

THE NEWS.

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THURSDAY, JUNE, 3. 1897.

THE CONSTITUTION.

Will the people go back on their expressed desire a year ago and be hoodwinked into the idea that the present constitution is good enough for the State and all that is said against it is mere sentiment.

Last fall everywhere on the stump candidates and others, all were a unite in favor of amendment and the legislature was forced unwillingly perhaps to allow the people a chance to vote on the proposition to amend.

Now what is the matter. Truly the politics of Tennessee are peculiar, except in one thing, the theory of Mr. Flannagan, of Texas, "What are we here for if not for the offices," so when there is a possibility of offices being abolished the politicians are aroused and with the office-holders assert the constitution is good enough.

The moral of the situation to our mind is this, what the office holders and fee grabbers don't want, the people do, and the experiences of the past has shown that the so-called constitution of the State is effete and senile as it forms the only protection to these vultures who are too lazy to work and keep on trying to fortify themselves so that they can continue to be provided for. The Republican State Committee at a recent meeting under the lead of Col. Baker declared against it. This action we believe will cost them many votes and the independent voters will look to it that they will not be whipped into line by either party who change front so easily.

The South Pittsburg Republican in denouncing the amendment has the assurance to say that not a hundred votes will be cast for the convention in this County.

We think he is talking through his hat and the wish may be father to the thought, but we know over forty right here who will support it, and our desire is that after informing themselves of the uselessness of the present instrument that the people take the bit in their teeth and beat the political supernumeraries who do not want the Constitution revised, and have a new constitution made that is not a delusion and a snare like the present one, and thus bring the State of Tennessee up into the front line of prosperous and well governed States by the abolition of useless offices, laws that are obsolete and all other hindrances

to its progress and advancement.

Capt. Pryor's Address.

Comrades, Ladies and Gentlemen:—We are gathered here to-day to pay a tribute to the Nation's honored dead and, I trust that we have also come to learn a lesson of patriotism from the example of the battle-scarred veteran of the late war, to learn how to devote our lives to the service of our people. For the service of the people is the service of the Country.

Memorial Day is national. People have gathered in every State in the Union for the same purpose that we are here to-day. Three hundred thousand members of the Grand Army of the Republic are to-day guarding the graves of their dead comrades. By the side of the tottering veteran is the son who has pledged himself to care for the old soldier in time of need. Comrades, let us give our aid in making the last days of these heroes bright—like the calm, clear sunset after a day of storm.

They should have our sympathy. Their lives have been full of hardships. Our fathers gave the best of their lives that we might have one country and one flag. They left home and friends, broke all the tender ties that are so dear to home life. I can in my imagination see the young volunteer leaving home to do battle for his country. He leaves all with a sorrowful heart, for he does not know but that this may be the last time he will ever see the faces of the ones that are dearer than life to him. But his pulse is quickened by the call of his country. He exclaims: "My home I love, but my Country I love best. I must defend the land bought with the blood of my fathers."

Every country has its dead heroes. Some great military genius that successfully led its armed forces against the enemy of the country, or some daring spirit that fought that his people might have liberty. Greece had Leonidas, Rome her Caesar, England her Wellington, America has her Sheridan, Sherman, Grant, Washington, and Lincoln. Are there all? No, not the innumerable hosts that sleep in unmarked graves on a thousand bloody battle fields are our heroes, as dear to us as the mightiest of our generals. We love the soldier that carried the musket and bared his breast to all the dangers of war.

For what do we remember these men? They were the comrades of these old soldiers who are here before me. Why do we call them heroes? Because we owe to them and their comrades this united country of ours, with its seventy millions of happy prosperous people.

Through the victories won by the soldiers of the Union, this nation has forged its way to the wealthiest commercial nation in the world. They opened the way to the development of the inestimable natural resources of this sunny Southland. They gave us a re-united people, who rejoice to day that we are not a Northern or a Southern people, but Americans all. I thank God there is no North, no South.

They destroyed the last vestige of the Dark Ages in this land. Slavery died, pierced to the heart by the hand of the Union soldier. Slavery was a curse, all acknowledge. Slavery had to die that this country might live, and that the South might develop into a section noted for its diversity of enterprises.

Behold the Stars and Stripes! the banner of the free! It is known and honored in every seaport of the civilized world. We are proud of it because "It is a sight that inspires the young, and makes the old young again. Let it wave, holy banner of the free! It was never lowered and never will be;

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and the Government whose security and honor are enshrined upon every star will not be lowered or dishonored." They are heroes because they held up that banner and sealed every star with their blood.

Then let us ever keep green the memory of these dead heroes. That is all we can do. They have fought their last battle and have gone to answer the roll call of the God of battles, the Great Commander-in-Chief of the Universe. They will never march again in the columns of the living or wrap themselves in their blankets to sleep with the mortal. They are on dress parade in the fields of immortal glory. "On Fame's eternal camping ground, their silent tents are spread."

While we are paying the tributes and covering these graves with flowers, let us not forget to drop a tear in memory of those noble boys who wore the Grey. We love the brave. There were never braver men. They were fighting for a cause they believed to be right. "It was the greatest cause ever fought for and lost." We honor them for so nobly submitting to their victorious opponents. Their bravest act was in peaceably returning to their devastated homes. None but the truly brave could do this.

Now let us turn to the living veteran. He is as much as a hero as the dead. He would have given his life freely, as did his comrades. Comrades, will we ever forget your deeds of valor, or the noble sacrifice you made for our country? Not a thousand times No! May we lose everything we love and appreciate in this life before we forget the old Union soldiers.

There are more graves to decorate to-day and fewer hands to do the loving work of placing the flowery tributes on them. This reminds us that in a few more memorial days the last veteran will have answered death's roll call.

Fathers, we cannot have you with us always. It is best, for God has ordained it otherwise. Each day of your remaining life, believe that your sons will ever hold you in their memory.

When life's great battles are all fought and you get your final discharge, you can go out of life's service with the proud consciousness that the memory of you is sacred in the hearts of the American people.

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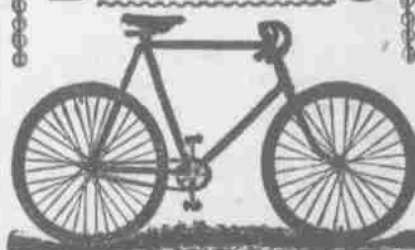
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ple. Now let us do the best for our country. It cost a great price—the warm life blood of America's best manhood. Let us remember the dead and comfort the living. "Tears for the dead, cheers for the living."

INNES' big concert band began a two months engagement at the Tennessee Centennial in Nashville on June 7th. It is said that opinion has established Innes and Sousa as the proprietors and leaders of the only two great concert bands in America. If that is so it shows what fame can do for a man and how stingy she is with her favors. In the world of band music there must be a thousand tombstones marking the grave of buried genius, whose trumpets were not blown loud enough to arrest the attention of the busy world.

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