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MARCH 21, 1900.

TO THE PUBLIC.

Believing that Fort Mill is a town of sufficient proportions, intellectually, numerically, and financially, to support a newspaper, we have decided to again undertake the publication of The Times at this place. During the early part of 1891 I started a small paper in Fort Mill, The Catawban, which, after a life of a few months, was abandoned and its name changed to The Times. After running The Times for a year I accepted a position outside of the State. Since then the paper has been edited by several persons. The Times has been run very successfully, my purpose in advertising to which is only to ask from whom the support of the paper must come not to make any sacrifice of my understanding for the shortcomings of the paper. I shall make an honest attempt to publish a representative paper as far as my limited ability permits, and if I fail of success in undertaking I shall return the money collected in advance for subscriptions, etc.

Wm. R. BRADFORD.

Fort Mill, as elsewhere, there is a small number of radical and optimistic Democrats who believe, or affect to believe, success will no alight upon the efforts of the party in the next Presidential election. Those who are to gaze retrospectively on the Presidential campaign of 1896 will recall the doubt and gloom which pervaded the minds of even the most sanguine Democrats for a few months immediately prior to the Chicago Convention. There were few, precious few, of opinion that the nominee, whoever he might be, stood the least chance of election. That they reckoned without a host is a matter of well-known history, and the minutiae thereof need not here be considered farther than to say that Mr. Bryan received very nearly seven millions of votes—a greater number than had hitherto been cast for any American for any office—and this, too, notwithstanding the fact that practically every banker, capitalist, corporation magnate, and Federal officeholder in the country, and especially in the North, was arrayed against him, the latter classification including ex-President Cleveland, who employed every influence within his grasp to encompass the defeat of Mr. Bryan. That they succeeded in defeating the Democratic nominee only after the expenditure of more than eighteen millions of dollars and by the adoption of coercion, bribery, duress, fraud, and every other species of corruption is likewise a matter of history, which it were unnecessary to dwell upon at this time. During the past year, however, a vast majority of those who refused to support the candidates nominated at Chicago because of the financial plank in the platform have returned to the party, and instead of a discordant, disunited Democracy we now have a harmonious, compact organization—one which will enter the campaign this year in a better financial condition than in a long time and determined to win. Order has taken the place of chaos all along the line, and those who anticipate a repetition of the same results that attended the first struggle of right against wrong will have an opportunity of expressing their opinion when next Monday develops a Democratic

Except the financial question and there has not been a political issue during the present generation on which has agitated the public mind to such an extent as is the trust question. Pick up any secular newspaper of recent date, no matter from what section of the country it may have been published, and in its columns are sure to be found more or less space devoted to this all-important subject. Week in and week out, article after article is put to print in denunciation of this Colossus-like iniquity, which, not dissimilar to the mighty octopus, is certainly and rapidly entwining itself around every American industry. The protests of the people, however, seem to avail nothing—their rights are daily spat upon and the statutes of the United States are being violated and defied from one end of the country to the other. By the formation of these powerful corporations thousands of men, women, and children have been and are being thrown out of employment and denied the inherent right to earn an honest living; stockholders are constantly evading taxes which they should be forced to pay; and the people are compelled to submit to an exorbitant increase in price of wellnigh all of the necessities of life. One can not call to mind half a dozen articles of food, etc., which are not higher intrinsically than six months ago. During the past four years a greater number of trusts have been organized and operated than in the whole former existence of our Government. In the year 1899 the trusts were greatly on the increase, and on March 26 of that year a list of the trusts was published in a New York newspaper. It included 162, with the enormous capitalization of \$2,683,164,467. Had the American people followed the wholesome advice of the immortal Jefferson by "fighting corruption and tyranny before they have got hold of us," instead of sleeping at a time when all should have been up and doing, they would not now be face to face with a condition in which they are being bound hand and foot, in bondage akin to that of Sampson. As to the remedy, even our leaders seem to know not what to do, since the powers that be are averse to "killing the goose that laid the golden egg in campaign time." It would appear, therefore, that the only hope for the future lies in the election of a Democratic President on the 6th day of next November. Perhaps it is true, as someone has said, that "trusts have neither bodies to be kicked nor souls to be damned," but with a Democratic Executive in the White House, which would mean an Attorney-General of the United States with a backbone not made of a cotton string, the stockholders of every trust doing business in this country would be prosecuted for violation of the anti-trust law.

"God gave me this crown, let him beware who would take it from me."—Napoleon Bonaparte, 1800; William McKinley, 1900.

History repeats itself, but on reverse lines. Napoleon built a nation out of the fragments of an empire; McKinley is building an empire on the ruins of a republic. Napoleon was an imperial democrat; McKinley aims to be a republican emperor. The former is logical, the latter an absurdity.

An ocean of blood was expended to settle the proposition that the sovereign States could not secede from the Federal Union, but taking advantage of a lack of precedent prohibiting the Federal power from seceding from the union of States, William McKinley has cut loose from the great contract of the Constitution and is establishing a sovereignty separate and distinct from the constitution and independent of the union of sovereign States. This is to create an empire, an autocracy, and maintain it at the expense of a free people, who can have no share in its government. It is a restoration of the burden of taxation without representation which our forefath-

ers threw overboard with the tea in Boston harbor.

It did not require the pen of Henry Loomis Nelson to touch the imperialistic policy of Mr. McKinley and the Republican party on the quick. All the words and acts of the President and his mouthpiece, Grosvener of Ohio, on the floor of Congress demonstrate it.

But it is alleged by Mr. Nelson that "the President looks forward to benefiting the people of our new possessions by expanding the blessings of Protestant Christianity and civilization by means of commerce. He is a thorough believer in the moral and intellectual value of commerce." It is that combination of God and Mammon denounced by the Redeemer. And says the Milwaukee News:

"The canting hypocrisy of 'benevolent assimilation' deceives no one but those who deceive themselves. It is greed that prompts the shedding of blood in the Philippines. It is greed that is engineering the great financial and industrial combinations, by which the masses will be held up by the throat and reduced to a condition but little removed from chattel slavery. It is greed that whispers we are slaying our fellow-man in the Philippines to save his soul, while greed is preparing to steal his lands. It is greed that talks lightly of manifest destiny and the mission of civilization."

"Who said, 'Haul down our flag?' No man whose warm blood is American! But if they say it waves o'er lands where man in arms as conqueror stands. 'Tis but a false, pretentious rage—'Tis not our flag, 'tis not our flag! Our flag must wave, where'er it be, For Justice, Right, and Liberty."—Selected.

There is not an industrious man, however poor he may be, who can not afford to subscribe for at least two newspapers. But grant that there are men whose circumstances are such that it is incompatible with their interests to take more than one paper. The thought naturally arises, What paper should that be? Has he more to gain by the welfare of his immediate neighborhood or that of a community in which at most he has no more than a cursory interest? If the former, it is his bounden duty to support the local paper. Every man should consider himself primarily obligated to build up and sustain the enterprises which contribute to the growth of the community of which he is a part, and of all enterprises the local newspaper is the best. It does more for a town and its people than any other agency. No town can enjoy satisfactory prosperity without a representative paper loyally sustained by appreciative citizens, and thoughtful citizens will stand by their editor in his efforts to enlarge the influence of his paper. Let us see to it that our home paper has the united support of our home people. In helping the editor, you help yourself.

Dr. T. J. Straif, of Lancaster, sent word to the editor of this paper a few days ago that he will be a candidate for the Democratic nomination for Congress in this district this year. As yet it can not be foretold with any degree of certainty who will receive the nomination, but there are those who claim that on account of the Doctor's arraignment of McLaurin two years ago he lost a great many votes in the last Congressional primary which he will be able to command this year, for the reason that McLaurin's recent anti-Democratic proclivities have entirely vindicated every charge made by the Doctor. En passant it might be observed that shooting stars is no more stupid employment than that of certain newspapers in this State which are making effort to explain away the mistakes of our junior Senator. Fort Mill is a representative South Carolina town of 1,800 population, and there are not in this place a dozen electors who will ever again vote for "curly-haired Johnnie."

A good thing—The Times at \$1.

Progress of the South.

Thirty years ago the South was crippled and poverty stricken, says the Manufacturer's Record. Its natural resources of wealth were unsurpassed. But it was without strength, opportunity, or implements to develop them. Imperfect means of transportation and communication, a disorganized labor system, the ranks of the most vigorous element of the population depleted, practically no ready money, and the absence of the outside of the helping hand were enough to appall a more sturdy people. But from wreck and ruin the South has emerged energetic, progressive, sanguine. To-day it has one billion dollars invested in manufacturing, with an annual output valued at one and a half billion dollars, and paying three hundred and fifty millions of dollars in wages. Its cotton mills, with five million spindles, representing an investment of one hundred and twenty-five million dollars already consume yearly one million four hundred thousand bales of cotton. It is producing about two and a half million tons of pig iron a year, forty million tons of coal, from ten to eleven million bales of cotton, probably ten billion feet of lumber, and seven hundred and fifty million bushels of grain, and its railroads, steadily improving and increasing in length, have already fifty thousand mileage.

The South has accomplished much. It has much to do before its full growth shall have been attained. That it will be equal to its mighty task is proved by its present lustiness.

An "Hello" Girl's Suggestions.

If you have a telephone in your office or store, call up "Central" and then go wait on a customer.

Take your time in answering your bell, or what is better, do not answer it at all, but in about half an hour ring up and ask who called you, and get mad if "Central" has forgotten who it was. She has nothing to do but remember.

Hang the receiver big end up, as in this way it gets full of dust.

Bang on the transmitter with a lead pencil as though you intend to knock it through the wall. This invariably makes it talk better.

When through talking, drop the receiver or throw it down. This allows the batteries to run out and breaks the strands in the receiver cord.

Talk out of the door or window, anywhere but in the telephone; better turn your back to the phone, as your voice is apt to get to the transmitter.

Ring in "Central's" ear every time you call; so pleasant, you know.

Open the generator box with a knife or an axe and take a look at things. If the interior does not look right pull on a few wires and leave the door open. This improves the service wonderfully.

Throw metal ink stands, etc., on top of the telephone, which will short circuit your instrument, and then go to sleep. No one can call you up.

Never ring off when through talking as that would notify "Central" you had finished. Let her guess at it. Never speak kindly to the operator. She is more used to being called names.—Unknown newspaper.

Crocker on Trusts.

On the eve of his departure for Europe, Mr. Richard Crocker, Tammany Hall chief, published an interview in the New York Journal in which he gave his views on trusts, from which we make the following extracts:

The trust business has gone too far. Look at the country. Nobody ever saw the like of it before. McKinley heads the biggest trust that you could conceive—the biggest that could live on earth. It's a trust for the political exploitation of the United States. Everything is organized to make money out of the country. The cabinet is a trust cabinet from top to bottom. Every man in it is a trust promoter or a trust tool.

Look at the flag of this country! They are making it a cloak for stealing and a trust advertisement. The people will not stand that. The Army is recruited to make rich trusts richer. The Navy is managed and juggled to reward trust servants and to punish the enemies of the political trust of the United States of America.

Talk of political rottenness! Talk about corruption! Nothing has ever equalled this. It was bad enough when the Republicans used their own money to fight Democrats. But here is a trust government robbing every man in the land, every Democrat and every other man, and using the stolen money to keep those Democrats from any share in the National Government. There will be trouble for the trust thieves, do not doubt it for one minute.

Look at the gas trust. They make the prices what they like. They rob this Democratic city (New York) and then use the money to keep the State Republican, to buy Republicans into office, and to reward the private law concerns of Republican potentates. The impudence of the trust Republicans would amaze anybody. The crops are good. First they claim credit for that. They claim the rain and the sunshine that the good God sends us; isn't that blasphemy? And as soon as they have got through claiming the crops as the work of McKinley and his trust cabinet, they turn in and steal the crops for themselves.

There's a milk trust to milk the farmer's cow and rob the thin babies in the city. There's a trust to poison you with cigarettes, a trust in your kerosene lamp, another in your sugar bowl, and a coffin trust, too, which makes sure that even the last cent shall not get away. Do you think the American people work hard and bring up their children simply to fatten trusts? Do you think they will lead the lives of negroes in slavery time, when the children were brought into the world only to make the slave owner richer?

No, sir! This is no country dedicated to producing fools to enrich trust owners. The trusts will find that out in the next election. What they always forget is that the rest of creation does not consist of fools. The time will soon come when people will look back in amazement and wonder that the people ever stood it. To let loose 10,000 licensed burglars on the country, forbidding policemen to touch them, as this Administration forbids officials to touch trust thieves, would be not one-tenth as bad as this wholesale official robbery. It's the size of the country and the difficulty of getting concerted action that has let the thing go so far. But the stopping time has come, and this country will find it out in the next election.

Political Potpourri.

O. L. Schumppert, of Newberry, was in Spartanburg attending court last Thursday. He has announced his intention of entering the race for governor again. The indications now are that the voters of that county will divide on no political lines, but that they will vote for their choice for governor on personal grounds. It will not be asked whether a candidate is a reformer or conservative; a silverite or a gold man, an imperialist or a non-expansionist, a friend of the dispensary man or a prohibitionist. So far as Spartanburg is concerned it will be a go-as-you-please race, with the probability that a nameless old friend of candidates will grab the hindmost.

A special to the Atlanta Constitution from Chicago says: The indignation caused by the passage of the Puerto Rican tariff bill by the lower house of Congress is possibly greater among the Republicans in the West and Northwest than the Democrats, and many of the former, among them the staunchest supporters of President McKinley, do not hesitate to say that if something is not done to remedy the great wrong done the Republicans will surely lose Indiana, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Wisconsin, and Minnesota—in fact practically every State in the West and Northwest—in November next. When such friends of the President as H. H. Kohlsaat, editor and proprietor of the Times-Herald, a man who has refused to accept anything at the hands of the Administration, although he could have had his choice of what McKinley had to give, come out in such unqualified condemnation as was expressed in The Times-Herald's editorial this morning, it is apparent that the President has few supporters in his course in the West.

NOTICE.—There will be a meeting of the Daughters of the Confederacy on next Monday evening, March 26, at 3 p. m. at the Presbyterian manse.

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"THE OLD RELIABLE STORE."

We thank our friends and customers for their loyalty to us during the last few years of low-priced cotton and consequent hard times; but we feel there is a better time coming to all of us in a financial way and we confidently assert that we are here to merit a continuance of your patronage. Season in and season out, we carry the stock of this town. Every department of our establishment is filled with new goods, and a careful inspection will pay you. We allow no legitimate competitor to undersell us. That's one of the principals—a material one to you—on which our business is run; and our stock, which comprises very nearly everything necessary to the comfort of man, is easily the largest between Charlotte and Rock Hill.

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OATS, FERTILIZERS, ETC.
Ours are sold at bottom prices.

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We solicit trade from those who desire to buy on installments. Accounts to be paid in the fall are offered, if good collateral can be given.

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Magic Stock Food

Acts like magic upon
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They are the best articles of the kind sold, for the principal reason that they cost the merchant more than others, but are sold to the consumer for the SAME PRICE as cheaper goods.

Brush up your premises.

We have all kinds of

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Ready-mixed in cans, from a pint to a gallon, or the raw ingredients for Paint to be made to order.

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Have two buyers in New York City at this time purchasing their spring stock of

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and
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which lines have won for them such a wide reputation.

Their display this season will surpass anything of the kind ever before undertaken in Fort Mill. As for Millinery, they are unable to find words in the English language to express the beauty and grandeur of this line of goods. They extend a cordial invitation to their friends and customers to examine their spring stock. Charlotte and Rock Hill can not eclipse it.

MEACHAM & EPPS