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THE LEXINGTON DISPATCH

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An Outspoken Congressman.

The Hon. D. Wyatt Aiken Explains his Views and Action on the Political Assessment Bill.

WASHINGTON, March 15, 1880.

To the Editors of the News and Courier:
In your issue of the 13th inst., appeared the following:

"SOME MORE 'FOOD FOR THOUGHT.'"

"Is it possible that Congressman Aiken favors the infamous system of assessments upon public officers for political purposes? We cannot believe that he does. But if he does not, why did he move to lay on the table the Anti-Assessment bill, having as his followers all the Republicans and only two Democrats, Moore, of Massachusetts, and Wells, of Missouri?"

Of whom do you make this inquiry? Is it of me, or that public whose opinion you would, I fear, happily if you could, mould to my detriment? There is an insinuation always shrouded in interrogatories submitted as you submit the above, that if my mind suggests a sinister motive in propounding the inquiry. If, however, in this instance this impression is groundless, and I am mistaken in my view of the matter, I will only be pleased to know I am incorrectly impressed. But as Sam Scott, the Catawba Indian chief of my boyhood days, would say under similar circumstance, "It smells like it."

During the extra session of last spring the committee on civil service reform reported a bill prohibiting assessments upon public officers for political purposes. Another feature of the bill was to make it a penal offence for such officers to allow themselves to be assessed for such purposes. The discussion upon this bill consumed over two weeks of the extra session, and caused much "bad blood" between the two parties, resulting in repeated and continued abuse of the South, and the "Confederate Brigadiers" in the House, with never a friend from the North, glorious Democrats though they be, to raise his voice in our defence, save a few words from General Tom Ewing, of Ohio.

As a special order set for a day certain this session this bill came up again, and had monopolized more than a week's time since the 1st of December last. Mr. House, of Tennessee, made an exhaustive speech of two hours and a half against the civil service reform policy of Mr. Hayes, and indirectly in favor of the bill.

Similar time was allowed the Republican side of the House. That was consumed, and the member presenting the bill moved the previous question. The Republicans demanded further time to discuss the bill, and a large number of Democrats were disposed to grant it.

The gentleman (Hostetter, of Indiana,) having the bill in charge persistently refused, and the Republicans began to "filibuster" by refusing to vote at all; and the Democrats, not having a quorum of the whole House present, had the point made upon them after every vote, that a "quorum was not present." A call of the House was ordered, and 243 members answered to their names. Another vote was ordered, the roll called, about 130 Democrats voted, but no Republicans; and another point of

order that there was no quorum. At this stage of the contest I saw an evident disposition on the part of the Democrats to open up discussion again. *Cui bono?* Simply to allow the Republicans another opportunity to abuse the South, and shake numerically the poor old tattered and torn bloody shirt in our faces.

Meantime the bill had been loaded down with amendments from both Democrats and Republicans that its author would not have known his bantling, wrapped as it was in its variegated garments.

Then it was that I rose and asked if it would be in order to lay the bill and amendments on the table? Being told that it would be, I made that motion, which was lost by nine votes; but I believe the defeat of my motion has accomplished what I desired—the withdrawal of this stupid bill from the consideration of the House. I had opened the way to more practical and useful legislation.

But as you have forced me into the papers again, let the whole truth be told. After my motion was made, and the House in great confusion was wrangling over some points of order, the author of the bill, (not the member having it in charge, but the author) came to me, and asked me to modify my motion. And no less than a score of Democrats voluntarily said: "Aiken, if you had moved to recommit I would have voted with you, but I won't vote to table the bill." And this was the voice of the entire South Carolina delegation.

Do you comprehend the difference? Had it been recommitted to the committee it would have remained in Democratic hands, and could have been amended satisfactorily and presented in a different garb in the future; or it could have been smothered in the committee, and would never have again been heard of. But to have laid it on the table would have been voting to suit the wishes of the Republicans, and, therefore, an acknowledged quasi-defeat of the Democratic majority, which would have had a tendency to demoralize the party.

There were not a baker's dozen members that thought the bill wise; nay, more than half the Democrats thought it unwise, indefensible, and would prove a dead letter upon our Statute books if enacted into law. But the party had sworn the "horse was sixteen feet high," and they proposed to "fight it out on that line." I was not in the swearing, and thought it not wise to take the oath. That's all about it.

One word further. There are over fifteen thousand clerks in Washington; perhaps ten thousand are men, and all of them are Republicans. Suppose each one of them gave ten dollars for a campaign fund, as they did last summer to elect Foster governor over Ewing in Ohio, there will be a fund of \$100,000. How will you prevent this amount being raised? This bill says such an assessment shall not be made.

Suppose these clerks know that their continuance in office depends upon Republican success next Fall, and they go forward and voluntarily give \$20 each, thus \$200,000 for the Republican campaign, what steps would you take to prevent it?

This bill says that shall be considered a penal offence. What—punished for disposing of your money as you think proper after you have earned it? As well tell me that, after I had sold a bale of cotton the money received for it should not be spent as I thought proper. These two points in the bill will show you the perfect impropriety of enacting such legislation as it proposed.

One more postscript. I hold myself amenable to those who sent me here, and an ever ready to give account of my stewardship, but I protest being held to account by those who, ignorant of the surroundings, seem ever willing to attack me for political apostasy. I am no automaton, and I do not believe it is the wish of my constituency that I should be. Neither do I propose to "go it blind" upon any question solely because it is Democratic. I claim the

right of exercising private judgment on all political questions upon which I am called to legislate, and if upon examination I find I differ in my views with those with whom I am in accord politically, I propose to vote as my judgment dictates. If called to account, I will be prepared to show cause both for my faith and my works. Very truly,
D. WYATT AIKEN.

We do not always agree with the views of Representative Aiken; but there is no public man anywhere for whose honesty, manliness, patriotism, and good sense we have a more sincere respect. His idea that the *News and Courier* seeks, or has ever sought to mould public opinion to his detriment is, therefore, a mistake. We have simply given him an opportunity to explain to his constituents a matter which, in the absence of explanation, could not but be regarded by his Democratic constituents as a little queer, to say the least of it. Col. Aiken's letter, however, fully vindicates his course, and his friends in South Carolina will all be glad that he has written it. We are only sorry that in telling us why he happened to be found voting with the Republicans upon what seemed to be a party question, he should have seen fit to resent our inquiry as the manifestation of a "sinister motive" that has no existence except in his own fancy. We repeat that we have great respect for and confidence in Col. Aiken; but the people of South Carolina have at all times a right to know what their representatives in Congress do, and why they do it.—*Editor News and Courier.*

Make Friends.

Life is very critical. Any word may be our last. Any farewell, even among grief and merriment, may be forever. If this truth were but burned into our consciousness, and it ruled as a deep conviction and power in our lives, would it not give a new meaning to all our human relationships? Would it not make us far more tender than we sometimes are? Would it not oftentimes put a rein upon our rash and impetuous speech? Would we carry in our hearts the miserable suspicions and jealousies that now so often embitter the fountain of our loves? Would we be so impatient of the faults of others? Would we allow trivial misunderstandings to build up strong walls between us and those who ought to stand very close to us? Would we keep alive petty quarrels year after year, which a manly word any day would compose? Would we fuss neighbors or old friends on the streets without recognition, because of some real or fancied slight, some wounding of pride, or some ancient grudge? Or would we be so chary of our kind words, our commendations, our sympathy, our comfort, when weary hearts all about us are breaking for just such expressions of interest or appreciation as we have in our power to give?

THE PLAINTIFF—Now, then, who is the plaintiff in this case? asked His Honor as a case was called.
No reply.
I ask who is the plaintiff in this case? continued the Court.

I don't know anything about plaintiffs, replied a man in the corner, as he slowly rose, but if you were asking for the chap who was chased a mile and a half and then mopped all over his barn yard by two desperadoes, then I'm your man!
The case went on.

The negroes of the South consume twice as much per head of sugar-cured hams, lobsters, sardines, tobacco and whiskey, as the miners, factory operatives and poor needle-women of the North, and yet the working classes North are taught to regard the colored brother as a poor, down-trodden, starved wretch.

The Associate Reformed Presbyterian says: "Col. Aiken is one of the best Representatives we have ever had in Congress."

Bill Ayr on the Press.

Your paper is a great comfort to me; in every number I find something to put away in mind and memory; something that I did not know before, and which will be of advantage to me in time to come. If a man can read he can get a good education by taking one good paper; he can keep up with the world, and make himself an entertaining member of society; he can talk up a little of most any subject. Book learning is a very good thing, but I know a man who has a power of that, but he never reads the papers, and he passes for a fool in his neighborhood. Some papers are not much account in appearances, but I never took one that didn't pay me in some way a good deal more than I paid it. One time an old friend started a little paper away down in Southwestern Georgia and sent it to me, and I subscribed just to encourage him, and so after a while it published a notice that an administrator had an order to sell several lots of land at public outcry, and one of the lots was in my county. So I inquired about the lot, and wrote down to my friend to attend the sale, and run it to fifty dollars. He did so, and bid off the lot for me at thirty dollars, and I sold it in a month to the man it joined for a hundred, and so I made sixty-eight dollars clear by taking that paper. Mr. father told me when he was a young man he saw a notice in a paper that a school teacher was wanted away off in a distant county, and he went down there and got the situation, and a little girl was sent to him, and after a while she grew up mighty sweet and pretty, and he fell in love with her and married her. Now, if he hadn't took that paper, what do you reckon would have become of me? Wouldn't I be some other feller, or maybe not be at all?—*Atlanta Constitution.*

Rats Attack and Disfigure Two Men.

A remarkable and perhaps unprecedented combat took place at Bostick's mill, near Peedee, N. C., on the morning of the 9th instant. It seems that Gen. Bostick and one of his employees, Anderson Wayless, went into a corn house, which had been stored with corn for nearly twelve months, and which had been closed for the length of time. After getting in, they found that the place was literally alive with rats, which began to attack fiercely the two men, who in vain attempted to beat them off. The rats came upon them in droves, biting them about the hands, face and legs, several actually getting under Wayless's shirt. Both men cried for help, and were rescued from their perilous situation. The whole of Gen. Bostick's ear was eaten off and face horribly bitten. Wayless's nose and lips were so badly bitten that his best friends could not recognize him, and his left eye was torn from its socket.—*Special to Washington Post.*

Whatever you have to say, my friend, Whether witty or grave or gay, Condense as much as ever you can, And say in the readiest way, And whether you write on rural affairs Or particular things in town; Just a word of friendly advice—
Boil it down.

For if you go spluttering over a page When a couple of lines would do, Your butter is spread so much, you see That the bread shows plainly through. So when you have a story to tell, And would like a little renown, To make quite sure of your wish, my friend, Boil it down.

A ROCHESTER PHYSICIAN'S EXPERIENCE.
R. Caulkins, M. D., of Rochester, N. Y., certifies Oct., 6th, 1879, that he has used the Safe Kidney and Liver Cure in his practice for diseases of the kidneys and liver, and the result has been satisfactory in the extreme. He says: "I would now prescribe the same remedy to all similarly afflicted, and you are at liberty to so state in your testimonials." Jan 73m.

The Primary System.

DUE WEST, S. C., March 13, 1880.
Editor Register.—As this is the year for the general elections, and one that is likely to test to the utmost the strength of the Democratic party in the State, our safety lies in adopting such plans and in pursuing such course of action as will keep the party solid and active. Excepting a sense of common danger, which always unites a people, nothing, in the judgment of the writer, contributed so much to our success in 1876 as the system of primary elections. The mind that evolved that grand idea of going to every man in the State, high or low, rich or poor, the noisy declaimer and the quiet, enthusiastic thinker, equally the right to express his preference for nominees by his vote, was truly an organizer of a scattered and despondent force. The scheme entitles its author to immortality in the Southern Democracy. What unity, activity, life, hope and determination it inspired where adopted! Who can recall those glorious days of solid effective work without feeling their spirit and inspiration come back to him and nerve him for another struggle?

The object of this communication is to recommend this magic system to a more universal adoption and enlargement; and then, so enlarged and perfected, let us appeal to it again for success in the election this fall. At present they nominate only members of the Legislature and county officers. Let us enlarge their work, and by them nominate also our Representatives to Congress and Solicitors. The writer has not noticed this enlargement advocated in the papers of the State, except by the Abbeville *Journal*. Others may have been doing so. If so, they have been, and are, touching the cord that vibrates through the rank and file of the party. The "primaries" harmonize so fully with the principles of Democracy, give such a fair choice of candidates, that every Jody is awakened by them to the fullest vigor in the elections. Let it not be feared that the indicated enlargement of the primary elections will render them impracticable. For the count and determination of the Congressional nominee and the Solicitor, the local clubs can forward returns to the County Executive Committees as at present. These committees can aggregate votes and announce legislative and county nominees, and forward their returns for the other two offices to the State Executive Committee for aggregation and announcement of nominees. The whole plan is simple, and can be put into operation without a jar; and when brought into action will afford the broadest satisfaction to the whole party. A. VOTER.

A BACHELOR'S VIEW OF IT.—Man that is married to a woman is of many days and full of trouble. In the morning he draweth his salary, and in the evening behold it is all gone. It is as a tale that is told, it vanisheth and no one knoweth whither it goeth. He riseth up clothed in the chilly garments of the night, and seeketh the somnolent paragon where-with to soothe the colicky bowels of his infant posterity. He becometh as the horse or the ox, and draweth the chariot of his offspring. He spendeth the shekels in the purchase of fine linen to cover the bosom of his family, yet himself is seen in the gates of the city, with but one suspender. Yea, he is altogether wretched.

The vote of the Legislature of this State for Presidential candidates shows Mr. Bayard to be the first choice of 78 out of 132, Tilden 12, Seymour 11, Field 10. The rest are divided among various names. Of the 54 who vote for other candidates for first choice, 21 are for Bayard as second choice. Thus he is shown to be acceptable to 99 out of 132.

A weekly paper called the *New Era* has just been started in Charleston, in the interests of the colored people.

Our Demoralization.

A great deal has been said and printed of late about the necessity of a law forbidding the carrying of concealed weapons. If the juries of the State would do their duty, by convicting some of the many murderers in this State the reprehensible practice might be checked to some extent. The work of the recent sittings of the courts which have been held in the various circuits of South Carolina will bear us out in the assertion that the trial by jury of a white man for the crime of murder in this State has become a farce and a disgrace to our civilization. While the courts refuse to punish a murderer, the Judges, without exception, speak in the most emphatic terms against the practice of carrying deadly weapons. The fact is, that such speeches from the Bench may be said to have become stereotyped, except as to the mere matter of verbiage. We say if the Judges would direct the juries to find verdicts in accordance with the enormity of the crime that has been committed they would find this a more effective plan of suppressing crime. It takes a little more than honied words to be effective in staying the hand of the murderer. A little stern justice is what is demanded. Hereafter the notice of an approaching county court of General Sessions might be announced as follows:

NOTICE.—The Court of General Sessions will convene in the Court House in this county next Monday week. Murderers will appear and receive certificates of their innocence. Prisoners charged with the crimes of stealing crops from the field, burglary, arson or grand larceny are notified that they will be sent to the penitentiary promptly after the adjournment of court. "JOSEY SLOW, Clerk."
[Abbeville Press and Banner.]

The Points of the Law.

You see, boss, dar's a nigger libin' up my way who orter to be taken care of, said an old darkey to the captain at the Central Station yesterday. What's he been doing now? Waa, sah, las' fall I lent him my axe, an' when I wanted it back he braced right up an' tole me dat possesshoo was nine pints o' law, an' refused to gib it up. Yea, Waa, de older day I sent de ole woman ober, an' she borrowed his buck saw, an' when Julius cum for it I tole him just like he answered me, an' stood on my dignity. Well, dat's what bodders me, shet up dis 'lef' eye fur me, pitched de ole woman ober a bar', an' walked off with his saw an' my snow shovel to boot! If I had nine pints he must hev had ober twenty, an' eben den he didn't half let himself out!—*Detroit Free Press.*

The Convention called for June by a minority of the Executive Committee, should not attempt to nominate a State ticket. The election of State, County and National offices should be subject to the primaries, and is the only thing that will give satisfaction to the masses. Their action may be construed as an effort to gag a free discussion of the candidates for State offices. We are now beginning a new century politically, and the road to honorable distinction must be open alike to the sons of farmers and mechanics as to the exclusive heirs of aristocracy.—*Beaufort Crescent.*

BEAUTIFIERS.—Ladies, you cannot make fair skin, rosy cheeks and sparkling eyes with all the cosmetics of France, or beautifiers of the world, while in poor health, and nothing will give you such good health, strength, buoyant spirits and beauty as Hop Bitters. A trial is certain proof. See another column. 23.

The Tallahassee *Floridian* says that a large percentage of the oat crop through that section of country is said to be already seriously damaged by rust, and it is feared will prove almost a failure.

The Family Rudder.

A Comstocker who was having his hair cut yesterday afternoon gave the barber particular instructions not to remove a long lock that projected in a somewhat unsightly way from the front of his head.

It don't become you, said the barber.

Can't help that, said the customer. Better let me take it off, said the barber.

Just you leave it as it is, said the man.

But, persisted the barber, I can't give you a smooth, decent cut if I leave the hair so long in front. It will look like the very devil. I can't see what you want it left there for?

That's because you don't know what it is—you don't know the use of it.

I know it's a bunch of hair and know that it's devilish unbecoming just where it is.

Yes; it is a bunch of hair, and it is something more than a bunch of hair—it's the family rudder.

The family what? The family rudder. When things don't go right at home my wife always grabs that lock of hair. She would feel lost without it. When she gets hold of that she can handle me—steer me in the right course, so to speak—and when I go in the right course the whole family go in the right course and all is well. I've got used to it now and don't mind it. Should I lose my hair and become bald, or should you give me a fighting cut all over, there would be no way of steering me; I should become unmanageable, and sooner or later a total wreck. No, sir; don't you disturb the family rudder.

Bad Legislation.

By a late act of the Legislature, witnesses in State cases only get fifty cents a day. This may be patriotic, but poor people have long since learned that they can't live on patriotism. The people have their eyes open, and they will draw comparisons. Why, they naturally ask, increase the salaries of clerks and employees at the State House during the session, and cut down the poor man's wages, who is compelled, under the law, to go to the Court House and stay there till dismissed by the Judge, at perhaps an expense of a dollar and a half a day, and only give him fifty cents? This may be law, but we respectfully submit, it is not equity; neither is it true economy to a party that wants to hold the reins of government and cheerful obedience to its requirements. A man now who is a witness in a State case must bring his rations from home, cook them himself, and sleep on a blanket in a wagon yard, or lose money every trip.

STATE TICKET.—The Abbeville *Medium*, under the head of "A Ticket for the Times," brings out the following, which we reproduce as information to the general reader:

For Governor, Gen. M. W. Gary, of Edgefield; Lieutenant-Governor, Col. Rob't. Aldrich, of Barnwell; Secretary of State, General Jno. Bratton, of Fairfield; Comptroller-General, Hon. James C. Coit, of Chesterfield; Treasurer, Hon. William Hood, of Lancaster; Attorney-General, Hon. Isaac D. Witherspoon, of York; Superintendent of Education, Rev. W. W. Duncan, of Spartanburg.

The successful growing of the coffee plant in South Florida seems to be now established beyond question. Mrs. Atzotta, of Bridentown, Manatee County, has just received from the Commissioner of Agriculture the premium offered some time since of \$10 for the first pound of coffee grown in the open air.

Through the medium of the *New York World* Governor Seymour has positively declined to allow his name to be presented to the people as a candidate for the Presidency, nor will he allow it to be used under any circumstances whatever.