Reeves, John L. Blair and Prof. McClure tellers.

Several ballots were taken without any result. On the 11th ballot Mr. Ed. Harr received 55 votes.

On motion, Harr's nomination was made unanimous, when, after much calling, he mounted the platform and was introduced by Hon. R. L. Taylor. Mr. Harr thanked the delegates for the honor conferred.

For Trustee, the first ballot exhibited the following result: Robertson 21; Campbell 14; D. W. F. Peoples 2; A. Peoples 8; Taylor 4. The name of A. Peoples was withdrawn when the list was called for the second ballot. Robertson 55; D. W. F. Peoples 5.

Mr. Robertson's nomination was made unanimous. He was also called to the front and responded in a few remarks.

On motion of Capt. Reeves, the chair appointed a committee to prepare a list of delegates to the State Convention and awaiting the return of the committee, Hon. R. L. Taylor was called on for a speech. Mr. Taylor replied with one of his characteristic speeches.

At its conclusion, the committee reported the following list of delegates:

1st district, W. B. Glaze and J. F. Cobb; 2d, dist, M. Maples and H. H. Ruble; 3d, dist, D. W. Williams and J. F. Nelson; 4th dist, Jno. L. Blair and Jacob Brown; 5th dist, Wm. Mays and Wm. Powell; 6th dist, N. Gammon and A. C. Droyles; 7th dist, T. M. Wells and Rice Duncan; 8th dist, D. W. F. Peoples and J. K. Hilbert; 9th dist, E. C. Reeves, Robt. Burrow and W. A. Dickinson; 10th dist, W. V. Devault and W. R. Reeves; 11th W. B. Bowman and J. A. Worley; 12th dist, Sam B. Ellis and J. P. Jobe; 13th dist, Enos Kinchloe and Frank Toluse; 14th dist, Jos. Wilcox and Nelson Mohler; 15th dist, Jno. Allison, R. A. Kinsloe and I. E. Reeves; 16th J. B. Lyon and E. R. Devault; 17th Alex. Carson and John Morrow.—*COUNTY AT LARGE.*

S. J. Kirkpatrick, R. L. Taylor, J. E. T. Harris, C. E. Dosser, G. W. St. John, A. S. Denderick, R. H. Duncan.

On motion the delegates to the State Convention were instructed to recommend Hon. R. L. Taylor as one of the electors at large.

On motion, it was agreed that the delegates elected to the State Convention shall only be entitled to vote in person, and in no case by proxy.

On motion, adjourned.

H. H. Carr, Chairman, R. A. Kinsloe, Secretary, Jonesboro, Tenn., May 24th, 1884.

Maj. Pettibone had a sympathetic word for the iron master, the railroad king, and the rich tobacco manufacturer, but we defy any one who heard his speech to say that he had even a word for the highly-taxed, hard-working farmer, who is compelled to pay extortionate rates to the railroad when he sends his produce to market over them and a heavy bonus to the iron masters on every farm implement purchased by them.—*Jonesboro Journal.*

R. B. Hayes (to whom Sunset Cox always refers as "Gov.") Hayes, the one title to which he has a right) is feeding his chickens at Fremont on parched corn to make them lay. For the sake of neatness and dispatch he drives them up a steep hill, after feeding, and follows behind with a basket. By this process the old Governor has reduced the price of eggs down seven to eight cents per dozen.—*Nashville World.*

## Public Meeting.

Persuant to the call of THE COMET the citizens of Johnson City and surrounding country met in convention on Science Hill, Thursday eve May 28th, 1884, for the purpose of inaugurating steps looking to the advancement of the educational interest of our town and county. On motion Hon. R. L. Taylor was elected chairman of the convention. He took the stand and announced in a brief and pointed talk

the objects of the meeting. The organization was completed by the election of a Secretary and the convention proceeded to work. On motion a committee of five were appointed by the chairman to report to the convention the names of persons suitable for permanent committees on Finances, Building and Grounds and on Teachers. The business of the convention was suspended at this stage of the proceedings by the introduction of Prof. C. J. St. John, Jr., of Blountville, Tenn., who came forward and delivered one of the most logical, eloquent and practical addresses on Education to which we have ever had the pleasure of listening. He was followed by an appropriate and elegant speech from Prof. Tomplin of Johnson City. The convention then resumed its work and the committee appointed made the following report:

Committee on Grounds and Buildings: E. L. McNeels, L. C. Berry, J. C. Adams, T. A. Faw, John Sanders, Willburn Hodge, and H. B. Clark.

Committee on Finances: R. L. Taylor, J. A. Cargille, J. W. Crumley, E. C. Reeves, R. S. Patty, C. K. Lide and S. H. Harris.

Committee on Teachers: N. C. T. Love, A. L. Hoss, Isaac Harr, Dr. J. C. King, J. C. Hardin and M. F. Hickey.

The report of the committee was unanimously adopted and the convention adjourned to meet the eve of June 4th, 1884.

ISAAC HARR, Sec.

## NEBRASKA LETTER.

DEAR COMET—It has been a long time since I wrote a communication for a newspaper, but I have seen and heard so much in the last few days that I cannot withstand the temptation to write you.

Ten days ago Miss Nannie Edwards and Mr. J. C. Hodges, bound for Colorado, together with Miss Lute Sexton, my wife and myself, enroute for this State, left your beautiful little city to spend a few weeks "out West." We procured our tickets from Mr. R. S. Patty, who gave us the best rates, and thanks to him, sent us over the best roads and through the finest country we ever saw, and as he was not able to attend our party, put us in charge of one Mr. Kuster, who was untiring in his efforts to make our trip pleasant.

At Chattanooga, Mr. Judson Edwards also bound for California joined our party. We made close connection with the Cincinnati Southern and early next morning we were in the Riotous City. Then without delay we passed through Ohio, Indiana and Illinois, arriving at St. Louis, Mo., in less than 32 hours after leaving J. C. Here we spent the night, and at 9 a. m. took the C. B. & Q. Road for Council Bluffs. We reached Burlington about sundown, passed through the state of Iowa during the night, and arrived at Council Bluffs at 10 a. m. At this point the California party left us, they taking a through train for Ogden.

Here we changed car for Columbus, Neb., where we arrived at 4 p. m. Changing cars again, we arrived at Norfolk at 7 p. m. We were then within 14 miles of the place, and as we would have to wait 20 hours for a train, we determined to come by private conveyance. This we did after so long a time, but not until we had gotten lost three times, and wandered over the prairies miles out of our way.

And now that we are here, I must tell you something of this country, climate, customs &c. God never made a finer, broader, more level, and fertile country than this. For three hundred miles in length and two hundred in breadth it stretches out like a grand sea of water before you. For miles and miles you travel on, ever expecting to reach the summit of a hill, which seems to rise in the dim distance, but up to date I have never found the top. The soil is black loam, from three to ten feet thick, and to say these are the richest lands I ever saw would be no exaggeration. From 60 to 75 bushels of corn per acre is considered an average crop, while from 40 to 60 bushels of what per acre is no extra yield. Potatoes, oats, hay and flax seem to be scarcely adapted to the soil. Thousands of bushels of corn are burned in stoves here every winter. They tell me it makes a very hot and durable fire, and is about as cheap as coal. I suppose, from what I have seen and heard that 25,000 bushels of corn could be bought here to-day at from 25 to 30 cents per bushel.

The finest lands in Carter co. are not comparable to these, either for beauty nor fertility, and yet thousands of acres are for sale here to-day at from \$5 to \$15 per acre.

The finest water is readily obtained here at from 15 to 30 feet in depth. It is drawn up by means of wind engines attached to pumps, and by the way, the engine never stands for the want of motive power, for a brisk wind blows nearly the whole time. This would be my greatest objection to this country.

I could write a whole letter about the customs of these people, but I forbear, suffice it to say, they are kind, genial, progressive in the extreme, and wait for nothing nor anybody. Sunday is a fine day here, making brick, building mill dams, playing base ball, having picnics with music and dancing together with many other "pass times," were witnessed by your scribe last Sabbath.

But I must close. A letter just received from my friend C. K. Lide enquires how vegetation is in this country. Say to him that it is the finest grass country I ever saw. More anon. W. P. DEXAUX.

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### "Coon Jones"

Never since the days of reconstruction have I been struck so monstrously by anything like a Comet, and I fear that we are to have no more dog days in this part of the woods, for I have heard it said that whenever a Comet struck the earth, there would be no more such things as dogdays, musketers and the like, but in lieu thereof (this being a law term) we Republicans are to be over run by that most terrible scourge the Democracy, my devotion to our party has been unflinching, but when starvation is standing at our door and my posterity is calling out for bread and tobacco, I see so much trouble that I set and think that congress ought to fill my wants.

I went to one of the meanest democrats yesterday in all this valley to see if he would not let me have 1 bushel of corn, and don't you think he asked me to work one whole day for him before I could have it, this I could not do, for you know I lost my health and my gun at Bulls gap when trying to defend my self in flight from Vaughns men, in the year 18—excuse my geography dear editors, excuse my long sentences for I do often blbe over with rath against the high tariff Democrats, they want to charge us 80 cents for a bushel of corn.

Bill Collins who stands in the store at the forks of the roads is another H. T. (High Tariff) man. Don't you think I set around there nearly all day last Saturday, on a goods box trying to buy goods and some coffee an Tobacco from him, and pay next week when Maj. Pittibone sends my pension check but that fool Democratic principle has full possession of Bill, and I had as well try to get tar from a turnip. Speaking of tar reminds me that I must go to set and watch our tar pit this very evening while the women folks tote in some more rich pine.

In my next I will give you much of my former experience in the war and how much I have made by voting the Radical, ticket "straight,"

Yours in full,  
"Raccoon Jones,"  
Okolona Eastern Tenn.

## From Piney Flats.

Piney Flats, May 28th.  
HON. TAYL OF THE COMET—This place is a flourishing. A continued series of protracted meetings is the order. Soon as one minister calls of another calls on and the work moves gloriously forward. Bro. Geo. F. Robertson of the presbyterian church closed his meeting last night, after having spent a week preaching for us, and I must say, for eloquence and logical reasoning I never heard his sermons excelled. Hope he will come again, for us sinners here need much of his power and earnestness, to knock the "scales from our eyes."

Frequent May showers are blessing us, causing vegetation to spring into life with amazing rapidity. Corn is growing finely, and a better prospect for wheat was never known in this neighborhood. Turnip greens have vanished, and lettuce and onions move in to take their place. Merchants are doing a good business. Farmers actively engaged, and in fine spirits. The doctor has something to do, but good health blesses the most of us. The ladies are like their roses, blooming with beauty, in their new lawn dresses, especially on Sunday, when they come up to spend an hour in the Banner Sabbath School of this county. Professor G. W. McKimney's little son was thrown from a mule on last Wednesday, and had his shoulder dislocated and was otherwise badly injured. He is now doing well and we trust will soon recover. A. J. Hall, has a little daughter dangerously ill with fever. A. M. Shell, the successful fisherman of this place, brought home 50 lbs of fish Friday, the product of one days labor on the beautiful Watauga, with trot line. The reason of his success, he was raised by a preacher and don't cuss. May THE COMET blaze successfully forever.

Slim Jack.

## Perfectly Clear.

Jimmie: Papa, THE COMET says the exhibition at the beach show in New York was worth \$350,000. What is a beach show?

Papa: Well, son, your schoolin' haint no count. I do love common sense. Why, a beach show is—is—is where they show Andy Johnson's tailor bench an' sich like.

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For sale by J. B. Haah & Son.

## He Was Inefficient.

A woman wearing a red calico dress and hair to match, walked up to the post office window at Bridgeport and inquired:

"Anything here fur Susanner Williams?"

The young man at the window kicked his thumb, ran over a package of letters, and politely replied:

"No, mam."

"When is there going to be?"

"Can't say—I'm not Wiggins."

"Did I ever! Can't say! I do hope the legislature will 'print some fellar that's got brains enough to grease a mouse-trap. That's what I do."