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OUR CENTENNIAL LETTER.

PHILADELPHIA, AUG. 28, 1876.

More than three months I have passed at least a dozen times a day the building which I am about to describe, and I confess I have shrunk from the task, for I have looked upon it with almost fear and wonder. It is not a subject to be dealt with lightly, for within this mighty building is concentrated more of the brain power, by which the world is moved than in all of the Centennial Exhibition beside. Cross over to the Main Building and there you see the results, come back to Machinery Hall and there you find the motive power by which these results were achieved. It is true in the Chinese and Japanese Departments you see marvellous exhibition of handicraft, wonderful carvings are there on which whole lives of unremitting toil have been wasted; genius which properly directed might have rivaled the creations of Praxiteles, here produces nothing but monstrosities which rather appall than gratify the imagination. You shake the dust of the past from your shoes when you enter Machinery Hall. Everything around you speaks of the living present—not of a slow present, but a present that keeps reaching out and grasping into the future—that compresses years into months and months into days, days into hours and hours into minutes, and minutes into seconds which ever appear to slow. Steam magnifies its power a million times, yet steam seems weak and tardy, and now the restless genius that whips us onward like a pitiless nee, dives down into the bowels of the earth and reaches upward to the stars searching for some new motive power which shall supersede that terrible agent which for seventy years has been the wonder and admiration of the world. Machinery Hall is fourteen hundred feet long, and five hundred and sixty eight feet wide, and covers nearly thirteen acres; the outside aisles are forty feet high the interior aisles are seventy feet. Walk right along with me down the main avenue, nor pause till we reach the giant engine by which all this machinery is moved; we are now in the centre of the building, the hand is in the hour of nine. The crowd around watch in breathless expectation the movements of two men who stand on the elevated platform, one makes a partial circuit of the sleeping monster, scanning everything with a critical eye, he returns to his post, and lays his hand on a polished iron wheel, his comrade does the same. He gives it a gentle turn, the man on the opposite side has repeated his motion, another turn and you see the gentle puff of steam, still another there is a thrill and vibration, still another and the giant arms begin to move, the mighty fly wheel, thirty feet in diameter, sweeps round as noiselessly as a ghost; the whirl and buzz of a thousand machines break through the stillness of the morning and the days labor has fairly begun, but look down there to the right, do you see that man leaning against the platform, that is George H. Corliss, of Providence, and the owner of the giant before you. In person he is short and thick set, seeming capable of any amount of endurance. Look at that bull neck and mastiff jaw, and watch the expression of his face, which at a glance looks hard and stern. No corpse might this but one of your rough solid workers, who understands no nonsense, who would not give you for a compliment, and who goes his way through every obstacle and never pauses till finally his object is achieved. He looks just exactly like a man who would kick a beggar out of his house and then bring a five dollar bill at him from a second story window—Work,

work, work. Not the dull plodding of human muscles, but nerves of iron and muscles of steel, controlled by God's most marvelous agent, the human brain. Into these titanic arms, moving with the unerring certainty of fate, a power has been put which lifts the yoke of labor from the neck of groaning millions, almost nullifying the curse which the creator proclaimed to the children of men. "In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat thy bread."

Everything around you is suggestive of strength, power, speed and intelligence, no guess work here, no grasping for chances in the dark, mathematic, stern and unrelenting, furnish the base of every problem by which these giants are moved, come this way, do you see that mighty clever which rises and falls so noiselessly up and down that, you would realize its power; put this bar of iron an inch thick beneath its pitiless jaw, see it cleaves as though it was tissue paper. Here is a punching machine that sends its bolt through a thick plate of iron just as the sewing machine sends its needle through a piece of cambric. And here we have a monster lathe working all alone; no human being near it and yet observe the unerring intelligence that hour after hour works steadily on and never makes a mistake. Still father on an uncomfortable shadow falls across our path, we look up and find ourselves standing in the presence of the great Krupp gun, while in a military man it might awaken admiration to see the perfection to which human genius has brought this miracle of ordnance. I confess the only feeling it awakened in me was a hope that it might never be used. Ye can scarcely realize its size and its power twenty three feet long, twenty tons weight, fifteen inch bore, and a range of fifteen miles. But though the name of Fred Krupp is indissolubly connected with the manufacture of the grandest piece of ordnance of modern times. It is not solely in this connection that his glory will pass to posterity, around you on every side are the emblems of his genius, which like angels of peace, all testify to the greatness of his man's name when the history of his monster gun has passed into oblivion forever. Close beside this dread engine of destruction lies the mighty shaft of a steamship forged from a single ignot of steel and polished like a ladies' bodice, huge steel tires for locomotives and wheels for cars are scattered around on every hand. Commerce pays him her peaceful tribute, and the railroads of the world in the remotest climes bear testimony to his genius and skill. Twenty thousand people find employment in his numerous factories and mines, and I hail with satisfaction the exhibit among our people of the greatest steel manufacturer in the world. In one section I saw what to me appeared a very wonderful operation, it was the manufacture of tinware by Bliss & Williams, of Brooklyn, well do I remember the time when the commonest tin pan was made out of four pieces and of the care that had constantly to be exercised to keep the bottom from melting off. Great benefits of the human race was he who invented this stamping machine, now they use a circular plate of tin placed it under the die, and before you can say Jack, much less Robinson, your pan is made, and such a pan, a model of beauty, and strength that defies all efforts of Brit to knock or melt the bottom out of it, and here we come to the sawyers department, magicians you may fairly call them; for it seems as if they could do almost anything with those wonderful little saws, see him take up that rough unguinly looking block, watch how daintily he twists and turns it around, see the saw scarcely leaves a

trace but keeps whirling and whizzing on, look he shakes it to pieces and before you is a complete set of fairy furniture, handsomely finished and ready for use. A few years ago and the name of Mattew was almost the only one identified with the manufacture of soda water apparatus, now the woods are full of 'em. Tuft has a half dozen marble palaces and other manufacturers have such magnificent displays, that we feel compelled to ask where does the money come from, would it not just be possible to give us just a trifle less magnificent apparatus and a little cheaper soda water. This thing has been increasing year after year till now five or six thousand dollars is considered a very moderate price for a soda water apparatus for a country drug store, in fact the single article of furniture would mortgage all the pille-cotia, epsom salts, porous plasters, and sugar coated pills usually owned by a country apothecary. The Centennial Commission has just made a new concession, on Saturdays of this month the Exhibition is to be opened for twenty five cents. Last week a firm in Agricultural Hall had a lot of cards printed which they intended to put over their card cases in various parts of the hall, and on them was printed in large red letters—"Take one." Some graceless varlet passing along, stole the whole package and looking around saw a magnificent display of preserved fruits and pickles, from which the owner was unfortunately absent, he carefully placed a ticket on each bottle and can and then withdrew to observe the general result. The first that came along was a fat old woman from Missouri. She paused for a moment, rubbed her spectacles and then reached for a bottle of pickles, she went on a few steps and then returned, and hungry looking galoots from Kentucky followed in her wake and off walked a couple packages of strawberries. A widow with four children next appeared and they went for some Bartlett pears and raspberry jam. The news spread like wildfire and in a few moments hundreds were rushing like mad toward the unfortunate stand. It was not long till the place was entirely stripped, and when the unlucky owner got back all that remained was the empty shelves over which were scattered cards that told the story of his ruin, inscribed with the motto, "take one." An admirable restaurant has been opened by the Darymen's Association, just back of Agricultural Hall, where for twenty five cents you can get a very respectable meal—this is the price of a cup of coffee in any of the crack restaurants. It is the only place on the grounds where you can get a meal at a moderate price, and the gentlemanly superintendent, Mr. Coit is always on the alert to secure the comfort of his guests.

Yours truly,
BROADBENT.

Gov. Chamberlain and the Commissioners of Election.

Gov. Chamberlain has issued the following important announcement. The Democrats of the several counties should lose no time in availing themselves of the Governor's invitation:

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA,
Executive Chamber,
Columbia, August 25, 1876.

It will be my duty to appoint, on or before the 7th proximo, three Commissioners of Election in each county in the State.

It is just and proper, in my judgment, that each political party should be fairly presented in these several boards, and I therefore purpose to appoint, as a general rule, on each board two representatives of the Republican party and one of the Democratic party. In all cases I intend to appoint only fair minded and just men.

I therefore invite suggestions and recommendations as to these appointments from both political parties.

I shall decline to appoint candidates for office as Commissioners of Election, and if those first appointed shall thereafter become candidates, I shall expect their resignation as commissioners of election, and I shall feel warranted in making removals for this cause.

D. H. CHAMBERLAIN,
Governor of South Carolina.

The State Ticket.

Gen. Wade Hampton, the chosen standard-bearer of the Democracy in the coming campaign, needs no introduction to the people of South Carolina. Born in Charleston, he has passed, as his fathers did before him, the greater portion of his life in Richland, and represented that county several times in the State Legislature. Upon all the exciting questions which agitated the State previous to the war Gen. Hampton entertained moderate views; but when the South manifested by its action that the people were united upon extreme measures, he acquiesced in their decision and devoted himself and his fortune to their service. As Colonel of the Hampton Legion he entered active service, and through his merit and conspicuous gallantry rose to the rank of Lieut. General.—When a State Government was organized under authority of President Johnson, the gubernatorial nomination was offered to him and refused. Notwithstanding this, Governor Orr, the regular candidate, received a majority of only a few votes. In 1868 Gen. Hampton participated in the National Democratic Convention which nominated Seymour and Blair, and two years later canvassed the State for Carpenter and Butler in the Reform campaign. Since then he has devoted his attention to private affairs. Although Gen. Hampton has his residence in Columbia he owns large tracts of land in Mississippi, where, as tenants and laborers, he has settled all that remain of his family and has secured for himself the best relations existing. Called by the State to the front Gen. Hampton will lead in the most vigorous canvass ever made in South Carolina. Politically he is in full accord with the National Democratic party, accepts the constitutional amendments without reservation, and if elected will be the Governor of the whole people.

The Hon. W. D. Simpson, of Laurens, the nominee for Lieut. Governor, both in the profession of law and in the political field, has achieved deserved distinction. He represented Laurens county in the Legislature before the war, and in 1868 defeated A. S. Wallace for Congress by a majority of 4,291 votes. A partisan rule of the House prevented him, owing to his political disabilities, from representing the district. Col. Simpson's nomination adds much strength to the ticket.

Col. R. M. Sims, of York, was Adjutant General of Gary's Brigade during the war, and after the war represented Lancaster in the State Senate. He is now a citizen of York, a prominent member of the Patrons of Husbandry, a gentleman of high culture, and very popular.

Gen. James Conner, a leading member of the Bar of Charleston, was United States District Attorney for South Carolina from the year 1857 to the time of secession; when he entered the service and rose to the rank of Brigadier General. He was a member of the convention of 1865, called by proclamation of the President of the United States to reconstruct the State. Since then he has not taken any active part in politics until the present campaign. In May he was unanimously chosen chairman of the State Executive committee.—The enthusiasm with which his nomination as Attorney General was greeted by the convention is an evidence of the gratification with which it will be received by the people.

Gen. Johnson Hagood, of Barnwell, the candidate for Comptroller General, is a leading representative of the planting interests of the State. He served with conspicuous gallantry during the war, was a member of the Legislature in 1865, and has since then entertained conservative political

views. For several years he was President of the State Agricultural Society. While Gen. Hagood enjoys general popularity, his local strength is peculiarly great. The extraordinary executive ability shown in the management of his planting interests proves him to be singularly well qualified to discharge satisfactorily the duties of the office for which he is nominated.

Capt. S. L. Leaphart, of Richland, was Comptroller General in 1865, and was succeeded by Neagle in 1868. He has many friends, and his fitness for the responsible position to which he has been nominated is unquestioned. Under his management all leaks will be stopped in the treasury.

Major Hugh S. Thompson, for many years, both as Professor in the State Military Academy and as Principal of the Columbia Male Academy, has been connected with the educational interests of the State. His past and present success in his profession indicate him as the right man in the right place. Under him the chaos existing in the free school system would soon be reduced to order.

The State ticket closes with Major E. W. Moise, of Sumter, the nominee for the Adjutant and Inspector Generalship. Major Moise is one of the most successful lawyers of his section and a life-long Democrat.—Although previously offered office he has always declined up to the present time to accept any nomination. His acquiescence now is a proof of his willingness to work for the redemption of his State.

This ticket, if elected, will be a guarantee to the State of all the reforms so sadly needed, and a pledge of peace and protection to every honest citizen of the commonwealth, regardless of race or politics, as well as a terror to evil doers. The candidates nominated have been distinguished for moderation in their views. They have a military record, because, as well said in the convention, the manhood of the South was engaged in the struggle. They having renewed their allegiance in good faith, they and the whole citizens of the State with them will uphold to the last the Constitution of the United States and of South Carolina. For such candidates, on such a platform, all honest, patriotic citizens can vote.—News and Courier.

GREETING TO SOUTH CAROLINA.—The Augusta Chronicle and Sentinel reviews our ticket for State officers in some very encouraging words. It considers South Carolina happy to have such sons willing to serve her. It says:

With Hampton in the Executive office, a new and bright era will dawn upon the State; with Conner as Attorney General, the office will again become synonymous with the leadership of the bar of the State; with Leaphart as Treasurer and Hagood as Comptroller General, there will be retrenchment and reform; with Hugh S. Thompson—one of the ablest, purest, most successful and most practical teachers in this country—as State Superintendent of Education, the educational interests of the State will be carefully fostered, and the schools elevated to a higher standard and greatly augmented in number. In a word, with such officials, South Carolina will no longer be demoniated the prostrate State. Men of South Carolina, thank God and take courage! The past is gone, the present is yours; the future shall be yours, if you are true to yourselves.

"Doctor, said a lady to her physician, don't you think the small bonnets that the ladies wear nowadays have a tendency to produce congestion of the brain?" "No, madame, where you see one of those bonnets, there is no brain to congest."

The Crops.

The latest report of the Government Department of Agriculture shows an increase in the entire corn area of the country of five per cent. over last year. The crop is in general in a thrifty growing state. Insect injuries have been limited to depredations by worms, and are not serious. The entire crop averages ninety-seven. Winter wheat improved in condition from eighty seven per cent. of an average in June to ninety seven per cent. in July. West Virginia shows the highest average, 115.—Spring wheat shows about eighty five per cent. of an average condition. In New York it is a full average. The reports concerning Winter rye, are favorable, and Spring rye is about on average on the whole. The oat crop has improved in most of the States. In the Middle States it has risen above the average, except in Delaware. Public opinion in the South is growing decidedly in favor of Winter crops of oats. The crop of the whole country is about an average. Spring barley is above the average in New York and other States; in still other States it is below. The hay crop is ample, being above average in most of the States. The acreage planted in potatoes in 1876 is about eight per cent. less than in 1875; New York shows a reduction in acreage of fifteen per cent.; in New England and the Middle States the crop in condition is below the average, but in all other sections it is a full average, or slightly above. The acreage of beans is about the same as last year, and an average crop is indicated. The cotton crop averages 97.6. Less acreage has been planted to tobacco, and the condition of the crop in the States reporting is about three per cent. below average. The New England and Middle States are full average or above. The fruit crop has not improved in condition, though localities boast of an unusual supply, and a good prospect of fruit not yet ripened. The general condition of the apple crop is still above average. The New York, reports the leading of the small limbs to the extent of six to twelve inches, through some agency not stated.—The condition of the crop in the Middle States is above average. Only three States will have average crops of peaches. A very serious decline has occurred in some of the great peach regions, Delaware promising not much over one fourth of a crop.

THE STATE TICKET.—The ticket put before the people by the Democratic convention is the strongest ever offered for popular support in South Carolina. With Hampton, Conner, Hagood, Wagener, McGowan and Sims representing the distinguished citizen soldiers of the State, and Simpson, Moise, Thompson and Leaphart the civil element, a ticket is presented which commands the enthusiastic support of all Carolinians. Here are offered lofty manhood, devoted patriotism, pure integrity and sterling ability.

The ticket is a platform of reform principles, in their living reality and active potency for good. We call upon Carolinians, white and black, to rally to the rescue of the State, for law and order—peace and returning prosperity.—Journal of Commerce.

It is learned that there will be general reduction in the salaries of clerks and agents in the postal service in consequence of reduced appropriations.

A London court is deep in the mazes of a divorce suit, in which the respondent is ninety years old.

Mr. Greatnoise has recently been admitted to the Alabama bar. He ought to make a sound lawyer.