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Communications.

Legislative History of Free Suffrage.

(FOR THE PATRIOT.)

Moest. Editors:—As there has been and most likely will yet be, a great deal said on the subject of amending the Constitution of this State; and well knowing that there are few persons who have "the Journal," and still fewer who have them in their possession, who have time and patience sufficient to enable them to investigate those records thoroughly on any question, and much less this, from the commencement of the free suffrage agitation, up to the present time; we have thought under these circumstances, that it would greatly subserve the ends of truth, justice and true republicanism, to publish in three or four numbers an accurate and faithful abstract of the proceedings had in the last three General Assemblies on this all absorbing and exciting subject.

And having done this we can but hope, that there are numbers of honest men in North Carolina, who have heretofore in the honest sincerity of their hearts, sustained the locofoco in the reckless course they have pursued as a party relative to this matter, who will now be led from the record to see their error, and at once abandon the LOCOFOCO PARTY CAUCUS PLAN of amending the Constitution.

Besides, they will find from an impartial examination of what follows, that the locofocos have not only acted insincerely and inconsistently with the promises they made to the people on the stump, but have most grossly and wilfully slandered the Whigs from the beginning, by representing them as opposed to free suffrage, and themselves as the peculiar, zealous, and exclusive friends of the reform proposed.

This we positively assert, on the authority of the Journals themselves, is false, and insist that the record that follows will abundantly prove that the Whigs in the Legislature of 1845-9, did all they could to give the poor and landless citizens of this commonwealth, equal rights and privileges at the ballot box, with those of their friends who have been more highly favored by circumstances and fortune; while the locofocos, who suddenly sprung the question on the country in the midst of the canvass of that date, were time after time moving and removing the *indefinite postponement of the bill*. And now for the proof of this. Mr. Sheek, a locofoco of Surry, introduced a bill on the 9th of December, 1848, for amending the Constitution; and on his motion the same was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary. This Committee was composed of the following members, to wit: Messrs. R. T. Paine, Barringer, Courts, Ellis, J. M. Leach, Dobbin, Satterthwaite, T. R. Caldwell, Cherry, Cad. Jones and Stevenson—5 whigs and 5 locofocos, who, through their chairman, Col. Paine, reported the bill back to the House on the 4th of January, 1849, and recommended its passage. The bill was then read the second time and made the order of the day for Tuesday, the 9th of January. That hour having arrived, the bill was taken up, and Mr. Hicks, a whig, proceeded to offer an amendment, when, strange to say, Dr. Keen, a thorough-going locofoco from Rockingham County, *interrupted* Mr. Hicks' hour, moved the indefinite postponement of the bill. But the Dr.'s motion did not prevail, though of the few who voted for it, we recognize the following *ablest* of the party, viz: Keen, Kelly, *Gen. Thos. J. Person*, Taylor, &c. &c.

After this vote, a committee reported and the House adjourned. Dr. Keen, of Rockingham, remained quiet until the time arrived for again taking up the *free suffrage bill*, and just at that moment the gallant Dr. springing to his feet and exerted himself to the very utmost of his ability, to state off the consideration of free suffrage, by trying to get the bill to charter the Danville and Charlotte Railroad up in its place at that hour. But the Dr. was defeated as before, by the aid of whig votes, and the free suffrage bill came up as the regular business of the House, and on motion of Mr. Satterthwaite, a whig, the House went into committee of the whole on said bill. Mr. McNamee, a whig, in the Chair, and after spending some considerable time in considering the bill, the committee rose, reported progress, and asked leave to sit again, and the House adjourned.

Thursday, Jan. 11. The bill again came up as the special order of the day, when, astonishing to relate, Mr. Clement, a *thorough-going locofoco* from Davie county, moved to postpone the consideration of the bill to a future period; but his motion like that of Dr. Keen's, was voted down by the aid of whigs, and thus free suffrage was kept before the House.

The House again went into committee of the whole, Mr. McNamee, whig, as before, occupying the Chair. And after some time being spent in committee of the whole, the committee rose, reported through their chairman progress, and asked leave to sit again; whereupon Mr. Stanley, a thorough-going free suffrage whig, for the purpose of facilitating action on the bill, moved that the committee be discharged from the further consideration of the subject. This motion prevailed, and Mr. Hicks, a whig from Macon, who had previously offered an amendment to establish the white basis withdrew it. Mr. Rayner then moved to amend the bill by striking out all after the word "Whereas," and inserting as a substitute therefor a bill to call a Convention, for the purpose of giving free suffrage to the people in the shortest time and at less expense than it was possible for it to be done by the Legislative mode. After some attempts to amend the amendment, the House took a recess, and the bill was not again heard of until Mr. Rayner, a whig, moved that the rule be suspended, and the bill for amending the Constitution taken up. This motion, by the aid of whig votes, prevailed, notwithstanding the following locofocos, with many others, voted against it, to wit: Davis, Dickerson, Griggs, Hancock, Herring, R. H. Jones, Kelly, Thos. McDowell, McNeill, Pegram, Regan, Saunders, Spivey, Stevenson, J. Taylor, C. Taylor and Thomas, (a gentleman from Warren county who

graduated in the same class with President Jas. K. Polk.)

So the House proceeded to the consideration of the bill, and after several ineffectual efforts to amend the same, just at the moment when the vote was about to be taken on the original bill as presented by Mr. Sheek, upon its second reading, behold! Mr. Cannady, a would-be locofoco of the county of Granville, moved to amend, the bill by striking out all after the first word "Whereas," of the preamble, and inserting as a substitute in lieu thereof, a bill to take the sense of the people to ascertain whether a majority of them were in favor of amending the organic law of the State or not. This amendment astonished all parties, coming from the source it did, and causing, as we well remember, no little fluttering in the ranks of the untried. Many of them rose in great excitement and began to scamper off in scores, to prevent which Mr. McLean, locofoco, moved a call of the House. The lacking out gentleman now seeing there was no chance left to dodge, a vote or escape from the unpleasant dilemma, returned to their seats, and the call of the House was dispensed with. And the question on the above amendment recurring, was decided in the negative—yeas 40, nays 67. Mr. Smith, a whig from Halifax, now moved to reconsider the vote by which the amendment offered by Mr. Rayner, had been rejected, and the question thereon was decided in the negative—yeas 51, nays 68—every locofoco in the House but Mr. McLean voting against it. Mr. J. M. Leach, a whig, proposed to amend the bill so as to fix the Senate basis on the Federal Population of the State, instead of that of taxation, which amendment failed by a decided vote, and the vote was again taken on the passage of the original bill, on its second reading, when, *astonishing to relate*, Gen. THOS. J. PERSON, a buttender of the locofoco party in North Carolina, from Northampton, Thomas Bragg's house, suddenly sprang to his feet and moved for the third time on the part of the locofocos to postpone the bill indefinitely.

If this was not enough to disgust the whigs, and sorely try the patience of all, we do not know what would. But the friends of free suffrage in the whig party still held on and voted down the motion of Gen. Person—21 to 42. Mr. McNamee, a whig from Orange, moved to amend the bill, changing the basis in the Senate from taxation to that of Federal numbers. This amendment was also voted down by 37 to 66. Mr. Love, a locofoco from Haywood, then moved to amend, the bill so as to appropriate the Senators of the State according to the free white population. This motion was likewise lost—28 to 66. After this, the bill came up on its second reading and passed—75 to 26. The following whigs, among others, voting for it, to wit: Messrs. Allen, Barringer, Blackburn, Blow, Carmichael, Deak, Edgerly, Erwin, Farmer, J. Gamble, Green, Hackney, Hayes, Holden, Hicks, Johnson, Mast, R. M. McDowell, Nicholson, Olesby, Palmer, Figgitt, Simmons, Stanley, Steele, Wadsworth, Watson, Whitman and Wilkins.

It will be seen from this abstract from the Journals, that the whigs of the Legislature of 1849, did their duty, their whole duty, to their country, as regards this matter, notwithstanding it had been suddenly sprung upon them and the country, by a demagogue for party and selfish purposes. The move being once made, however, on the part of the locofocos, we find the whigs diligent and active to give the people equal rights and the largest liberty at the polls. Let every honest free man read the record and see if he can say that the whigs have at any time failed to show themselves friendly to the extension of popular rights in North Carolina. The bitterest opponents of the party will look in vain to find where a whig moved to stave off or indefinitely postpone any bill for the amendment of the Constitution. Nor did they offer any until the locofocos suddenly sprung the issue upon them as above mentioned; and then, the truth is abundantly evident that they proved to be far more zealous on the subject of Constitutional Reform, than the locofocos, and were found, when their most active members grew weary and disheartened, still pressing forward and crying out in favor of reform. But we are as yet hardly begun with the proof we have to establish this important fact.

It appears from the Journals that the bill did not again come up until the 17th of January, when it seems that Mr. T. R. Caldwell, a whig from Burke, moved that the House proceed to the consideration of the bill providing for the amendment of the Constitution, which motion prevailed; and he and others proposed some two or three amendments, all of which failed. The vote was finally taken, and the bill passed its third and last reading in the House—75 to 21; nearly all the whigs voting for it, as above shown on its second reading.

The bill as passed was reported to the Senate on the 20th of January, and passed its first reading—no one having taken the responsibility of introducing such a bill into the Senate previous to that time. But the House had, contrary to the expectations of the locofocos in the Senate, passed the *free suffrage bill*, and sent it to them, notwithstanding the whigs had a majority in the House. So on Monday, January 22nd, after canvassing nearly all Saturday night and Sunday, the Senate proceeded at last to the further consideration of the bill the House had so unwelcome thrust upon them.

In the Senate, as in the House, Mr. Gilmer, a whig, takes the lead, by moving to strike out the word "Commonwealth" in the preamble, and insert that of State. This amendment prevailed. When Mr. Shepard moved to strike out all of the preamble, which motion was lost. When he to the great astonishment of all, Mr. Hawkins, from "gallant little Warren," as the locos like to call it, a *full grown Democrat*, once more, and for the fourth time on the part of the locofocos, who inform the people that they, and their party, are the exclusive and only true friends at free suffrage—graciously and deliberately moved that the bill be *INDEFINITELY POSTPONED*! But his motion did not prevail, though several of the strongest leaders of the party voted for it. Mr. Rogers, of Northampton, (the home of Mr. Bragg,) and Thompson, of Wake, being among the number.

After the vote was announced, Mr. Woodfin, Mr. Smith and Mr. Gilmer, each in turn proposed to amend the bill, all of which amendments were

instantly voted down by the unanimous vote of their opponents; after which the Senate took a recess. But the bill did not come up again until January 23rd, when it came up as the unfinished business of the Senate, when the vote was taken on its second reading, and was lost by *three fifths* of the whole number of the Senate not voting for the bill—Messrs. Rodgers of Northampton, Spivey and Thompson of Wake, all locofocos, with others, having voted against the measure. And here it may be appropriately observed, that we defy any one to show a single move or motion, on the part of the locofoco party, or any one of its members, from the 8th of December, 1848, up to the 24th of January, 1849, a period of 46 days, to take up, hasten or expedite the passage of the bill. On the contrary, they were all silent as the grave, until the bill came up in its course, or Mr. Rayner or some other whig moved to suspend the rules and proceed to its consideration. It would not appear so bad, however, if this was all. But unfortunately for them, and still more so for the *Treasury of the State and the taxpayers of North Carolina*, it appears, after introducing the bill into the House, and keeping it there for nearly two months, that no less than four of their prominent members moved the *postponement of the free suffrage bill*. And when they could not kill it in this way, many of them finally voted against it. And let it be borne in mind that Mr. Thompson, of Wake, who was completely under the control of W. W. Holden—so much so, indeed, that he prevailed upon the revered gentleman, though he was bitterly opposed to the North Carolina Railroad, to vote for it—And who is W. W. Holden, pray? The tallest mountain in the States lifts its head triumphantly from one of her fields; and Switzerland boasts no finer scenery than the moon looks down upon in her Western limits. She has as much water privileges as she can desire; think of the factories she can sustain, when she goes fully into manufacturing. She has every variety of soil, can raise anything she wishes, in a word is well off, more than comfortable.

We said that she was a good neighbor. So she is. She keeps open house. You are welcome to all on her table. Walk in and help yourself. So generous is she to her friends on either side, that she neglects her own family, and does not to the fullest extent improve her opportunities. She has an especial partiality for neighbor Virginia on the one side, and neighbor South Carolina on the other.—The old Lady loves Virginia, because Gen. Washington lived on her plantation, and because Virginia buys her tobacco from her. And she loves South Carolina too, because South Carolina is such a port, frolicking dandy, and buys her cotton besides. For these two neighbors she will do almost anything.—If they want the products of her land, help yourselves, she cries. If they aim at obtaining possession of her immense mineral deposits, all right, go ahead, she exclaims. You want Coal, Iron, Gold, Silver, Lead, Cotton, Tobacco, Cement, Hay, Copper, Butter, Precious Stones, every thing I have, she says, why bless your souls, why don't you take 'em. The most accommodating old Lady in the world. She is not only willing that her interested neighbors should help themselves to her property, but she *actually builds roads for them to carry it away*—Poor, good old soul! believes that her neighbors love her for herself alone, and not for her goods; she is delighted to render them favors, unconscious of the fact that they live off her resources, grow fat and laugh at her behind her back; sometimes even to her face. Happy old lady! she is oblivious of all this however; and help yourselves, my darlings, she cries.

This good old woman, rich as cream, with more property than she knows what to do with, jolly, tremendously fat, the spoil of her situated friends; remains us, in her phreatic state, of a big fellow distended with dropsy. *It must be tapped*, for his bodily good. And so our neighbors, kind physicians as they are, deem it necessary for the welfare of the old Lady (and themselves) that she should be tapped too, and they are preparing to do it. Rouse up old woman, and drive them off.—*Wilmington Herald*.

SELECT MISCELLANY.

The Best Old Lady in the World.

We like to brag upon North Carolina, the dear good old soul. Never was there a better hearted, nicer old lady in the world. Fat, well to do, jolly, without care, she pursues her quiet course, and is one of the best neighbors you ever read about. The old lady is rich, but she is not lifted up with pride; she has reason to be thankful for the beneficent favors of Providence, and she bears herself with proper self respect, but with too humble a front. We said she has reason to be thankful for Providential favors. She has reason. She has some of the best land that ever yielded abundant harvests. And her poor lands are more valuable than her good, for they grow naval stores. Why, bless you, she has mines of untold capacity and value. She can form no conception herself of the value of her treasures. Her coal is exhaustless, her iron abundant, her copper in plenty, her gold exuberant, her silver and lead luxuriant. She has diamonds, and opals, and topaz, and garnets. What a coronet could she not make? A bland atmosphere rests upon her broad plantation, and the delicious Catawba and Sapperoz are her native pet grapes. What juicy wealth they yield. Bursting in your mouth with a completeness of relish that induces the appetite for more.—The tallest mountain in the States lifts its head triumphantly from one of her fields; and Switzerland boasts no finer scenery than the moon looks down upon in her Western limits. She has as much water privileges as she can desire; think of the factories she can sustain, when she goes fully into manufacturing. She has every variety of soil, can raise anything she wishes, in a word is well off, more than comfortable.

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Adulteration of Liquors.

Eminent chemists assert that nine-tenths, at least, of all the liquors consumed in the United States are more or less drugged. To say that half of all that pretends to come across the Atlantic is wholly manufactured on this side of it, would be to fall short of the truth.

There are numbers who live and thrive by such nefarious trade. Long practice in the use of sugar of lead, hogshead, &c. in varying and nicely graduated proportions, has enabled them to bring the art to a degree of perfection that seems almost fabulous. Cheap Monongahela whiskey, brought into their vaults by the hogshead, comes out bottled and ready for sale as "Madeira," "Cognac," "Champagne," "Pale Brandy," "Cream of the Valley," and "Old Port." In these the colour, flavor, and smell of the originals will be so closely imitated that experienced taste is deceived by them. So complete and minute are their operations, that not only are foreign brands forged, and the shape of bottles, the devices of seals and corks imitated, but even artificial dust and cobwebs are fabricated to give them an air of respectable antiquity.

If other proof of this were needed, besides the results of chemical analysis, it might be found in the fact that more Port is drunk in the United States in one year than passes through the custom house in ten; that more Champagne is consumed in America alone than the whole Champagne district produces; that Cognac Brandy costs four times as much in France, where it is made, as it is sold much in our corner groceries; and that the failure of the whole grape crop in Madeira produced no apparent diminution in the quantity, nor at all corresponding increase in the price of the wine.

Growth of Lake Cities.—The lake cities are increasing in an enormous ratio. Cleveland has reached sixty thousand inhabitants, and so has Chicago. Such a growth is not unequalled even by that of San Francisco. What the next census of these cities will develop it is impossible to tell, for we daily receive evidences that the throng of population gathering at those points is too great to find accommodation. It appears to be an indisputable fact, that house rents are higher in Chicago, than in either New York or Philadelphia. The hotels and boarding-houses are all crowded beyond precedent, and buildings there cannot be multiplied fast enough to supply the demand. The editor of the *Chicago Tribune* expresses his fears lest the continued advance in rents should prove disastrous to the prosperity of the city.

A Few of The Ancient Blue Laws.

The following were some of the "Blue Laws" of Connecticut, which we here insert. They may be quite a curiosity to many of our readers: The Governor and magistrates, convened in general assembly, are the supreme power under God, of this independent dominion. From the determination of the assembly no appeal shall be made. Whoever says there is a power and jurisdiction over this dominion, shall suffer death and loss of property.

The Governor is amenable to the voice of the people.

The Governor shall have a single vote in determining any question, except a casting vote when the assembly shall be equally divided.

The assembly of the people shall not be dismissed by the Governor, but shall dismiss itself. Conspirators attempting to change or overturn this dominion shall suffer death.

The judge shall determine controversy without a jury.

No one shall be a freeman or give a vote unless he be a member in full communion with one of the churches allowed in this dominion.

No one shall hold any office who is not sound in the faith, and faithful to his denomination; and whoever gives a vote for such a person shall pay a fine of 20s. for the first offence and for the second he shall be disfranchised.

Each freeman shall swear by the blessed God, to bear true allegiance to this dominion, and that Jesus is the only King.

No dining or food shall be offered to a Quaker, Advertiser or any other heretic.

If any person turns Quaker, he shall be banished, and suffer death on his return.

No priest shall abide in the dominion; he shall be banished and suffer death on his return.

Priests may be seized by any person without a warrant.

No one shall cross a ferry but with an authorized ferryman.

No one shall run on the Sabbath day, or walk in the garden or elsewhere except reverently to and from meeting.

No person shall travel, cook victuals, make beds, sweep house, shave or cut hair on the Sabbath day.

No woman shall kiss her children on the Sabbath or fasting day.

The Sabbath shall begin at sunset on Saturday.

To pick an ear of corn growing in a neighbor's garden shall be deemed theft. A person accused with trespass in the night shall be judged guilty, unless he clear himself by his oath.

When it appears that an accused has confederates and refuses to disclose them, he may be racked.

None shall buy or sell lands without permission of the selectmen.

A drunkard shall have a master appointed by the selectmen, who are to debar him from the liberty of buying and selling.

Whoever publishes a lie to the prejudice of his neighbor, shall sit in the stocks or be whipped fifteen stripes.

No minister shall keep school. Whoever brings cards or dice into this dominion shall pay a fine of £5.

Every rateable person who refuses to pay his proportion to support the minister of the town, or parish shall be fined by the Court £2; and £4 every quarter until he or she shall pay the rate to the minister.

Men stealers shall suffer death.

Whoever wears clothes trimmed with gold, silver, or bone base above two shillings a yard, shall be presented by the grand jurors, and the selectmen shall tax the offender at three hundred pounds estate.

A debtor in prison swearing that he has no estate shall be let out, and sold to make satisfaction. Whoever sets fire to a woods and burns a house shall suffer; and any person suspected of this crime shall be imprisoned without the benefit of the bail.

No one shall read common prayer, keep Christmas, or Saint's day, make minced pies, play cards, dance, or play any instrument of music, except the drum, trumpet and Jewsharp.

No minister shall join people in marriage—the magistrate only shall join people in marriage; they may do with less scandal to Christ's church. When parents refuse their children a convenient marriage the magistrate is to determine the point.

The selectmen on finding children ignorant, may take them away from their parents and put them into better hands at the expense of their parents.

Fornication shall be punished by compelling marriage, or as the court shall think proper.

Adultery shall be punished with death. A man that strikes his wife shall pay a fine of ten pounds.

A woman that strikes her husband shall be punished as the Court directs.

A wife shall be deemed good evidence against her husband.

No man shall court a maid in person or by letter without first obtaining the consent of her parents: £5 penalty for the first offence, £10 for the second and for the third an imprisonment during the pleasure of the court.

Married persons must live together or be imprisoned. Every male shall have his hair cut according to a cap—*History of Connecticut*.

Note.—The above laws were originally painted on Blue paper, on which account they were called the Blue Laws of New England.

Discovery of Coffee.—About the year 1258, a dervish named Hadji Omer, was driven out of the community of Mecca. Hunger induced him to roost the Kahlia berries which grew near his hiding-place. He roasted and eat them, as his only means of sustaining life. Steeping them in the water, which quenched his thirst, he discovered very agreeable qualities, and also that the infusion was nearly equal to solid food. His prosecutors, who had intended him to die of starvation, regarded his preservation as a miracle. He was translocated into a saint. Such are the facts relating to the discovery of coffee.—There are now supposed to be 3,000 coffee-rooms in Constantinople.

The Queen of Spain has pardoned the buccanier captured during the ill-fated Lopez expedition to Cuba. The prisoners, wherever detained, are to be set free, and allowed to go wherever they please, with the exception of Cuba or Porto Rico.

Murder.—We learn that a murder was committed in Stokes County, about three miles East of Germanton, on Saturday last. It appears that a number of neighbors has assembled at a house raising, among them Reuben Samuel and Reuben Southern; and that after supper, Southern started home, when Samuel followed him, and deliberately struck him on the head with a mallet, breaking his skull. Southern survived till next day, in the morning. Samuel has not as yet been apprehended.

We have heard no cause assigned for the act; both were intoxicated at the time.

Since the above was put in type, we learn that the cause of the murder is supposed to be an old grudge existing since 1830.

We have also been furnished with the following personal description of Reuben Samuel.—He is about five feet eight inches high, muscular and stout built, with auburn hair and light blue eyes; has a ring hole in each ear, and a flesh mark on the back of his neck, or rather between his shoulders, covered with hair, aged about 30 years. It is supposed he has gone to Jones County, Georgia. *Salem Press*.

Distressing Shipwreck.

More than Three Hundred Lives Lost.—On Saturday night the 15th April, during the prevalence of the late terrible gale, the emigrant ship Powhattan, from Havre, France, bound to New York, went ashore on Long Beach, New Jersey, and remained there until Sunday at five o'clock, P. M., when she went to pieces. The Powhattan was owned in Baltimore, where she was built in 1837, was near six hundred tons register, and valued at about \$21,000. Her cargo consisted of some French and German goods, and left Havre about the 1st of March, with three hundred and eleven passengers, all of whom, together with the officers and crew, found a watery grave—not one person having been saved. Great efforts were made by the few persons living near the scene of the catastrophe, to render help, but the life-boats provided by the Government were some miles distant, and before they could be brought to the rescue, the sea had swallowed up its prey. For several days afterwards, the dead bodies were found scattered along the beach, dreadfully bruised and cut. Some of these were buried at the village of Manahawick. Had there been life-boats at hand, it is probable that a large number might have been saved, as the wreck was so close to the shore, was able to speak to persons on the shore.—After she struck, a sea broke over the ship, which carried overboard, perhaps a hundred all of whom were dead when washed ashore. The following statement is given by Captain Jennings, the Wreck Master, who was on the shore:

"During the day, (this was after ship had struck) the ship's deck was crowded with passengers; and when the surf ran out, I could get within seventy-five yards of the vessel. The surf ran mountains high. Indeed, I never saw such a sea in my life. Several persons now began to be swept overboard, when Captain Meyers hailed me through his speaking-trumpet, and asked me to try to save some of those who might happen to wash ashore. I told him I had gone down the beach to where the bodies had come on shore, but found them all dead, and it was of no use trying to save them, as they were all drowned before they got half way to the beach. Captain Meyers asked me just before this if any aid would soon reach them. I said I hoped so, as four men had been sent down to the Government station for that purpose. Women and children came on shore first. About five o'clock, P. M., on Sunday, the ship heeled over to windward from the shore. The sea then, of course, made a clean breach over her, and passengers began to be washed off in great numbers. The sea running mountains high, and completely hiding the vessel from my view, I could no longer hold any communication with the captain. I never saw him since. About dark, the sea rose to a great height, and one large wave, fully one hundred feet high, struck the unfortunate vessel, and in one moment the hull was scattered into fragments, which tossed wildly through the surf. The shrieks of the drowning creatures were melancholy, indeed; but I could render them no aid, as the sea ran so high that I could not get near the unfortunate people. In a few moments, all disappeared beneath the surface of the water, except a few fragments of the wreck. Never did I see such a sight in my life. Never do I remember witnessing such a dreadful tale. The men got back the next morning from the Government station-house with a life-boat, mortar, and the usual wrecking apparatus, but it was too late, as all on board the ill-fated Powhattan had perished—not one remained to tell the fearful tale!"

"The luggage and portions of the wreck lay scattered along the beach. I have collected all the valuables I could, and have found some money (\$80) in a money-belt belt belonging to some of the passengers. The friends and relatives of the deceased can have all the necessary information regarding the effects of those drowned, by inquiring for me at Manahawick, New Jersey."

Capt. EDWARD JENNINGS, Wreck Master, LONG BEACH, Ocean county, N. J.

All along the shore for ten miles was scattered the remnants of the chests and trunks of the passengers, many of them having names inscribed on the lids and sides. Feather beds, cooking utensils, empty casks, and pieces of the vessel were to be seen on every side. Letters of the dead were scattered here and there, and Bibles and prayer-books lay glistening in the sun, the whole desolation presenting a melancholy and heart-rending scene.

Important Scientific Fact.—In the concluding lecture of Professor Smith at the Smithsonian Institution, says the *Scientific American*, the lecturer dwelt upon the tendency of iron to undergo a change from a fibrous to a granular condition, thus causing the abstraction of an indefinite amount of its tenacity and strength. Fibrous iron, by being for a considerable time subjected to concussion, will become granular, and therefore weak. A knowledge of this principle has induced the French Government to disallow the use of iron axes in their diligences beyond a certain time.

Hon. Truman Smith has formally resigned his place in the United States Senate, and has apprised the citizens of Connecticut of the fact, in a brief, but very feeling and appropriate address. His resignation is to take effect on the 24th of May.

FROM THE ROWAN WHIG.

Mr. Rencher's Speech.

To resume, Mr. RENCHER voted for the Bank Bills and Mr. TYLER *repealed* them. Mr. RENCHER

—And how called upon? Not by the inhabitants—not by any one human being living, or expecting to live on the territory to be affected—but by a motion in Congress—a silent, secret, limping, halting, creeping, squinting, impish motion—received in the dark—midwived in a committee room, and sprung upon Congress and the country

upon masses.

Text and Comment.

Resolved, that we are against extravagant expenditures. (Democratic State Resolution.)

The Secretary of the Treasury, and Secretary of War, two Democrats, were in favor of appropriating twenty millions from the Treasury, to build the Pacific Rail Road. — *W. H. Wood*

Wesley's Sermons

wholesale or retail at the smallest kind of profits.

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