

Genl. of the Assembly.

Ladies & Gent.

It has been more than once
 asserted by my 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 appearances justified them in
 making these declarations, but unfortunately,
 here, as in so many instances, ^{the} appearan-
 ces were deceptive. The war issues, as
 was proved, were but too often like
 smouldering embers, and destined to
 incite a general ^{conspiration} ~~war~~ ^{war} at the first flamm-
 ing of the partisan skirt. Notwithstand-
 ing these keen disappointments, I shall
 follow in the footsteps of my preces-
 sor in this respect, and declare with
 them over again that the issues
 of the war are dead, to the

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 runs my knowledge of her events.
And strange to say there was good reason
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 and 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~~ ~~is~~ suffice to say that
 what the storms of civil war and
 the fires of reconstruction could not
 accomplish, our common sufferings
 a natural consequence of the long and
 almost uninterrupted Republican policy
 of greed and selfishness, easily achiev-
 ed the misrule of that party, has at
 last and forever cemented the union of
 states, perpetuated the power of the only
 truly national party that ever existed, and
 through the medium of our reverses we
 have been brought to see our 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 privileges: they have gloriously

won, and truly, do they deserve to enjoy those blessings that we are taught to believe must eventually come out of the fight of right and might, the have promises of great reform in the worlds of finance, manufacturing and agriculture. ~~Why~~ do we need relief, the currency 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 Democracy - Grover Cleveland - a brighter day seems to be dawning for the toiling

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 No. 13, 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~~ powerful merchant marine. The task assigned the Democratic party is a gigantic one, for it has

been delegated to us, and that speedily, all the numerous legislations of more than a quarter of a century, we 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 principle 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 exponents 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 old parties which for the past thirty years have been fighting for governmental control. Our opponents are wont to accuse us of bad 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.

++ Refer to the generation growing up.

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,
 Just concerning the ^{June 1860} ~~Opinions~~ State Guards
 Population, (State Taxes special tax bond. Imm-
 migration Educational Facilities Comm-

Schools State University Ar. M. College
Industrial & Normal Schools Disa-
bled Soldiers & Soldiers Home.

In conclusion permit me to add
that having never sought office, or
before held office, I am unacquain-
ted with the routine & details thereof,
and it is with grave misgivings as to
my ability to handle skillfully 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} ~~my~~ ~~errors~~ ~~will~~ ~~be~~ ~~of~~ ~~the~~ ~~head,~~ ~~rather~~ ~~than~~
~~of~~ ~~the~~ ~~hands,~~ 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.