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Devoted to News, Politics, Intelligence, and the Improvement of the State and Country.

JOHN C. BAILEY, EDITOR & PROP.

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REMINISCENCES OF PUBLIC MEN.

BY EX GOVERNOR B. F. FERRY.

[CONTINUED FROM LAST WEEK.]

SAMUEL EARLE.

I mentioned this gentleman very briefly in my "Reminiscences of Greenville," and I now propose to give a more extended notice of him as a public man. He was an elderly gentleman and I was a boy when our acquaintance commenced. I saw him frequently at my father's, and often at my uncle's, Robert Foster, between whom there was a very great intimacy and friendship for more than half a century. I was also a frequent visitor at his house for many years, in the latter part of his life. I had for him a very high regard and great respect, and I believe he entertained the kindest feelings towards myself. I read law three years in the office of his son, Judge Earle, which further increased our intercourse and intimacy.

I believe Mr. Samuel Earle was born in Virginia. His parents moved to Spartanburg District in the early settlement of the upper country. His education was such as one could receive in those times at the common schools of the country. I know that he regretted, in after life, his defective education, and determined to give his sons all those advantages which were denied him in his youth. In the commencement of the Revolutionary war, in the Southern States, Mr. Earle espoused with great spirit the cause of his country, and received the commission of Captain in the regular army. He was appointed to command a company of rangers, in the upper country, which caused him to traverse over and over again the entire country above Columbia. He told me that at the close of the war he was personally acquainted with every landowner between Columbia and the mountains. He was elected a member of the State Convention which framed the Constitution; and he was also a member of the State Convention which adopted the Constitution of the United States. There was, at that time, in South Carolina, considerable opposition to the Federal Constitution, but Mr. Earle voted for its adoption. He was afterwards elected a member of Congress, for the Districts of Greenville, Pendleton, Laurens, Abbeville and Spartanburg, as the successor of General Pickens, who, I believe, was our first member of Congress under the Federal Constitution. After serving one or two terms, the General declined a re-election, and Captain Earle, his compeer in arms, was chosen to succeed him. Whilst a member of Congress, Mr. Earle devoted himself to the improvement of his mind, and purchased a well selected library of standard works. General Wade Hampton, Sr., was in Congress with Mr. Earle, whose niece Mr. Earle had married. He told me that one morning, as he entered the House of Representatives, he met General Hampton going out to attend the races in Philadelphia. He jestingly said to him: "I will go your halves to day, General," and thought nothing more of it. In the evening Gen. Hampton handed him a hundred dollars and said, "That is your share of my winnings to day." Mr. Earle declined to receive the money, and said that he spoke in jest. The General replied it was no jest with him, and if he had lost on the races he should have made Mr. Earle pay one half. This taught Mr. Earle to consider how he bawled afterwards with the General.

After serving a short time in Congress, Mr. Earle resigned his seat in the House of Representatives. He was on his way to Philadelphia, and was taken sick in Virginia. When he recovered, he returned home, and did not attend that session of Congress at all. That gloomy despondency which hung over his after life as a black cloud, had overtaken him, and he had no taste or love for politics. Whilst in Congress, he belonged to the Federal party, and formed a very unfavorable opinion of Mr. Jefferson. I once heard him say that he thought Jefferson "a hollow-hearted demagogue." He look-

ed upon Madison as the subversive tool of Jefferson.

I don't think that Mr. Earle was ever a member of the Legislature of South Carolina, although he served in both the State Conventions, as already mentioned. He was once a candidate for the State Senate in Greenville, before he moved to Pendleton, and was beaten by his kinsman, Col. Elias Earle, who afterwards represented the District in Congress for a great number of years. Col. Elias Earle was a great and most successful electioneer. He treated bountifully, which Mr. Samuel Earle refused to do. There was but one place of voting then in the whole District, and that was at the Court House. Col. Elias Earle came riding into the village, with several hundred of his voters, on horseback. When Mr. Samuel Earle saw this strong array of partisans, and heard them huzzing for the Colonel, he cried out, "Huzzah for the half-pint tickets!"

After his removal to Pendleton, he was elected Sheriff of that District by the Legislature, and served in that office four years. The business was all transacted by his deputies, and he lived 15 or 20 miles from the Court House, on his farm. Mr. Earle was a man of high and pure character, and I don't think his honor and integrity were ever questioned throughout his long life. By nature he was a great man, but endowed with a most unfortunate and melancholic disposition. At times he was almost crazy. I heard Mr. Reeder, a worthy neighbor of his, say that he came to his house one night, in one of his troubled and despondent moods, about twelve o'clock, and woke him up. It was a cold, frosty night, and Mr. Reeder discovered that he was barefooted. He said, "Where are your shoes, Mr. Earle?" The old gentleman looked down at his feet and replied: "I did not know that I had not my shoes on!" If there happened to be a dry spell in the summer, Mr. Earle would imagine that he and his family would certainly starve the next year, and made himself perfectly miserable under the delusion. He was a sober man all his life, and seldom tasted spirits. Not, however, he would say, because he did not like the taste of spirits. He had an apprehension, I suppose, that with his temperament it would be dangerous for him to drink at all. He had too much good sense and philosophy to think of drowning his sorrows or imagining distresses in liquor, which fools and weak-minded men are apt to do. Mr. Earle was a pious member of the Baptist Church for many years, in the latter part of his life, and died a communicant in that Church. I have heard it said, that when he joined the Church, his "experience," as it is termed by the Baptists, was a most impressive one. In his younger days, Mr. Earle was no doubt a fine looking and handsome man. All of his children were exceedingly fine looking and handsome—seven sons and five daughters. He was tall and well proportioned, but in the latter part of his life, had an unfortunate habit of blinking one eye. He was very negligent in his dress, though a man of very large fortune. He was appointed one of the commissioners, on the part of South Carolina, to settle the boundary line between this State and Georgia. When the commissioners met, one from Georgia said afterwards, that Mr. Earle surprised him twice—first, by his humble, rustic dress, and appearance; and secondly, by the good sense and wisdom which he displayed in all of their discussions. He showed himself a man of talents, ability and information, which his appearance did not indicate to the polished Georgian, who could not well separate mind and character from dress and appearance.

In conversation, Mr. Earle was very pleasant and agreeable, except when his melancholy fits were on him. No one in the upper country knew so well as he did the Revolutionary history of the State, and the early settlement of the back country, as it was termed. I am indebted to him for a great deal of information on those subjects. He knew well all the prominent men of those times, and did not hesitate to sketch their characters as they appeared to him. He always spoke in high terms of Generals Pickens and Marion, but did not entertain so favorable an opinion of General Sumter. He spoke well of Gen. Robert Cunningham, to whom he and General Pickens surrendered themselves after the capture of Charleston by the British. He said, though Tories, Cunningham and his two brothers, John and Patrick, were gentlemen of honor and integrity. They had unfortunately taken the

wrong side, as many honest and intelligent men did. There are not a few in South Carolina at this day, seeing how our Republican experiment has turned out, who do not think they took the right side, and that the American Revolution was a great blunder. They insist that we would be better off, more happy and prosperous, freer, and better protected in life and property under the English Government than we are under the military-carpet-bag-scalawag-mercenary rule of the present regime. If this condition of things is to be permanent, no honest man above the grade of an idiot, would hesitate to pronounce the American Revolution a most horrible blunder, and instead of celebrating the 4th of July as the birthday of Republican liberty, would proclaim it as the grave of the South! But this cannot last always, and we should still adhere to the Nation that our forefathers were wise, honorable and patriotic Rebels.

In the latter part of his life, Mr. Earle lived almost secluded from society, and seldom left his home, except to look after his farms in Greenville. He was kind and charitable, though a great economist, and devoted to making money. He had a great scorn and contempt for all the pretensions of fashion, and fashionable society. He lived well, though plainly, and was very hospitable at his house. His wife was a most excellent lady, the daughter of James Harrison, Esq., of Greenville, who married the sister of General Wade Hampton, of Revolutionary fame. His seven sons, who all grew up to manhood, are dead, and only one of them ever married.

Mr. Earle told me that he served, as Deputy Provost Marshal the first writ ever made returnable to Old Cambridge, at Ninety-Six. Whilst the sitting of the Courts for South Carolina was limited to Charleston, the Provost Marshal of the State, a gentleman living in England, and who had never been in South Carolina, exercised, through his deputies, all the powers of sheriff. When the sitting of the courts was extended to Camden, Columbia and Cambridge, the Provost Marshal sold his office to the government, and then sheriffs were elected in the different judicial districts. Before this sale was completed, Mr. Earle was the Deputy Provost Marshal for the Western part of the State, and served the first writ ever issued to Cambridge Court, as already stated.

[CONTINUED NEXT WEEK.]

[From the Columbia Union, 23d ult.]

A Terrible Tragedy.

At about 5 o'clock Saturday afternoon this city was suddenly thrown into the most intense excitement by the news that Capt. John D. Caldwell, a young man without a known enemy, and a brother in law of U. S. Senator T. J. Robertson, had been shot dead in the dining hall of the Pollock House, and that Major James M. Morgan, a son-in-law of George A. Trenholm, Esq., of Charleston, had been severely wounded. The news spread like wildfire, and in less time than it takes to write it, scores of the intimate friends of the deceased had reached the scene, only to find the sad reports to be true, for on the floor lay Mr. Caldwell, shot through the heart and instantly killed, while the dining hall presented a scene of utter confusion, chairs being upset, table furniture scattered, and even the napkins covered, and the table sauces mingled with the blood of the victims of this terrible encounter.

Every nook and corner of the city and suburbs poured forth its residents, and very soon the street in front of where the tragedy took place was packed with anxious peering faces pointing towards the door. The colored people, with whom the deceased was a favorite, were present en masse, and were one to judge from the feeling exhibited, and the mingled muttering of grief and threats, a spark would have sent the murderer beyond the pale of law. As he said, however, that to the credit of all, both white and black, the better counsels of man's conscience prevailed, and the surging mass who could not gain entrance, waited with increasing anxiety the result of the proceedings of the jury of inquest, catching at every straw of information that floated out from the room of death with an eagerness, than which no other indication was more meet to measure the love that remained behind him who slept the quiet sleep of death within. The police authorities were immediately on the spot, and arrested Judge Samuel W. Melton, Major Morgan, Mr. Montgomery and

George Tupper. The two first named being almost immediately released, and Maj. Morgan, who had been severely wounded in the shoulder, being taken to Judge Melton's residence where he received every attention that could be given him, Dr. Taylor being in attendance. The two last named were placed in confinement to await the result of the investigation.

Since the animosities of the political contest now going on, resulting in recrimination of parties, it had been dreaded by many that an encounter was liable to occur upon Judge Melton's return from the up-country, between him and Hon. C. W. Montgomery, who had publicly denounced him; but none dreamed that Capt. Caldwell would be the victim. It was also noticed that the parties had met several times during the day on the street, and not a few persons on Main St. felt uneasiness. Capt. John Caldwell was a native of this city, about 31 years of age, and served gallantly through the late war. He was a son of the late John Caldwell, Esq., and brother in law of U. S. Senator Robertson. He leaves a wife, two children, mother, sisters, brother and a host of other relatives.

Major James M. Morgan, who, with Mr. Caldwell, entered the dining hall to prevent the difficulty, and who was severely wounded in the shoulder, we believe, was also an officer in the Confederate army, and is a citizen of good repute everywhere. George Tupper was also an officer in the Confederate army, and moved to this city from Charleston about two years ago, since which time he has been engaged in the insurance business to some extent. Mr. Chas. W. Montgomery is a native of Charleston and a resident of Newberry county, and for several years president pro tem. of the State Senate.

Before the entrance into the dining hall of Judge Melton and the subsequent entry of Caldwell and Morgan, there were therein, besides Montgomery and Tupper, F. H. Elmore and Fielding and Richard Washington, got, the waiter upon the table of the last named parties. Elmore picked up and sealed up the pistol that lay upon the floor, and from which it is supposed the fatal shot was fired; the same after having been deposited with Messrs. Scott, bankers, was turned over to the Coroner. Leaving aside many conflicting rumors, the details of the sad tragedy can be succinctly traced by the proceedings of the Coroner's inquest. Before the body was allowed to be moved, Coroner I. H. Coleman was notified, and in a very few moments a jury of inquest was empanelled. The inquest was commenced in the room where the murder had been committed, the testimony being carefully noted, the first taken being the evidence of F. H. Elmore, Esq., who is an attorney-at-law of this city, and who was present during the fracas. He testified as follows: "About 4 o'clock, this afternoon, Fielding and Taylor, at my invitation, came to Pollock's saloon to dine. Entering, we met C. W. Montgomery and George Tupper; accepted an invitation from the former to drink. While awaiting the return of the waiter, the door was opened from the main saloon by Judge Melton, who looked in, closed the door, and almost immediately reopened it, and advanced into the room where Montgomery was seated, at the south end of the table. He (Melton) threw his arm around Montgomery's neck and commenced beating him in the face. Immediately following Judge Melton, were Maj. James M. Morgan and Capt. John D. Caldwell; could not say which of the two was in the advance. Firing immediately commenced, but he could not say by whom, Judge Melton and Montgomery were scuffling. There was a confused mass of men. He and several of the others hurried into the northeast corner of the room. Two or three shots were fired—could only swear to two. Saw Caldwell press his sides with his hands and then fall to the floor, when he gasped two or three times. [In reply to a question by a juror, the witness stated that he could not say positively who fired the pistol.] He (the witness) then went in search of physicians; returned with Dr. Talley; found Tupper and Morgan clutched in the alley adjacent to the saloon; said to them, this is no time for further trouble, as one man has already been killed in this difficulty; they could settle private troubles hereafter; they then desisted; saw a pistol on the ground near where the scuffle occurred; picked it up, sealed it, and deposited it in Scott's bank."

Testimony of Richard Washington, the colored waiter, present: Judge Melton, Capt. Caldwell and Maj. Morgan came down stairs—Caldwell and Morgan walked into the yard, leaving Melton at the bar,

While they were in the yard, Melton came to the saloon door. Caldwell returned to the front saloon and endeavored to prevent Melton from entering. The Judge came in and took hold of Montgomery. Tupper got up from the foot of the table and fired two shots. Witness said he would know the pistol if he saw it again. Caldwell was struck and fell down. Morgan then took hold of Tupper; heard Morgan tell Tupper that he had shot him (Morgan) through the back, and at the same time pulled Tupper out of the door. Tupper's pistol then fell to the ground; saw Elmore pick it up. In answer to an inquiry from jurors, the witness stated that he saw no one shoot or have a pistol except Tupper. Caldwell went forward and tried to separate Elton and Montgomery—tried to act as peace-maker. Upon further questioning, witness stated that Montgomery did not draw a pistol—didn't think he could, as Judge Melton had hold of him too tight.

With the conclusion of the evidence of last witness the inquest was adjourned to meet at the coroner's office at 10 o'clock, Sunday, when important witnesses then absent would be examined, and the coroner gave permission for the removal of the body to the late residence of the deceased. During this sad ceremony, the scene presented was one that showed the underlying of human character.—No word was spoken by the vast crowd, except in a stifled manner, and while knots of the white friends of deceased stood on the corners of the street, and all about, at least 300 colored people were among the followers behind the carriage that contained all there was mortal of poor "Johnny Caldwell." Senator Robertson visited the scene, and stayed but a moment, the shock being severe in his present feeble health. Arrived at the residence of Mrs. Caldwell, we stop; the grief of the mother and little ones, being untold and unwritten except on the tablets of their hearts.

During the night following, the subject was the all absorbing theme everywhere, and no man was heard to speak but kindly of the deceased. Upon the reassembling of the inquest yesterday, at the office of Coroner Coleman, there was unabated interest manifested in the proceedings, the sidewalks and street in front being crowded with citizens of both colors. The jurors having answered to their names, the evidence of a physician was first taken, and other witnesses called.

Dr. A. N. Talley's Testimony. The deceased died from a gunshot wound, entering in front between the fourth and fifth ribs near the breast bone, and passing downwards and backwards, penetrating the heart, and the ball was removed from behind between the eighth and ninth ribs.

F. D. Fielding's Testimony.—Between 4 and 5 o'clock Frank H. Elmore, Lawrence Taylor, and witness, went to the Pollock House to take dinner, ordered dinner and went into the dining room; met Tupper and Montgomery sitting at the table taking dinner. Tupper was sitting at the end of the table, and Montgomery at his right. Witness and company took seats on the opposite side of the table. Montgomery asked them to take dinner with him; witness declined, saying they had ordered dinner. Montgomery ordered drinks, and witness thinks the waiter went out to get them. Just then the dining room door was opened by Judge Melton. He pulled the door open, stepped back and closed the door; he opened the door again; think he had an umbrella in his hand; he leaned the umbrella in the corner and walked up to the table on the same side Montgomery was on. He walked up to Montgomery, who was sitting in his chair, and caught Montgomery around the neck with his left arm; he struck Montgomery two blows in the mouth and they went to the floor; about this time the deceased and Morgan came in the door that Judge Melton had entered at; did not see Tupper when he got up; saw deceased and Tupper grapple each other; Morgan was behind deceased; in the scuffle between deceased and Tupper, heard two pistol shots fired in quick succession; saw deceased turn around and stagger toward the table, and he fell over Melton and Montgomery, who were still on the floor. Morgan and Tupper then grappled; whilst they were grappling saw a pistol in the hand of one of them; cannot say which; they went out of the side door together whilst fighting. Witness then left the room.

Testimony of Dr. John T. Darby.—Was called to go see the deceased; found him lying on the floor; thinks he might have lived two minutes; on post mor-

tem examination made by witness and Dr. Talley ascertained the ball went from the right side to the left, downwards; entering between the fourth and fifth ribs and coming out between the eighth and ninth, lodging between the skin, wherefrom it was extracted. He was shot very close; there were powder marks on the clothing; there were bruises on the face and neck of the deceased; there were signs of scratching on the left side of the neck, a contusion on the left temple and a mark on the right brow.

Major Theodore Star's sworn. Heard two pistol shots while he was outside, and one after he got into the front door; when he entered the room saw Caldwell lying dead; Montgomery and Melton were fighting when witness went in; pulled them apart; there were three shots fired.

The jury rendered the following verdict: "The aforesaid George E. Tupper, in manner and form aforesaid, John D. Caldwell then and there feloniously did kill, against the peace and dignity of the State," &c.

May it never be the lot of this community to witness another such tragedy.

The Radical Canvass.

The Charleston News publishes the following communication: SPARTANBURG, C. H., Sept. 14. To the Editor News:

A severe illness of several days since my return from the low country has prevented a prompt reply to the communication in your issue of the 9th inst., over the signature of Renben Tomlinson. I have to regret, too, that in the absence from Columbia of several parties engaged in the campaign, my response cannot be made as complete as facts will warrant.—The supplement must appear hereafter.

In the communication reference is made to me in these words: "Mr. Melton is represented as saying, at Yorkville, that he had been told (and would give his authority if Mr. Tomlinson asked for it) that he (Tomlinson) had borrowed the money or endorsed a note at the bank to get the money, which was used for the purpose of passing the phosphate bill through. In reply, I have to say that there is absolutely not the shadow of truth in the statement."

It is sufficient to say, as I do, that I have not, at Yorkville or elsewhere, made any such statement; nor had I heard of such charge against Mr. Tomlinson until it was stated in his card. Possibly his actual knowledge of the transaction may have suggested it. It is probable, however, that he has found it necessary to resort to that weakest of all lines of defence, and has "put up a man of straw, to knock it down." He might as well have represented me as charging that he had "stolen a horse or robbed a bank," and then proceeded to deny it.

What I did say at Yorkville and repeated in Charleston is this:—When the phosphate bill was unexpectedly vetoed by the Governor, the lobby-agent whom the friends of the measure had employed to secure its passage by bribery, found himself without sufficient funds to carry the bill over the veto, and resorted to empty promises. This form of bribery certain senators refused to accept; and Mr. Tomlinson, in order to procure their votes, pledged to them his personal faith that the bribes would be promptly paid.—That he borrowed money, or endorsed paper to this end let me repeat, I have not been informed, and I have never so charged.

It was distinctly announced that the statement was not made upon my personal responsibility, and that if Mr. Tomlinson should deny it, I would cheerfully give the authority upon which it was based. At the Yorkville meeting, Mr. Corbin was present, and in behalf of his candidate undertook to deny the charge; whereupon Mr. F. L. Cardozo, from whom the information came to me, assumed the responsibility, and represented to the meeting that he had it from Mr. Tomlinson himself. When the statement shall be denied by Mr. Tomlinson, if at all, he will have the advantage of knowing whence it came. But I have every reason to believe that, when his card was written, he knew the authority and the exact purport of the charge against him.

Apart from this direct testimony, the charge derives probability from his connection with the scheme. I take it, Mr. Tomlinson will not deny that he strenuously advocated the bill, and used his position on the floor to promote it; that he was the mouthpiece of Gov. Scott's administration in the House,

and because the Governor dared to veto the bill, he at once discontinued this relation; that he knew the measure was secured by means of direct and shameless bribery, thereby debauching the representatives of the people, and bringing reproach upon the Republican party and upon the State; that coming into this State a poor young man, he nevertheless became the owner of about 200 shares, at \$50 cash per share, and that he found abundant comfort besides, in the office of the treasurer and manager of the company, at a salary of \$4,000 per annum! Between this and the charge Mr. Cardozo has made, there is not, I submit, a far remove. That "some of the most honorable business men in Charleston" own stock in the company, and that under his management, the dividends have not been remunerative, does not affect the morality of the transaction.

It was due to you, gentlemen, as well as to myself, to make this reply, notwithstanding the gratuitous allusions to myself personally, contained in Mr. Tomlinson's card. It is one of the evils which no benefit us that we are forced into contact with men bred and trained in that peculiar creed, which, while it permits the most wanton attack, furnishes a shield behind which to shrink from the responsibility of a gentleman.

Very respectfully, yours,
SAM'L W. MELTON.

LATE CLIPPINGS.

A man died in a court room in Atlanta, recently.

Self made men are always apt to be a little too proud of the job.

General McClellan heads the Greeley electoral ticket in New Jersey.

Abbeville is agitating the question of the establishment of a public library and reading room.

Garret Davis, the Kentucky Senator, died recently in Paris, in that State.

Prince Albert, Sr., of Prussia, and Princess Marie, of Saxe-Altenburg, are to be married.

Great is the Press. The editor of the London Telegraph is to be made a baronet.

One of the Harper brothers has refused \$90,000 for a corner lot in the vicinity of Central Park, N. Y.

French and English physicians almost universally prescribe a free use of lemon juice to effect a cure for the rheumatism.

The Emperor William, of Germany, has recently bought a two-page letter of George Washington for two hundred dollars.

Forester, who was arrested as the murderer of Mr. Nathan, which occurred in New York, in 1870, has been released.

Supervisor Perry has been re-assigned to service in Virginia, West Virginia, North and South Carolina, Georgia and Florida.

Admiral Winslow, who commanded the Kearsage when she sank the Alabama, will receive \$24,000 as his share of prize money.

A monument costing two hundred thousand dollars is to be erected over the remains of James Gordon Bennett, founder of the New York Herald.

M. M. Farrow, Esq., who was once Editor of the Abbeville Banner, died at Chappels a few days ago. He was held in high esteem.

Col. R. B. Rhett, Jr., the talented and well known editor of the late Charleston Mercury, is connected in a similar capacity with the New Orleans Picayune.

The Northern papers announce that ex-Gov. James L. Orr, of South Carolina, has been offered the position of Minister to the Argentine Republic, declined by Gen. White, of Illinois.

Jackson County, Fla., boasts of a one-legged Confederate soldier who has been married since the war, and who has been made the happy father of four pair of twins in succession.

Success rides on every hour, grapple it, and you may win, but, without a grapple, it will never go with you. Work is the weapon of honor, and he who lacks the weapon will never triumph.

The State Grange of Patrons of Husbandry, of South Carolina, will be organized in Columbia, on Wednesday, October 9, at two o'clock P. M., by a convention composed of the masters and past-masters of the subordinate granges in the States and the deputies of the National Grange.