

The Blade.
R. RANDOLPH, Editor.
PUBLISHED EVERY TUESDAY.
Office on Main St., opposite Dr. Little's.
TUSKALOOSA, MAY 21, 1874.
FREE BRIDGE AGAIN.

The subject of the removal of North Port to Tuscaloosa is by no means exhausted; and we are glad to know that our two previous articles thereon have been productive of real good; have caused interested parties freely to think over and canvass the important matter. One citizen of Tuscaloosa, fully converted to the necessity and feasibility of the project, assures us that he will cheerfully head a subscription list with the liberal sum of one thousand dollars toward making the Warrior river bridge a free one. There are a dozen others, each equally able to subscribe the same amount. Then, why this delay in the matter? If the plan of having the city purchase the bridge from the county be preferred, we think that even that is accomplishable. The time approaches when new County Commissioners are to be elected. Let such be chosen with reference to this bridge matter. Those who want the City to purchase the bridge from the County, elect Commissioners who shall be committed to that step; and vice versa. The County can afford to sell the bridge to the City on easy terms, and the citizens who are worth the name will readily submit to a special taxation in aid of the City; for, as before palpably shown, their real estate would be worth thousands where it is now valued only at hundreds. What we need are a few enterprising, far-seeing and venturesome citizens to take an initiative move in the matter; to stir up the many "slow coaches" out of that funeral march that such have been steadily pursuing for a quarter of a century, or more. We have stated that some of the leading merchants of North Port are eager to move over here, under a free bridge system. Outside of North Port, there would hardly be a dissenting voice, for the farmers on the other side of the river would be more than willing to have the privilege of bringing their supplies to this market, for sale, or shipment on the A. & C. Railroad, clear of the expense of toll; and, in like manner, repossessing the bridge with return loads of plantation supplies. It is needless to say, that there is not a white man on the Tuscaloosa side of the river, outside the Insane Hospital, who would not travel through a shower of pitch-forks to cast votes favoring a free bridge.

Lastly, but by no means least, in the enumeration of advantages to accrue, is the change of the political aspect that would ensue in our augmented society. With the considerable addition of white voters from North Port, we would carry, without a struggle, the municipal elections of Tuscaloosa. We would gain about a dozen white men, to one black man. The city that has known nothing but Radical rule for all these many years, would be then and forever under the government of white men; and would prosper accordingly. We want the good leaven of North Port over here to leaven the whole lump.

Citizens! this is no joke; and the sooner you revolve the matter fully in your intelligent minds, and act like live men, the better.

P. S.—Since the above was put in type, and after the departure of the Editor, the communication from North Port has been received, and will be found in another column.

B. M.

"Consistency! thou art a jewel!" exclaims the poet. Inconsistency, thou too art a jewel—of the plumb-line variety! also say we. We admit the consistent individual, even when his opinions and acts are at variance with our own ideas and wishes. For those men who

"Compounded for nine they are inclined to, by demanding those they have no mind to."

we have no respect whatever. For those who condemn evil and evil-doers, and by their rigid conduct prove that they are sincere, we entertain a feeling akin to reverence. Even for the man who makes no pretension to honesty, we have some little respect. The man who

sets himself up for a critic on the course of his neighbor, should be very sure that himself is not open to severe censure than that he involves on the other. It is an old established military maxim, that no army should march into an enemy's country without having its rear well guarded. So, no individual should rudely animadvert on the conduct of another, unless by his own careful conduct he has proved himself worthy of throwing "the first stone." Let a man first show that he is "without sin," ere he arrogates to himself the office or duty of detecting sin in others. "First cast out the beam that is in thine own eye, then shall thou see clearly how to cast out the mote that is in thy brother's."

HON. RYLAND RANDOLPH.

Tuscaloosa, Ala., May 19th, '74.
Mr. B. M. of the Blade:

Having met your editor at the depot, yesterday, on his way to Birmingham, I seize the opportunity in his absence to say a word or so in his behalf, that may now, with propriety, be published.

It was my good luck to be in Tuscaloosa on last Wednesday week, when I heard from the Hon. Randolph one of the most splendid speeches it has ever been my privilege to hear to, you bet.

Circuit Court being in session, there were at least five thousand citizens of the County present, and the movement was felicitous for reaching the great masses upon the life and death issues of the coming canvass.

It was, indeed, one of Hon. Randolph's ablest and most grandiloquent oral attempts, and was received by the great multitude present with super-enthusiastic approbation.

It was the universal subject of free discussion on the business rows and avenues, and I feel that it has accomplished a "sight" of good here.

By-the-by, is not Hon. Randolph, by all odds, the very man for Congress for the State at Large? Do not his political record and labors, before, during, and since the war, his known strength in north, south, east, west, upper, middle and lower Alabama, and his magnificent capacities as a stump-speaker and debater, give him an overwhelming influence and popularity with the voting population of the State, for this steep position?

I demand to know if any other fellow in Alabama has more exalted claims, or immenser availability for it, than he?

Does not our State, etc., sorely need in the National Councils a fellow of his ability, accomplishment, urbanity and prestige? I rather think so. AN EX-SOLDIER.

Many women are so-called housekeepers, and all women are shoppers. How many of the former have made use of their opportunities to understand intelligently what they buy or consume; to know accurately whether the milk is pure, the tea unadulterated, the coffee unmixed with chicory? A little knowledge of chemistry, such as may be learned from an elementary book, would soon render it impossible for grocers to impose upon them inferior articles of food for good. As shoppers, how many women know accurately and scientifically what they are buying—whether there is cotton mixed with the flax, wool with the silk, or any cheap material in the fabric? The skill to know these things is not difficult to acquire. With a very little knowledge on the part of the buyer, accompanied with a determination to accept only the pure article, imitation and adulteration would soon be driven into corners. Now, here is a first-rate opportunity for the women to secure a great reform. It can be accomplished without street prayer-meetings, and without a Dio Lewis or George Francis Train to lash up the enthusiasm. Unfortunately, nobody cares for reforms that can be brought about with the quiet exercise of a little good sense; banners, and music, and speeches—these are meat and drink (and sometimes money) to your noble-hearted reformer.

Mrs. Anna M. Fitzhugh, who died at her home at Alexandria, Va., a few days ago, bequeathed the bulk of her property upon the children of the late Gen. R. B. Lee, relatives of her husband, by whom it was bequeathed to her. She was worth two hundred thousand dollars in bonds, stocks and money, in addition to large landed estates.

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A NEW STATE TICKET.

For Governor, W. H. Forney of Calhoun.

For Lt. Governor, C. C. Langdon of Mobile.

For Sec'y of State, M. C. Burke of Marengo.

For Treasurer, B. F. Taylor of Lauderdale.

For Supt. Pub. Inst'n, J. T. Murfee of Perry.

For Comm'r of Land Resources, I. G. Pickens of Choctaw.

For Atty General, J. W. A. Sanford of Montgomery.

For Congressmen at Large, W. H. Barnes of Lee; B. B. Lewis of Tuscaloosa.

For Supreme Court Judges, R. W. Walker of Madison; W. S. Mudd of Jefferson; E. W. Pettus of Dallas.

For the Blade.]

Beat Meeting at Big Sandy.

A few days ago, the ten mile walking match arranged between James Gordon Bennett, editor of the New York Herald, and a Mr. John Whipple, came off in New York City. The race was for \$3,000 a side. The contestants started at 7 A. M., from Mr. Bennett's residence, in a drizzling rain. Bennett won in 1 hour 46 minutes and 55 seconds. Distance, 9 miles and 7 furlongs. Bennett reached Jerome Park, the place where the goal was fixed, six minutes ahead of his opponent, who, being a practised walkist of the Union Club, was the favorite among betters by great odds. \$100 to \$50 were freely bet and quickly lost on Whipple. Both gentlemen were in training several weeks before the race. Over \$50,000 changed hands on the result.

It is a humiliating spectacle to see "man, proud man," so lose his individuality and independence as to belong to one or more of his fellows, who, in many instances, are his inferiors even in intellect and position. The hardest thing that can be said of "the image of his God," is, that he is such and such an one's shadow; borrows his opinions, forms his plans, and executes his acts, at the will of a master; his mind, aye, his very soul, moulded and warped after the fashions most pleasing to the sun around which he, like an obscure planet, revolves. Such a helpless being reminds us of Fungay, the creature of one Creakles, who repeated loudly and exactly whatever Creakles would say, or did deftly and quickly whatever Creakles would perform: a man Friday, who follows his Crusoe. We like to behold a human creature of the Almighty, who has sufficient self-confidence to originate his own views, and boldness enough to express them, even though they may clash with those who arrogate to themselves superiority. Independence of thought and freedom of action are necessary to make the man after the following pattern of the greatest of uninspired authors:

His nature is too noble for the world:
He would not flatter Neptune for his trident,
Or Jove for his power to thunder. His heart's
his mouth:

What his heart forges, that his tongue must
vent.

North Port, May 19th, 1874.

Editor Tuscaloosa Blade:

SIR.—Your editorials with regard to moving our town to Tuscaloosa, have caused considerable "chat" on our streets for the past ten days, and some of us are getting a little anxious to know what you mean. Some seem to think that you are joking, and only having a little fun at our expense; while others think you are in good earnest about the matter, and really mean business. If the former conclusions are correct, I, as a friend, would advise you to drop the matter at once, for if you don't, the first thing you know, you will lose about five hundred of your subscribers over here; and that's not all, we will cut off your supplies, and not allow you to come over here "foraging." What do you say to that? But if, on the other hand, you are really in earnest about the matter, we have no objections to an interchange of views on the subject, and we are willing that there shall be a thorough and business-like investigation of all things pertaining to the project, and if upon such investigation it is found to be practicable, we are willing that it shall go into effect.

We have a profound regard for our elder sister, and are quite willing to accord to her superiority in some things. For instance, we know that you have larger and finer churches, more schools and colleges, more lawyers and doctors, more fine carriages, more big gullies, more Radicals; and we know that your women take thirty-five yards calico to make a dress, while ours take only twenty-four; that they wear more "head-gear" than ours, and larger "bosoms," yet, notwithstanding all this, we claim to be "twenty-one years of age," and capable of managing our own business, and we are not willing that you shall dictate the terms of a scheme in which we are so vitally interested.

Now, if you wish to press this mat-

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Legislature cannot be convened, to employ such part of the land and naval forces as shall be judged necessary for the purpose of suppressing said insurrection, or causing the laws to be duly executed; and whereas, it states that whenever it may be necessary, in the judgement of the President, to use the military force aforesaid, he shall forthwith, by proclamation, command such insurgents to disperse and retire peaceably to their respective homes within a limited time; now, therefore—

I, U. S. Grant, President of the United States, do hereby make proclamation and command all turbulent and disorderly persons to disperse and retire peaceably to their respective abodes within ten days from this date, and hereafter to submit themselves to the lawful authority of said Executive and the other constituted authorities of said State, and invoke the aid and co-operation of all good citizens to uphold law and preserve public peace.

In witness whereof, etc.

U. S. GRANT, President.

Little Rock, May 15.—The proclamation of the President has had the effect of bringing crowds of men, women and children upon the streets. Stores are all re-opening, flags are waving and bands are playing. Hundreds of people are visiting Baxter's headquarters to congratulate him.

The trains have resumed regular trips.

About one hundred harmless shots were fired to day.

From "Sketches of the Members of the North Alabama Conference" we extract the following notice of

REV. J. M. BOLAND.

Rev. Jeremiah M. Boland was born in Palmetto, Ga., and is about thirty-eight years of age. He was licensed to preach in the autumn of 1855.—He was educated by the "Preachers' Educational Aid Society of the Alabama Conference." Whilst at school he laid a good foundation, both in literature and theology. He has been a close student for twenty years. After graduating in the Conference he undertook a thorough course in philosophy and metaphysics. He spent ten years on this course, during which time he read all the great minds of the past on these subjects. A fervent writer, he has attracted attention since 1864. He excels in metaphysics. An article of his, in 1867, on the "Philosophy of Moral Actions," was copied into the London *Methodist Times*, as a leading editorial. A European critic says: "Mr. Boland is a fine and vigorous writer—he thinks. He is possessed of strong mental grasp and wide intellectual gifts. He writes like a Christian philosopher, or rather like an able metaphysician who is faithful to the cross of Christ." While he is fond of metaphysics, he has not confined his investigation to that field alone. He has studied Methodism—her history, biography, polity and doctrines—until he understands all her parts, so that none of her wheels ever call him in his hands. He is an itinerant, a live man; and no circuit, or station, or district, has ever suffered under his administration. He has been a P. E. five years, and is now stationed in Tuscaloosa, Ala.

A Horrible Catastrophe!

New Haven, May 16.—Three large reservoirs above Williamsburg, Mass., which were constructed to supply the manufacturing of Williamsburg, Leeds and Haydensville, gave way at an early hour this morning, the water sweeping everything before it. The above named towns were almost entirely destroyed, including such buildings as Hayden, Gere & Co's immense brick factory. A large loss of life is reported, but it is at present impossible to give an estimate, though it is probably not less than one hundred.

Many persons were swept down the stream. The water is now falling, and it is expected that in about three hours more correct and definite particulars may be obtained. Several ladies were seen going down the stream, but so swift was the current that they could not be recovered.

LATER.—Twenty-six bodies have been taken from the flood. Bodies are still coming. Whole blocks of tenements were swept away.

The damage of property must be hundreds of thousands of dollars. Reports are coming in of a far greater loss at Florence. The Non-tuck Silk Company's works and the Florence Manufacturing Company's works are damaged to the extent of \$250,000. The loss of life by the flood is estimated at sixty.

The villages which are affected are Williamsburg, Haydensville, Leeds and Florence, which are situated on Mill river, which is a tributary to Connecticut river, running into the latter at Northampton.

The manufacturing capital invested along Mill river, and affected by this disaster, placing it at a low estimate, must be \$5,000,000, and immediately population affected thereby 5,000. The population is almost wholly manufacturing, all of which has grown up around dams, and increasing in proportion to the demands of industry in that locality.

The reservoir covered 150 acres of ground, at an average depth of thirty feet. It was drawn upon in dry times, and was the supply of the mills at Williamsburg, Haydensville and Florence.

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