

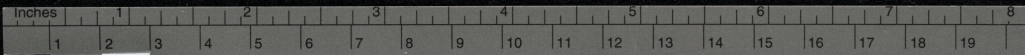
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Genl of the Assembly

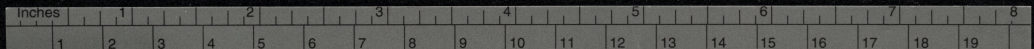
Dear Sirs,

It has been more than once
announced by distinguished predecessors
upon occasions of this kind, that the issues
of the war are dead and that in conse-
quence we had great reason to rejoice.
No doubt appearance justified them in
making these declarations but unfortunately,
here, as in so many instances, ^{the} appear-
ance was deceptive. The war issues, as
war prizes, were but too often like
smoldering embers and destined to
^{ignite a general conflagration} ~~ignite a general conflagration~~ at the first ^{wave} ~~blast~~
of the partisan spirit. Notwithstand-
ing these keen disappointments, I shall
pursue in the footsteps of my prede-
cessors in this respect, and declare with
them once again that the issues
of the war are dead. So the

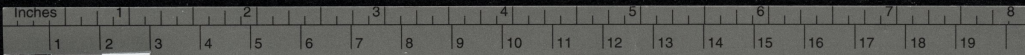
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making of which declaration I am
led not only by appearances, but also
by the logic of the events of the past
two years. What a campaign we have
undergone! Our old Commonwealth
has seen nothing like it in all its
history. Certainly this is true so far
as regards my knowledge of her events.
And strange to say there were good reasons
for such work as was done. A grave
doubt expressed not two months ago of
~~that~~ North Carolina's fidelity to the
principles of Jefferson. I need not
review here the history of the depres-
sion of the laboring interests of the
country, the means undertaken to coun-
teract it, the organization, rapid growth
of the Farmers Alliance, its partial
disruption, and the formation of the
Peoples party, for these events are
to you all well known.



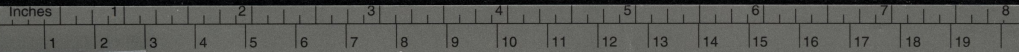
But ~~it~~ ~~is~~ ~~not~~ ~~surprising~~ to say that
 what the storms of civil war and
 the fires of reconstruction could not
 accomplish, our common suffering -
 a natural consequence of the long and
 almost uninterrupted Republican policy
 of greed and selfishness, ~~caused~~ ~~achieved~~
 the misrule of that party, has at
 last and forever reunited the union of
 states, perpetuated the power of the only
 truly national party that ever existed, and
 through the medium of our reverse we
 have been brought to see an dependence
 the one upon the other, Who then will
 aver, in the face of these facts, that out
 of evil no good can come? The be-
 neficent effects of the recent Democratic
 victory will be felt in this country for
 many decades to come. Necessity has
 forced the people into a stubborn fight
 for their livelihood; they have gloried



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we, and truly, do they deserve to enjoy
those blessings that we are taught to
believe must eventually come out of
the light of right and might. We have
promises of great reform in the worlds
of finance, manufacturing and agricul-
ture. Why, do we need relief. The cur-
rency has been so constricted that the
laborers of every section, despite party
affiliations and inherited prejudices,
have seen the necessity for a change
in policy. The vicious legislation
that has characterized our finances these
many years can not be disputed.
If we had no other proofs the speeches
of the American Representatives to the
International Monetary Conference
now assembled in Berlin are ample.
But under that great apostle of Democ-
racy - Grover Cleveland - a brighter day
seems to be dawning for the toiling

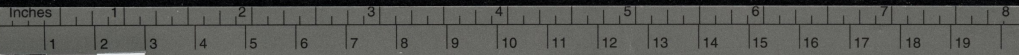


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masses of our republic. Notwithstanding the hot campaign made along this line in our recent ~~contest~~ national contest, and the great hue and cry raised by the Republicans of wild cat money, the Democratic party advocated the re-establishment of state banks, and gloriously won the right to adopt that justest of measures. No less have we a right to congratulate ourselves upon a promise of reform in the Tariff, and the absolute annihilation of McKinleyism, a measure to which is due probably more than to any other the depression of agriculture, the general unrest and dissatisfaction of labor, and the decay of our ~~former~~ painful merchant marine. The task assigned the Democratic party is a gigantic one, for it has



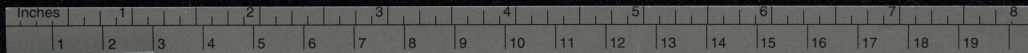
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been delegated to us, and that speedily, all the majorities legislated of more than a quarter of a century, they should listen to no revolutionary sentiments in this matter of reform, but on the contrary, let conservatism dictate our every policy. Though these changes should take place, the rights of every individual, during the process of the change, should be respected, the currency kept up to its proper standard, and the general business interests of the country assiduously guarded, we shall very naturally, make some errors, but along this line there is little to be feared, since our leaders in the majority of cases, are tried men, in thorough touch with the people, and the great masses now-a-days are seldom wrong, certainly.



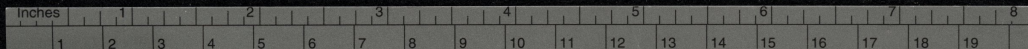
in this country, if the principles of our government be right, viz. a government of the people, for the people, and by the people, then, that which they have sanctioned, we should ^{at least} consider right, their opponents however may and do commit errors, they are not all unanimous, upon all questions, because the interests of the multitudes do sometimes conflict. And just here is to be noted a sharp contrast between the two sect. parties which for the past thirty years have been fighting for governmental control. Our opponents are wont to accuse us of God management, but in the accusation there is an acknowledgment of the right and justice of our claims, viz. that we are a party of the many.

of the people, who have never been
schooled or skilled in the art of
management - so unlike our ad-
versaries, on the other hand, who rep-
resenting a few - with a notorious
unanimity of opinion regarding ac-
quisitiveness to say the least - can
not but shrewdly manage, since
among them, there is ^{so little} ~~no~~ diversity of
judgment or sentiment. But I
shall now leave national affairs,
the prospect for an early and
satisfactory settlement of which
seems so bright, and call your at-
tention to those matters within the
borders of our own state which
seem to need our special charge,
First concerning the ~~Officers~~ ^{State Taxes} State Taxes
Population, (State Taxes species tax bond - In-
surgents, Educational Facilities Council



Schools State University A & M College
Industrial & Normal Schools Wash-
ington Soldiers & Sailors Home

In conclusion permit me to add
that having never sought office, or
before held office, I am unacquain-
ted with the routine & detail thereof,
and it is with grave misgivings as to
my ability to handle such
matters that I enter upon the duties
of this most high and honorable
position to which you have seen
fit to call me, ~~but let me assure~~
you ^{that} ~~the~~ ~~most~~ ~~cordial~~ ~~reception~~ ~~that~~ ~~they~~ ~~will~~
~~be~~ ~~shown~~ ~~at~~ ~~the~~ ~~head~~, ~~rather~~ ~~than~~
~~of~~ ~~the~~ ~~heads~~, nor is the knowledge
of the fact that the administration of
my predecessor is considered one



of the most substantial in the his-
tory of the state, calculated to in-
crease my confidence in my own
abilities, but that it will act
as a stimulant to greater ef-
fort and diligence on my part,
I can not doubt, but let me
assure you that if errors do
creep in, they will rather be
errors of the head, rather than
of the heart.

