

ENTERED AT THE POST OFFICE AT SCOTLAND NECK, N. C., AS SECOND-CLASS MAIL MATTER.

In view of the fact that a Senator is to be elected by our next Legislature to succeed Gen. Ransom, some of our exchanges and some of their correspondents have made mention of some of our States' able sons who would make worthy successors to the distinguished gentlemen. It is a gratifying thought to know that North Carolina is so fruitful of great men and that she has so many sons so well qualified to represent the National Councils.

We are led to believe, however, that most of these notices are merely complimentary, for we have no idea that Gen. Ransom will have any serious opposition. His services at this critical juncture in the history of the Democratic party cannot be dispensed with. His loss would be a calamity to the party in the United States, a disaster to the South; an irreparable injury to the whole Country. We know that there are many men in our State who, when they have had the same experience that he has, could represent us as well as Mr. Ransom, but we hazard nothing in saying that there is no man in our State who could have, for years to come, as much weight and influence as he has.

The noble, brave, true, generous Ben Hill has gone to his rest. To leave Ransom at home would leave the Senate without two of the ablest Statesmen who have graced this age. It is all important that we should have experienced men in the Senate at this particular time. The people have registered their decree and a healthy reaction has begun. We will carry the country in 1884 and secure the Presidency if we can avoid blunders. The eyes of the country will be upon the next Congress begging, beseeching and entreating it to make no blunders. The wily politicians and the able men of the Radical party who love self better than Country and office and power better than either, will use every stratagem known to political science to induce blunders on our part. We need good management and a high order of Statesmanship to avoid them. The Democracy of the United States needs Gen. Ransom in the Senate, and we feel sure that he will be returned.

It is needless to commend Gen. Ransom to our Legislators elect; it is known to them all. It is needless to speak of his fitness for the high position: the nation acknowledges it. If you seek a cultivated scholar, a profound thinker, an able lawyer, a skilled parliamentarian, a distinguished orator, you will find all these blended in happy union in the person of Gen. Ransom. Where ever patriotism is admired and freedom loved, wherever the English language is spoken, one speech of his delivered in the Senate, stands as a lasting monument to his high character, his lofty patriotism, his unswerving devotion to the South. Long after grass and flowers shall bloom upon the grave of this distinguished man, school-boy will declaim "South-err Chivalry," and its Spirit will kindle ardor, enthusiasm, lofty desires and magnanimous purposes.

There is one thing in some of these notices that we very much dislike, that displays bad taste and worse judgment. After landing a favorite to his heart's content, one correspondent seems not to be satisfied with the envious crown which he has woven, but, to give it the finishing touch, he must needs take a garland from the brow of Ransom. Vituperation and abuse seldom accomplish anything; they are the weapons of those reduced to desperate circumstances. Against such a man as Ransom they fall as harmless as dew upon Gibraltar. He needs no defense at any ones hands. We do not pretend that he is infallible or that he has no faults, or that he has never erred. No man is perfect. This same correspondent has seen fit to set forth all the virtues of his favorite; then he is pleased to attack Gen. Ransom's record; such things as these deserve no comment, their purpose is evident. We will say to this writer that, if he expects to elect his favorite by abusing Ransom, he is very sure to fail. Ransom mis-represented North Carolina! The idea is as unjust as it is absurd. He has bled for North Carolina. He has bled for the South. He has defended both. He has been true to both. Whatever may be his faults, a lack of devotion to his State and country and party is not among the number, and we are confident that if the Legislature reflect, the sentiment of ninety-nine one hundredths of the Democracy of the State, he will be unanimously elected his own successor.

Explanations are now in order, and we propose to make them. The Charlotte Observer, and other prominent journals of the central and

Western portions of the State, are asking for explanations in regard to the causes which led to the great falling off in the Democratic vote in Eastern counties at the late election. As yet, no paper—whatever its pretensions—has had forethought sufficient to respond to these important questions.—questions not only involving the vital interests of our own section, but the prosperity of the whole State.

The central organ of the North Carolina Democracy, which should have answered these enquiries for the East, to the satisfaction of the West, seems to be dreaming away its blissful existence in the enervating atmosphere of a passive administration; almost forgetting that the world moves, and that the people are doing their own thinking, while reasoning among themselves upon the simple proposition of cause and effect.

We think these questionings of our western brethren should be answered in the most straight-forward manner. Therefore we have no hesitation in stating that the result of the recent elections in most of the eastern counties was brought about by nothing more nor less than a series of the most puerile and ridiculous political blunders ever perpetrated by modern Democracy. We have alluded to some of these political short-comings elsewhere.

THE "PHENOMINAL" RESULT IN HALIFAX.

Now that the acrimony engendered by the late election is wearing away and the Halifax cases happily ended, a few plain words, plainly spoken, can do no possible harm to the Democratic party, and may lead to happier results in the future.

The cause, or causes, which lead to the phenomenal Republican majority—as the News and Observer facetiously put it—in this county are not only plain to the casual observer, but were as monstrous in their proportions as destructive in their effects. Yet they are not of so grave a character as to render them beyond the reach of remedial efforts and sagacious management in future contests.

There exists no where within the borders of the State, nor in the whole South, a more loyal, devoted and earnest working Democracy than the people of Halifax county. And no people in the State of North Carolina deserve more at the hands of the Executive and the administration than do they.

What have they received? They asked for bread and were given a stone. If we unwittingly wrong the gentlemen in authority at Raleigh by making this assertion, probably the politico-election trials in that city last June—in which the liberties and inalienable rights of several of our fellow countymen were sacrificed—can answer more effectively.

We have talked with every one of the accused in regard to the conduct of the State officials at those trials and found it to be the unanimous opinion among them all, that the State government manifested no sympathy for them whatever, and that whilst in the clutches of the Federal Court, the cold shoulder was deliberately turned to them by the Administration and the Democratic Executive Committee of the State. No friendly hand was extended to aid in upholding them. No sympathizing voice raised in their defence, except the Lion Hearted Fuller, and the Generous Busbee—the Richard and the Bayard of the Carolina Bar—who so ably defended them.

Whence comes this baneful policy of passive indifference to the personal and political rights of North Carolinians? Why so grave a political blunder as its adoption committed at such a time? The Executive Committee and the Administration of North Carolina should promptly and satisfactorily explain such culpable neglect and utter disregard of the dearest rights and threatened liberties of the citizen on the eve of one of the most important elections ever held in the State.

When the election trials came up for a hearing before the Federal Court at Charleston just previous to its sittings in the city of Raleigh, the Governor of South Carolina ordered her Attorney General to the forefront of battle, and the whole power of the Administration and Democracy of that State stood shoulder to shoulder in defence of the imperilled liberties of their accused fellow-citizens until those trials were over and the defendants triumphantly vindicated.

Alas! how different the circumstances and their accompanying results at our own State Capital.

Regrets are vain, and threats but idle words. We wish for no crimination or recrimination at this late day. Our only desire is to call attention to the fruits of such official neglect at those trials, in the general apathy pervading the ranks of the working members of the party during the recent heated canvass.

Let the result impress itself in letters of living light upon the mind of the leaders of the North Carolina Democracy, and teach them that in people will tolerate no indifference to their personal and political rights in the hour of peril.

Tough such conduct towards the Democratic party, as a political matter, was a blunder, and well qualified to shake confidence our people implicitly placed in the friendly power of those swelling the authority of the State and of the party, it was not the only cause of grievance which rankled in the breasts of the Halifax Democracy. There were other influences at work, alike serious in their nature and demoralizing in their effects, which led to the same disastrous consequences.

The arbitrary action of the county commissioners in refusing to grant license was a grievous blunder, and most grievously have the Democracy of Halifax suffered from it.

Liquor dealers having on hand large supplies refused to be ruined by this unwise assumption of the legislative functions by the County Executives, sold on by advice of counsel, in defiance of this untorturable prohibitory policy of the commissioners, still applying, still appealing for a consideration of their rights, both personally and by counsel, month after month; regularly tendering the amount of their license in ready money and as regularly refused, until finally both client and counsel retired from the unequal contest discomfited. This was bad enough in a Democracy God knows, but more was to follow.

Notwithstanding this wholesale tramping under foot of individual rights and constitutional guarantees by Democratic officials, matters were not allowed to rest just here at the door of the county commissioners into this arena of discord, impelled by his oath of office, comes the county Attorney, who, forgetting, in the impolitic course thus forced upon him, the sacred maxim of Plato and Aristotle,—Lex est mens sine affectu, et quasi Deus, forthwith institutes a series of prosecutions against the already outraged and thoroughly embittered liquor dealers throughout the county, subjecting them to all the irritating and harassing processes of the law, in many instances driving them to the wall, and amercing them in costs and damages to large amounts.

Is it wonderful, "phenominal" or otherwise our people did not turn out and vote their full Democratic strength under such harassing circumstances? Prohibition did its foolish work well. It was undoubtedly the great disturbing element which brought about these deplorable transactions and dissensions in this and other counties throughout the Eastern section of the State.

It has indeed proved a veritable shirt of Nessus, instilling its deadly poison into the entire body politic of the Herculean Democracy of North Carolina.

In vain we tried "to rend the sticking plague" from our shoulders. No matter in what manner, or by what array of truthful or legitimate weapons we confronted or refuted the oft repeated charges of the Republicans, the sin of a thoughtless Democratic legislature clings to us still.

Now it is high time all this Democratic genius for blundering should be "squelched" and thoroughly eliminated from party management, and for the North Carolina Democracy to rehabilitate itself in the panoply of the people.

Henceforth let it be emphatically understood that the people will tolerate no more experimental legislation, and no tampering with their constitutional prerogatives by officeholders, either high or low. It is to be hoped that the legislature just elected will profit by the short-sightedness and weakness of its predecessor.

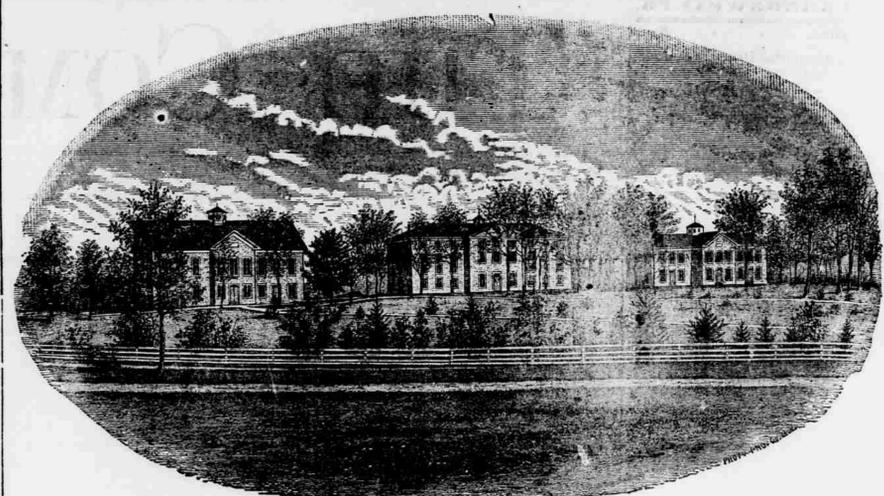
When it meets in January, it should endeavor to rectify the errors of the past, and map out a more intelligent and progressive policy for the Democratic party of the State in the future. It should repeal all arbitrary, superfluous and local option laws. Separate the State and Federal elections and altogether conduct itself as the servant, and not the master of North Carolina.

REPUBLICAN MEANNESS ON DEMOCRATIC SHOULDERS.

We are amazed at Republican shrewdness and Democratic folly in the civil service issue now before the Senate.

Seeing, as they imagine, the shadow before the substance, and the handwriting upon the wall pointing to their downfall and dissolution, they are endeavoring, through Democratic folly and stupidity, to fasten for life upon the people one hundred thousand of our soldiers. Such a course as is now being pursued by the leading Republicans and the Pendleton Democrats in Congress is the appearance of malice and revenge against the people of the Union, for the severe re-education which they have the Republican party in November last. It was a very serious service, incompetent, corrupt office holders and their dead and living leaders that so aroused the patriotism and indignation of the American people in the recent election and banished the Legislative wing of the Republican party from power and handed thirteen States over to Jeffersonian Democracy of the country. And now to foster all the vampires and leeches of that party on the country for life would be an unpardonable crime, and would be a black and infamous, and would stink so bad in every decent man's nostrils from the Lakes to the Gulf that it would bury the Democratic party so deep that eternity itself would fail to find its last resting place. Such wicked audacity and presumption is not yet recorded in history. It has been reserved from the foundation of the world for the Republican party after it had worn out its welcome, with the people, ignored their MAGNA CHARTA, and walked upon it with unhallowed feet and trampled their dearest rights in the dust, and after having been weighed in the balances and found wanting and told by the American people, regardless of party, in tones that shook the earth from ocean to ocean, to step down and out; to turn upon that same people and deliberately demand of them, through their law-making powers, to keep in office for life all their pimps, spies, tools, rag-tag and bob-tail of creation. Was ever such impudence conceived by man? Was ever such Democratic stupidity seen before as was manifested in the debate last week? The noble and gallant Brown, of Georgia, deserves the thanks of the American people for the candid, manly stand he took against such an un-republican and un-democratic measure. Should the bill become a law, as introduced by the committee, composed of both Democrats and Republicans, it would install for all time in this country the Republican party in power against the expressed will of the people, and for all time keep out of power the Democratic party or any other. It would disband, and ought to disband the Democratic party. Every motive to patriotism and honest promotion would be taken away from this age and generation. No man could look forward with any hope of becoming useful to his country; the road leading to promotion would be closed. No interest would be taken in the Government of the nation. Every man in office would feel safe in his position, knowing that he could not be removed, and would soon become a little Napoleon, more despotic than the Czar of Russia. No party would have any influence nor could they hold out any to others to fight corruption and oppression and keep down Tyranny. Ambition and aspiration would lose their power over the mind, and our boasted Government would sink into an imperialism or despotism. Now, instead of legislating all the thieves and bad men and Republicans in office for life to cure an evil so easily reached in another way, suppose these very virtuous Hoars and Pendletons put their gigantic intellects and big patriotic heart together and pass a law making it felony with imprisonment for life to assess or compel in any way any appointee of the Government to subscribe for any political purpose whatever, and then let the people elect honest Representatives, and the Executive appoint honest Judges, and then the evil which these virtuous, honest Statesmen are making such a do-over, will be at an end.

We would like to know the exact time and place when Mr. Hoar and Mr. Hawley were converted to civil service reform, and when, where and how this mysterious and wonderful change of heart, took place, and also what brought about this transformation from Hobbellism to Pendletonism. We can account for Paul's sudden conversion from Judaism to Christ, we saw the light, heard the thunder and knew that Christ tapped at the door of his heart; but no one claims that for these Republican Statesmen with all their brass, boldness and presumption, they do not even claim it for themselves. It is true we heard a great rumbling and muttering of thunders on the seventh day of last November, but no one claims that that noise was from Sinai and surely these great men would not become alarmed at anything less than the pealing thunders of Jehovah himself. This would be below their dignity as Republican demagogues. Here is what these virtuous and modest gentlemen propose to do, namely: Keep in office all the appointees of each out going administration until they shall die out. Holy Fathers! Shades of the Departed help us!



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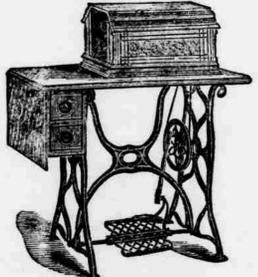
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