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NO CHANGE IN THE SITUATION

BRYAN AND MCKINLEY HAVE AN EVEN RACE.

Kansas and Nebraska Are no Longer Claimed by the Republicans. Challenge to Fight a Duel is Sent.

(Correspondence of The Ledger.)

WASHINGTON, D. C., Oct. 23, 1896.—

There is nothing in sight at the Bryan or the McKinley headquarters in Washington to show that either is licked. On the contrary, there is an increased show of confidence among the followers of both. Senator Butler, chairman of the Populist National Committee, who has done comparatively little boasting during the campaign, now declares his belief in the most emphatic language that Bryan will be elected. He says he this week received information which he thinks makes it absolutely certain that Bryan will carry Michigan, Minnesota and Illinois, which will elect him with a big margin. The McKinley men will not even discuss the probability of Bryan's winning. They say that the fight has been won for several weeks, and that it is now only a question of how large McKinley's majority will be, and Vice Chairman Apsley, of the Republican Congressional Committee, has just put out the largest claim yet made for McKinley and he insists that he expects from information in the possession of his committee that McKinley will get more votes than he has claimed for him. It requires no microscope, however, to see that the gentlemen who put forward these claims for both sides are very nervous, and they would doubtless be very glad to be able to feel as confident as they wish the public to think they feel.

Secretary Carlisle has gone to Kentucky to take the stump against Bryan. He will make a number of speeches, but will not remain in the state to vote, which seems a little strange in view of the belief that Kentucky will be a close state for whoever carries it.

Some idea of the enormous amount of campaign literature sent out from Washington recently may be gathered from the 40,000,000 speech envelopes which have been printed at Government Printing Office, upon orders of Congressmen. 5,000,000 were ordered by Senator Faulkner, chairman of the Democratic Committee; 4,000,000 by Representative Babcock, chairman of the Republican Committee; 4,700,000 by Representative Litton, of Michigan, the A. P. A. leader in the House, and the remainder by other members. The literary part of the campaign is now over, and the fight is hand-to-hand.

The more conservative among the McKinleyites have been putting Kansas and Nebraska in the doubtful column, notwithstanding the claims made by the campaign managers; and some of them are now almost ready to put both states in the sure Bryan column, owing to a statement made in Washington by Mr. H. A. H. Plumb, son of the late Senator Plumb, of Kansas. Mr. Plumb has excellent opportunities to know the political sentiment of his own state and of Nebraska, as his business takes him to all sections of both, and he says that both states are absolutely certain to be carried by Bryan and free silver.

Everybody in Washington stopped discussing the money question long enough to extract a little amusement out of the sending of a challenge to fight a duel by one printer to another printer, both employees of the Government Printing Office, which was all the more surprising because of the general belief that printers are as a rule bountiful, endowed with common sense. The receiver of the challenge had so little respect for the "code of honor" that he had the would-be duellist arrested. Heavy penalties are provided by law for sending a challenge to fight a duel in the District of Columbia, but, fortunately for the belligerent camp, the judge of the police court didn't take the affair seriously and discharged him with a warning not to repeat the offense.

An appeal to populists, issued by Mr. N. A. Dunning, who was editor of the National Watchman, the populist organ, before that paper was absorbed by Senator Stewart's Silver Knight, is creating talk among politicians. It accuses the Populist National Committee of having "betrayed the trust given to it, made merchandise of the party creating it" and of being "guilty of the crimes of fraud, treachery and deception against those it should have honestly served," and is especially severe on Chairman Butler, whom it accuses of wishing to force Mr. Watson off the ticket. Mr. Dunning has been known as a middle-of-the-road populist and a warm

friend of Tom Watson, and there is much surmise as to whether Mr. Watson knew of this appeal before its publication and whether he endorsed it. Mr. Dunning states that he intends to vote the republican ticket, owing to his disgust at the treatment of Mr. Watson and the populists by Mr. Bryan's managers. That the increase in the price of wheat is playing an important part in the present political campaign is not denied by anybody, but there is a radical difference in the ideas of the gold and silver men as to its cause and the effect it will have upon the votes of farmers. The silver men are divided, some saying that the rise is fictitious and that it has been engineered by the gold men in the interest of McKinley, and others that it is the natural result of the prospect of the free coinage of silver in this country. The gold men are unanimous in ascribing it to natural causes, shortage of the wheat crop in various sections of the world, and in expressing the belief that it will cause many farmers who have been favorably disposed towards silver to vote against the white metal, by convincing them that there is no connection between the price of silver and the price of farm products. Which ever is right the farmer who has wheat to sell is getting the benefit of the increased price, which he enjoys.

Prof. H. P. Griffith.

We clip the following from a communication of Prof. H. P. Griffith on "Christian Education," in the Baptist Courier:

"The new woman, if she ever comes, may be better equipped for the animal battle of life, but she will never wield the power of the old. She will never establish her throne in men's hearts nor erect an altar in her home from which shall flow sweet streams of influences that will inspire men with courage and invite them to pure and holy deeds.

"With all the imputed defects in our system, or want of system, if you may so please to call it, of female education, it has produced the purest, grandest type of womanhood that the world has ever seen. Corporal Tanner uttered a truth when he said, in a speech before the confederate reunion in Richmond last June, 'I tell you, boys, if it hadn't been for your women we would have licked you eighteen months before we did.' The southern woman of ante bellum days was the peer of princesses and queens. She was the companion of statesmen and divines, and the mother and sister of patriots and heroes. She was worthy to be classed with 'Sidney's sister, Pembroke's mother,' and when the last representative of her race shall have passed away the rest of Rare Ben Jonson's famous epitaph may justly be inscribed on her tomb:

... Death, sure thou hast slain another,
Good and true and fair as she,
Time shall hurl his dart at thee."

Ministers and Deacons' Institute.

Our brother in black is nothing if not progressive. The Limestone, colored, Baptist Church has completed all arrangements for a Ministers and Deacons' Institute, to be held in this city November 12 and 13. The following is the program which they have had issued for that occasion:

First topic, "The Study of the Scriptures;" lecture by Rev. J. D. Bailey, of Cowpens, S. C.

Second topic, "A New Testament Church;" lecture by Rev. J. E. Covington, of Landrum, S. C.

Third topic, "The Holy Spirit in a Church;" lecture by Rev. A. C. Osborne, D. D., of Columbia, S. C.

Fourth topic, "The Plan of Salvation;" lecture by Rev. J. R. Aiken, of Spartanburg, S. C.

Fifth topic, "The True Worship of God;" lecture by Rev. I. W. Wingo, of Campobello, S. C.

Sixth topic, "The Pastor and His Work;" lecture by Rev. W. J. Langston, of Paoclet, S. C.

Seventh topic, "The Deaconship;" lecture by Rev. A. C. Osborn, of Columbia, S. C.

Eighth topic, "The Mission of a Church;" lecture by Rev. W. P. Smith, of Spartanburg, S. C.

All ministers and deacons of colored Baptist churches are earnestly requested to be present at these exercises. All who come will be entertained by the people of Gaffney. Rev. A. C. Osborn, D. D., president of Benedict College, of Columbia, S. C., will be present at all the sessions.

Hurrah for Gaffney!

Oscar Wood's fine mare, Flow, won first money in the running race at the Woodruff fair. J. Q. Little's fine harness horse, Prince, got the blue ribbon three times, and Tom Lockhart's fine young horse showed himself a winner in a running race.

Bucklen's Arnica Salve.

The Best Salve in the world for Cuts, Bruises, Sores, Ulcer, Salt Rheum, Fever Sores, Tetter, Chapped Hands, Chilblains, Corns, and all Skin Eruptions, and positively cures Piles, or no pay required. It is guaranteed to give perfect satisfaction or money refunded. Price 25 cents per box. For sale by The DuFre Drug Co.

A DESPERATE WAR BATTLE.

A SKETCH OF FREDERICKSBURG.

Mr. Strain Talks of the Most Desperate Conflict Between the Confederate and Federal Forces.

(Correspondence of The Ledger.)

ETTA JANE, Oct. 26.—Summerville in my last should be changed to Seclusionville, in the war incident.

To get a good view of the Fredericksburg (Va.) battlefield, and to study its history, the student should take his position on Stafford Heights on the northern bank of the Rappahannock river. On the opposite side of the river, in the valley, stands the town of Fredericksburg. Away to the south and southwest rises a range of low hills enclosing a kind of semi-circular plain about six miles in length and two or three in width. On this ridge the Confederate army was stationed, Gen. Longstreet on the left, Stonewall Jackson in the center, and A. P. Hill on the right— all facing the enemy on the north bank of the river. Longstreet's left was nearer the town than any other portion of the Confederate line. Along the ridge at different intervals rise little knolls which afforded splendid positions for the Confederate batteries.

The enemy threw two pontoon bridges across the river in rear of the town, and one a mile and a half below it, near the mouth of Deep River. About 5 o'clock p. m. Dec. 11, 1862, three rousing cheers announced that the enemy had completed the bridge and that their troops had effected a landing on the southern bank of the river. Barksdale's brigade of Mississippians, who had been on picket along the river, were ordered back to the main line, thus allowing the enemy to cross their whole force, if they choose to, without further interruption.

From the distribution of the troops we see the South Carolinians were principally on the right and left of the Confederate line. Thus things remained in statu quo until the decisive moment came.

On the morning of Dec. 13 the sun rose clear, but a dim fog shrouded the town of Fredericksburg and the valley above and below it for miles. At 2 o'clock that morning our troops were under arms and our batteries ready for the enemy to make the advance, which they delayed until about 12 o'clock m. the next day (13th), when their infantry moved forward toward our batteries on the hills. As they moved across the valley, Stuart's horse artillery on the extreme right of the Confederate line opened upon them a destructive enfilading fire of round shot; this fire was kept up in spite of six batteries directed against it as soon as it was unmasked.

By 1 o'clock the federals had advanced to the foot of the ridge, when they met A. P. Hill's corps, and a desperate fight ensued. Hill's and a part of Jackson's corps repulsed them and drove them back across the valley until they got under cover of their batteries. Again they rallied and renewed the contest, but were again repulsed. All the batteries of Jackson's corps were at this time in full play, and the blaze of the guns and the flash of the shells in the twilight presented a scene as sublime as it was terrific. While this was going on the enemy was crossing his troops over the bridges at Fredericksburg and massing them in front of Longstreet's corps in front of the town.

Marye's hill—the Gibraltar of this Confederate stronghold—stands within a few hundred yards of the town. It was the extreme left of Longstreet's corps. On it was planted sixteen guns of the Washington Artillery, in redoubts, and behind a stone fence on the declivity was the brigade of Kershaw with other portions of McLaws' division. Here the bloodiest and most desperate fighting of the day was done and the whole line of Federals was driven back with terrible slaughter. After three successive and desperate attempts were made to take these heights, Gen. Burnside, who had his headquarters at the Phillips house, on the north bank of the river, overruled his council of war and directed that Marye's hill must be taken. Accordingly, Meagher's (pronounced Mears) Irish division was put forward to perform the dreadful task. Three times they charged the Confederate lines and were literally mown down by our men. We have no account of any such fighting on the part of the Federal troops during the war as they did on that occasion, and during a recent visit to New England I found that the survivors of that command were proud to acknowledge that they were members of Meagher's Irish division.

I propose later on to give a Federal

officer's description of the horrors of that battlefield the night after it was fought. While it eulogizes the Confederate soldiery it pays a just tribute to the valor of a race whose courage history has made indisputable.

If single women could hear more truth married women would hear fewer lies.

Miss Ora Kendrick is visiting her sister, Mrs. C. F. Inman.

The farmers have dug their potatoes. This crop is generally short on account of the continuous dry weather. Mr. William H. Fowler has the vineless variety, which he thinks is running out, as the vines now are from two to three feet in length. Uncle Sil tried them last year and he pronounces them "vineless and rootless"—a fraud on the farmer.

Copies of the new constitution of our state cost 13 cents when sent postpaid. They can be bought from the secretary of state at Columbia, S. C. I would advise every boy who can read to get one and begin to study it. He'll need it some day, perhaps.

Some people, instead of being lights in their communities, want to be stars in the sky, and are failures in both. We sympathize with those of our neighbors, friends and acquaintances who have been afflicted with chills and other sickness this fall. Scarcely a home can be found in which there has not been more or less sickness.

Mr. and Mrs. Luke Bullock lost their eldest child last Tuesday. She died of a congested chill and was buried at Abingdon creek on Wednesday. She was about 9 years of age.

One day week before last Miss Sallie Patrick died after a long illness. She was buried in the family burying ground, near the residence of the late R. M. Patrick, Esq.

From all appearances this country is approaching a water famine. Many wells that have heretofore afforded an abundant supply of water for all demands made upon them, are now dry, or nearly so.

To Mrs. Mary C. Estes we-us-and-family are greatly indebted for a great big dishful of honey. It was none of your peevish contributions, but such a liberal, whole-souled addition to our larder that a broad smile illumined the genial face of our better half.

Another of our neighbors, Mr. Noah Bruce, of Sunnyside, expects to move to Gaffney next year. Gaffney has many attractions and nearly all our people are trying to get there—particularly since it is to become a county seat.

Some of the boys went to the York boneyard to trade horses.

Rev. Mr. Gleaton preached at Mesopotamia yesterday.

Our friend, R. W. Davis, is a farmer right. He has four hogs to kill that will weigh in the aggregate 1,200 pounds and over. He says all he wants is 8 cents a pound for his cotton, Bryan elected and the new county established.

The Etta Jane debating society will take up the subject of the new county next Saturday night at the school house and debate it. There will be some tall speaking done on both sides. The subject is: "Resolved, That the establishment of a new county will be beneficial to the greatest number of citizens within its area." The speaking will begin at 7:30 o'clock p. m. The public and especially the ladies are invited to attend. Everybody proposes to give the speakers a fair chance to put their arguments forward.

Misses Louise and Lucy Fowler, two of Kelson's beautiful young ladies, are visiting their brothers, J. H. and Wm. G. Fowler.

Rev. W. R. Owing will preach his farewell sermon at Salem next Sunday at 11 o'clock a. m. J. L. S.

Mr. Gantt Goes to Gaffney.

Mr. Robert Gantt, of this city, a young attorney, who is an alumnus of the University of Georgia, and recently graduated at the Washington City Law School, has formed a partnership with the law firm of Wilson & Hydrick, and will move to Gaffney at an early day and open an office there, anticipatory to the establishment of the proposed new county of Limestone, which will be determined by the vote of the people at an election to be held on December 8.—Spartanburg Herald.

Mr. Robert Gantt will receive a warm greeting from the Gaffney people, and none will welcome him more cordially than will THE LEDGER.

New Sidetrack.

Some weeks ago the Southern put in about 2,000 feet of sidetrack here, but found it insufficient for the immense business done here and last week put in a new one of seven or eight hundred feet.

While thorough in action, Ayer's Pills strengthen rather than stimulate the excretory organs. Leading physicians recommend them because they are free from calomel or other injurious drugs, being composed entirely of the best vegetable aperients.

* GAFFNEY *

Gets the World's Greatest Show,

Tuesday, Nov. 3

Coming On its Own Great Trains, Drawn by its Own Powerful Locomotives.

Walter L. Main's

Three Ring Circus, Five Continent Menagerie, Real Roman Hippodrome, and Original, European Trained Wild Beast Show in a Circular, Steel-Barred Ponderous Cage. Only Great Rival of Barnum & Bailey in Size and Features.—Lowell, Massachusetts Sun, May 28, 1895.



THE * MIGHTY * BOVOLAPUS.

The Ocean's Awful Treasures, the Most Frightful, Uncouth, Horrible, Horn-Bearing, Cloven Hoofed Denizen of the Trackless and Treacherous Deep. 100 Rightly Renowned, Astonishing Circus Artists in a Hundred and a Half Astonishing Acts.

JOHN LOWLOW,

America's Oldest and Best Singing and Talking Clown Appears at Each Performance.

CANANDAIGUA, SMALLEST PONY COLT IN THE WORLD,

Born August 1893, weighed 8 1/2 pounds, 11 inches high, 13 inches from tip of nose to end of tail.



WALLACE, THE WONDER.

The only horse-riding Lion. A Circus Champion. Surely the only one of its kind. A beautiful, intelligent, artistic animal. Herds of Wild Beasts, Lairds of Serpents, Flocks of Birds, Dances of Tame Beasts, Dens of Vicious Reptiles, 11 All-Star Acts, 100 Exalted Champions, 1,000 Men, Women and Children, 300 Finest Aristocratic Horses, Giant Camel, Longest Mailed and Fatted Horse, Surprises, Wonders, Features, &c., &c.



Grand Free Street Parade.

20 Open Dens of Wild Beasts, 5 Bands of Music, Silver Cathedral Chimes, Steam Calliopes, Gold and Silver Chariots and Band Wagons, a Mile of Splendor and Wonder Every Morning at 10 o'clock sharp. Twice daily, free to all High Dive, 10:30 a. m. and 6:30 p. m. Cheap excursions on all lines of travel. One ticket admits to all. Doors open at 1 and 7 p. m. Performances at 2 and 8 p. m., rain or shine. Tickets on sale at DuFre Drug Co's store. Bicycles Checked Free of Charge.

General Admission 50c, Children under 12, 25c.

This Great Show in its entirety will also exhibit at Charlotte Monday, Oct. 26; Rock Hill Tuesday, Oct. 27; Gastonia Wednesday, Oct. 28; Statesville Thursday, Oct. 29; Greenville, S. C., November the 4th, 1896.