

The Watchman and Southron.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 29, 1895.

The Sumter Watchman was founded in 1850 and the True Southron in 1866. The Watchman and Southron now has the combined circulation and influence of both of the old papers, and is manifestly the best advertising medium in Sumter.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

In welcoming the members of the Press don't forget the grip.

Gen. Butler gives John Gary Evans a talk that is filled with hot stuff.

An equal and just division of delegates in the Conservative counties and no division in the Reform counties would be a most unholly arrangement. That would be peace with dishonor.

Gov. Evans made himself the laughing stock of the country by his "Fellow Citizens" address, and then hied away to Wrightsville Sound to regain his spirits.

Charleston's car load of flowers for the decoration of Confederate soldiers graves in Chicago was sent forward yesterday. Charleston generally does the graceful thing for South Carolina.

The Hon. Hugh McCulloch, Ex-Secretary of the Treasury under President Grant, died at his home near Washington this morning, aged 86 years. He was one of the ablest men of his time.

The Southern Presbyterian General Assembly has nominated J. E. Boggs as one of a delegation to attend the Pan-Presbyterian Council at Glasgow, Scotland. We wonder if it is our South Carolina Julius E. Boggs of the Pickens Sentinel?

Charleston wants the Press Association next year, and will send a delegation up to urge the claims of the city. The Association was organized in Charleston, and the newspaper men of that place doubtless think that the Association should meet in Charleston when it attains its majority.

The Knights have gone, but they left pleasant recollections behind that were tinged with regret that we could not have them with us longer. From first to last the stay of the Grand Lodge in the city was a pleasure, for the people, one and all, felt that we were honored in having as the guests of the city, such a body as the Grand Lodge, Knights of Pythias of South Carolina. We trust that the City of Sumter may have another opportunity of entertaining the Knights.

The canvass for stock of the Sumter Manufacturing Company has not been concluded, as all of the thousand shares have not been taken. We believe that it would be the part of wisdom to perfect the organization with the stock already taken, so that the money will begin to accumulate from the monthly installments. It would be much better to have an \$85,000 factory than none at all.

We were opposed to a fight subsequent to the primary last year, whether made by Pope or any other man. Why? Because we had taken part in the primary and felt bound by the pledges made when we did so.

The writer was opposed to going into a primary last year, and this is a matter of record. Why were we opposed to going into the primary? Because we felt that we would be bound to abide by the result whether we approved of it or not. Now we are opposed to going into a primary and do not propose to do so on conditions such as prescribed by Irby last year and again this year. We learned by experience that our first position was the correct one, and that we did wrong to listen to arguments of expediency. It is an assurance of an equal division or the general election. And as the Charleston Post says, "we must have the equal division guaranteed quick."

Senator Irby is out in an interview in the Piedmont Headlight, reviewing the political situation from his point of view. We are much more favorably disposed towards Senator Irby's point of view than the hysterical and senseless tirade that Governor Evans called a manifesto, but this must not be construed as an extravagant compliment. The difference between the public utterances of Irby and Evans is the same as between the men—Irby is just a better all round politician than Evans and knows how to talk to suit the times. We like the sound of Irby's talk much better than Evans's, and we

distrust to an even greater degree. Irby is a bad man in every respect, and to attempt to make us believe that he is influenced by motives of patriotism and interest in the welfare of the State and the people above considerations of his own personal advancement and profit, is to attempt a futile task. He was the main-spring in the movement that set hate, strife, bitterness and unrest abroad in the State, and these have brought about our present unhappy condition. His methods are known of all men, and known to be as full of rascality, fraud and malice towards his political opponents as a wasp is of venom. We, who have felt the effects of his methods and seen how his schemes have been developed to our disadvantage and the injury of the State, would be foolish, indeed, to go deliberately to him and quietly present our hands for him to tie them. If we are tied this time it will be not for one year only, but for as long a time as Irby can possibly force the Constitutional Convention, that he will have elected by his ring primary, to provide for by law. If Irby controls the Constitutional Convention, and this he will surely do if the primary is held in accordance with his plans, we may as well say good-bye to all hope of fair elections or an impartial government. As we remarked months ago, it does seem that the Conservative faction will persist in making a fool of itself at the very time that it will most advantage the Reformers. It will be but adding another to the list of fatal mistakes, headed by the failure to read the whole crowd out of the party when nominations were made by the March convention in 1890, if we consent to go into any arrangement not based on some understanding similar to the plan of the Forty. It must be an absolute guarantee of fairness and justice, or we should appeal to all citizens of the State, as Hampton did in 1876, to rally together for the purpose of setting up a government that will be just to all men, and one that we can respect.

TAKE HEED!

The Irby Committee manifesto ordering a general primary to nominate delegates to the proposed Constitutional Convention has by this time been thoroughly discussed. We have ceased to look upon the primary as either a fair or just method of nomination. The slime of corruption and cheating marks, in many places, the track of the primary hitherto, and many of us have lost confidence in it as a means of ascertaining the will of the people. We hope, nevertheless, that in view of the recent general awakening of the public conscience and the revulsion of feeling that has set in against cheating at elections, whether primary or otherwise, the coming election will be a fair one and expressive of the will of the people. It is not too late now to return to the methods of better and purer days, but to do so we must unlearn some of the lessons so thoroughly learned from the plunderers and barbies of the Reconstruction era; and refuse to sanction either the immoralities of the schemers who prefer personal success at any cost of principle, or the demoralization that cannot but come to those who persistently do evil as if they expected good to come out of it. In view of these facts, it cannot be too strongly stated that our people can be united only under the plan suggested by the "Forty"—equal representation of both factions—the delegates to be nominated in convention, we suppose, and agreed upon beforehand by both factions, and voted for at the primary ordered by Irby. If this plan is not adopted we see not the most remote hope of uniting our white people, because the Irby plan means the complete submission of the conservatives to the dictation of the dominant faction, and unless they undergo the most thorough change of mind ever heard of in political history, they will be necessarily strongly antagonistic to the results of the work of the Constitutional Convention, and thus will the foundation be laid of inducing an appeal to the colored vote to upset what will have been unjustly forced upon the whole people by a mere faction. In this event it is manifest that our last state will be far worse than the first, and that the blind and headstrong desire to rule or ruin, so persistently evinced by Irby and his crowd, will result in forcing upon us the very condition which they claim to be desirous to avoid or avert. Men reared in the atmosphere of freedom and aversion to tyranny, political or governmental, will, if unjustly treated and roughly ridden down, employ any means in their reach to resist the tyrant and deprive him of power. Nor can

they be censured for so doing. We may deprecate and deplore a resort to such methods of resistance as strongly as we please, but when men's passions become inflamed their reasons forsake them, and they are ripe for the adoption of any means that promise relief. Let Irby and his associates take heed and go slow!

STAND ON HAMPTON'S PLATFORM.

About two weeks ago, when in Columbia one day, we met one of the men who led the fight for good government in 1876. In reviewing the situation then and now, and contrasting one with the other, he referred to the platform of principles on which the fight was made and won in 1876 by Gen. Hampton. His quotations from that platform and the comments made concerning our political difficulties, made an impression that grew deeper the more we thought of the matter. Several days after returning home we went to the files of the True Southron and looked up the platform of '76. After reading it, we determined to publish it as our platform of '95. This we did in these columns and since then the platform has been copied in a number of papers and has been received with much more enthusiasm than we anticipated.

The principles set forth in the platform are as worthy of respect and support to-day as when first enunciated in 1876. When we read and consider this platform, we do not wonder that Hampton swept the State from the mountains to the sea and made the gang of men who were despoiling the State and robbing her people flee her borders. It was a platform to fight for and win on then, and we have as great need now for such another uprising of the people, demanding honesty and justice in all branches of our State government, as existed in 1876.

Hampton has expressed himself on the situation, and he speaks wisely. His honesty and patriotism have never been questioned by any one, not even the ring politicians, who have made every attempt to drown his voice in this State.

We must go into no coalition where our hands will be tied and we shall be made parties to fraud, rascality and injustice that will in time afflict us more seriously. Neither must we appeal to the negro, asking him to help us to drive from power the Reformers. This would be a coalition that would be productive of evils worse than those incident to a Reform administration.

Let us stand squarely upon the principles of the platform of 1876, and say to the Irby element, "Hauds off! we will have none of your primary schemes which are devised to defraud and deceive us. We demand a free, open and fair election, in which all men who desire an honest, fair and just government may cast their ballots." Then we can abide the result with clear consciences.

Let it be understood now and hereafter that the men who have ruled the State by all manner of devices since 1890 are responsible for the condition in which the State now is. By fraud in elections, by primary schemes that defeated the true will of the people, by oppression, by legislative enactment, by engendering strife among the people and by filling the offices with a clique of politicians, held together by blood relationship and the cohesive power of spoils, the leaders of the dominant element—Reformers they style themselves—are wholly responsible for our present political condition. This is known of all men, and they cannot escape the responsibility. It is unalterably fastened upon them; and now that the time has arrived, when we should appeal to the whole people for a verdict against these men, we should make the appeal boldly and plainly. The responsibility is fixed, let the issue be made.

THE PRESS.

As we go to press, the first arrivals of the South Carolina State Press Association are in the city. These are welcome, and the many others who are to arrive this afternoon are welcome to Sumter. We are glad to have them with us, glad to have them visit Sumter and remain long enough to see and appreciate what manner of place the Game Cock City is—then they will know why we are all so proud of our town and all so loyal to it.

The members of the Press Association are men who occupy a position apart from other men of the State for the responsibilities resting upon them, and the duties expected of them by the public, are many and great. They are, as a whole, men who do the duty that lies nearest them, honestly and ac-

ording to their sense of right, without hope of reward, and very often in the face of public sentiment that will tend to their disadvantage. They are in honor to the State, and we honor ourselves in honoring them.

State Press Association.

Story of its Organization Twenty Years Ago.

The State Press Association is to hold its twentieth anniversary this year at Sumter, and it goes without saying that the hospitality which the Association has received during these twenty years ago will in no wise be diminished on account of the place of meeting. Far-famed are the citizens of Sumter for their generosity and kindness to the stranger within the gates, and they will welcome as brethren the men who are wielding the pen and pencil in this day and generation.

Mr. E. H. Aull, the president of the Association, has introduced a new feature in the coming meeting, and indeed one that was hardly appropriate hitherto. In addition to the regular members and all others engaged in newspaper work he has extended an invitation to the surviving members of the original organization whether or not they are now connected with the fraternity. The rule adopted at the outset was that membership in the Association terminates when the member retires from the business, so that no one takes part in the proceedings unless he is directly interested as editor, publisher or proprietor of a newspaper or magazine. This is the basis on which the organization was made twenty years ago in the City of Charleston.

The meeting for the purpose of forming an Association was projected originally by Mr. J. C. Hemphill, of The News and Courier, who was at that time co-editor with his brother of the Abbeville Medium. Various efforts had been made to form a similar organization, and during the twenty years previous there had been at least two associations, but both of them were short-lived. They undertook to regulate the management of newspapers, and fix the rates of advertising and subscription, or otherwise interfere with the freedom of the individual to conduct business in his own way. The promoters of this organization wisely decided to steer clear of the rocks upon which the others were wrecked, and it was expressly agreed that the Association should never enter into any combination as to business methods nor seek to control the action of its members in any way relating to his private concerns, nor meddle with his political or religious views. Beyond question this feature had a considerable influence in attracting members during the earlier years of the organization and its preservation is largely due to this foundation principle.

Twenty-six newspapers and periodicals were represented at the first meeting, which was held in the old Hibernian Hall, in Meeting street, large enough to hold a thousand or more, even if they were editors. The following is a list of publications represented and the original members enrolled that day: Abbeville Medium—R R Hemphill, J C Hemphill. Aiken Courier-Journal—John C McRae, dead. Anderson Conservator—E B Murray, dead. Anderson Intelligencer—Jas A Hoyt. Barnwell Sentinel—E A Brunson, dead. Beaufort Tribune—Thomas G White. Charleston Rural Carolinian—Roswell T Logan. Charleston News and Courier—F W Dawson, dead, B R Riordan, J A Moroso. Charleston Zeitung—F Melchers. Greenville Daily News—W II Whitsitt. Georgetown Times—B II Wilson, dead. Kershaw Gazette—F P Beard. Camden Journal—W D Trautman. Lancaster Ledger—D J Carter, dead. Lexington Dispatch—W D Harman. Laurensville Herald—Thos B Crews. Marion Star—W J McKerrall, dead. Marion Merchant and Farmer—J D McClucas. Newberry Herald—T F Greneker, dead. Newberry Progressive Age—J S Fair. Keowee Courier—R A Thompson. Carolina Spartan—H L Farley. Spartanburg Herald—T Stobo Farrow. Sumter Watchman—A A Gilbert, dead. Union Times—R M Stokes. Kingstree Star—S W Maurice, dead.

More than one-third of the members have crossed over the river, and there are only nine of the survivors at present connected with the Association. The meeting was convened by Mr. J. C. Hemphill, if we mistake not, and the writer was called upon to preside. A committee to draft the constitution was headed by Capt. F. W. Dawson, and it is a

model of brevity and conciseness that they reported at the afternoon session. The election of officers took place after the adoption of the constitution, when Messrs. Dawson and Hoyt were put in nomination for president, and both of them promptly declined. The members did not seem disposed to name another, and the ballot resulted in the choice of the following officers:

- President, James A Hoyt.
- First vice president, F W Dawson.
- Second vice president, T Stobo Farrow.
- Third vice president, S W Maurice.
- Fourth vice president, R R Hemphill.
- Fifth vice president, E A Brunson.
- Recording secretary, A A Gilbert.
- Corresponding secretary, E B Murray.
- Treasurer, T F Greneker.

Of the nine composing the list of officers only three are living, and one of them is no longer affiliated with the Association. These officers with very little change served four years, and during this period the Association grew and flourished. It will be observed that there was no chaplain elected, which was owing to the fact that none of the religious editors had joined us, but when the Rev. Sidi H. Browne, of the Christian Neighbor, honored us with an affiliation he was at once chosen for that position, which he has held ever since, and will enjoy its honors and perform its duties until the Master calls him to a higher service. It ought to be said, however, that one preacher aided in the organization, which was Dr. Wm. H. Whitsitt, of the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. He was in attendance upon the Southern Baptist Convention, which held its meeting in Charleston that year, and he was requested by the editor, Mr. A. M. Speights, to represent the reenville Daily News in the organization, and to which newspaper he was a contributor in those days. Col. B. H. Wilson, of the Georgetown Times, was among the oldest of the charter members, and very close to him in age was the venerable R. H. Stokes, late of the Union Times, who is now living in Charlotte, N. C.

The year 1875, was an eventful one for South Carolina. It was the formative period for the great political revolution which followed in 1876. There were conflicting ideas as to the best policy for the white people, who were under the heel of the negro and carpet bag regime. The gathering of the editors and the delightful hospitality of Charleston lasted for several days, and during this time there was abundant opportunity for conference and exchange of views, but there was also a favorable season for the editors to reach an understanding with each other that their differences should be composed in the end for the betterment of South Carolina. The second meeting of the Association was held at Spartanburg in the month of May, 1876, and for nearly a week the members took counsel with each other as they mingled together, including a joyous trip in carriages to Tryon Mountain. They still differed as to policy, but the decision a few months later to make a straightout fight for the redemption of the State was followed by a compact and united effort on the part of the newspapers to make the movement a success. The formation of the State Press Association had far more to do with the unity and concord among the newspapers than the casual observer might be willing to acknowledge, and it was this bond of fraternity which contributed so largely to the victory than ensued in November.

President Aull does well to invite a re-union of the charter members, and to recall the fact that the Association was formed at such an important era in the history of South Carolina. Sumter has thrown wide open its doors, and this ought to induce attendance not only of the survivors, but also bring together the younger men upon whom now rests the heat and burden of the day.

It is a great mistake to suppose that a simple tonic gives strength; it only stimulates the stomach to renewed action. To impart real strength, the blood must be purified and enriched, and this can only be done by such a standard alterative as Ayer's Sarsaparilla.

AYER'S Sarsaparilla
Cures OTHERS, WILL Cure You.
AYER'S Sarsaparilla MAKES THE WEAK STRONG.

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COMMENCEMENT EXERCISES.

Lincoln Graded School.

The commencement exercises of Lincoln Graded School will be held at Shiloh Baptist Church on Friday evening, May 31st. The order of exercises will be as follows: March—Grand Centennial Triumphant. Music—Opening Chorus—Praise the Lord. Invocation—Rev. J. E. Harmon. Music—Solo and Chorus—Dance and Song. Salutatory—Charles W. Maxwell. Essay—Essentials of Success—George E. Angleton. Music—Duet—Two Little Birds are We. Essay—The Influence of Literature—Carrie M. Wilson. Class Prophecy—Maggie V. Howell. Music—Solo—Oh! How Delightful. Oration—Danger Signals—McIver L. Anderson. Essay—Opposition Impels to Action—Rosa B. Robinson. Music—Medley Chorus—The World is What We Make it. Essay and Valedictory—R. Gardena Harrison. Music—Sweet to the Milkmaid the Plough-boy Sang. Annual Address—By Rev. J. D. Davis. Presentation of Diplomas—By Supt. Pro. J. B. Duffie. Music—Class Song—By the Class. There are eight graduates in the class of 1895, who, having completed the prescribed course satisfactorily, will receive diplomas. The graduates are: McIver Lawrence Anderson, Ruth Gardena Harrison, Maggie Ventia Howell, Charles Weudell Maxwell, Rosa Bertrude Robinson, George Elizabeth Singleton, Emma Agnes Spears, Carrie Madeline Wilson.

Columbia Female College.

An invitation to the Annual Commencement of the Columbia Female College has been received, and it is the handsomest of the season. The following announcements are made: Sunday, June 2d 11.15 a. m.—Baccalaureate Sermon, Rev. E. O. Watson; 8.30 p. m.—Annual Sermon before Missionary Society, Rev. G. T. Harmon. Monday, June 3d, 11 a. m.—Alumnae Address, Prof. H. M. Synder; 8.30 p. m. Joint Celebration of Societies. Tuesday, June 4th—11 a. m. Commencement Day, Literary Address, Rev. A. Coke Smith; D. D.; 8.30 to 12 p. m., Final Concert and Annual Reception. There are seven full graduates, one of whom is Miss Louise Beaseley; eight graduates in the English Course, and one in the Science Course.

Food, when it sours on the stomach, becomes unwholesome and unpalatable. It poisons the blood, and both mind and body suffer in consequence. What is needed to restore perfect digestion is a dose or two of Ayer's Pills. They never fail to relieve.

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DUKE OF DURHAM CIGARETTES
High Grade Tobacco AND ABSOLUTELY PURE

SODA WATER
All popular flavors with Pure Fruit Juices. Try our Cherry Phosphate. J. S. HUGHSON & CO., Monaghan Block. MAIN STREET Feb. 8. SUMTER S. C.

T. C. Scaffee
Would inform his friends and customers that he is prepared to manufacture TOBACCO FLUES, Any dimension or thickness, more reasonable than any of his competitors; having many advantages over them; having 20 years experience in this kind of sheet metal work.

Estate of Miss Mary S. Brown, DECEASED.
ALL PERSONS having claims against the aforesaid Estate, will present same, duly attested, and all persons indebted to said Estate, will make immediate payment to F. M. DWIGHT, M. D., Administrator, Wedgefield, S. C. May 15—3t.

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