

THE PICKENS SENTINEL.

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Cavender and His "Fees."

The following we copy from the News and Courier in reference to the doings of Mr. Cavender in the issue of warrants under the provisions of the Little Bonanza. Governor Chamberlain, as soon as his actions became known to him, cut off his official head. The Governor is thinning them out rapidly, and we commend him for it:

The letter of Governor Chamberlain to Mr. Cavender published to day is a clear statement of the charge that Mr. Cavender has been guilty of improper conduct, to use a mild phrase, in the issue of warrants under what is commonly called the Little Bonanza Act, and it is evident that the facts admitted by Mr. Cavender, in his letter of defence, justify the requirement that the accused person resign the places he holds, and are ample reason for removing him summarily.

The Little Bonanza Act, or the Act "to provide for the payment of certain indebtedness of the State," levies, in three annual instalments, a total tax of three mills to pay claims passed at the previous session of the General Assembly, the unpaid appropriations for printing, sundry specified indebtedness of the State, and the past indebtedness and unpaid appropriations of public institutions. The amount of the claims and indebtedness so provided for is about \$400,000; and the Comptroller General is required to issue warrants to the persons entitled to the proceeds of the taxes levied by Act. These warrants are for the full amount of the claims, and bear interest; one third of the warrants being payable respectively out of the proceeds of the taxes of 1875, 1876 and 1877. Governor Chamberlain was satisfied that much of the indebtedness provided for in the Little Bonanza Act was wholly or partly fraudulent, and he insisted that a proviso should be inserted requiring the Comptroller General "to audit the claims" embraced in the Act, and requiring him to "disallow, in whole, or in part, any such claim which he shall find to be illegal." This proviso was subsequently stricken from the bill, and was only restored upon the Governor making it known that, without that protecting provision, the bill could not receive his approval. The Comptroller General, Mr. Dunn, was selected as the Auditor, both because of his official position, and because of the high esteem in which he was held by both Republicans and Democrats in the General Assembly.

As soon as the bill had become a law, Mr. T. S. Cavender, the Auditor of Darlington County, and one of the three Auditing Commissioners under another Act to provide for paying past indebtedness of the State, (known as the Big Bonanza) was given entire charge, by Comptroller Dunn, of the issuing of warrants under the Little Bonanza Act. The selection was apparently a wise one, as Mr. Cavender is a highly capable accountant and a close friend of Mr. Dunn. Warrants were prepared, and up to Friday night last had been issued to the amount of \$192,000. Whether any claims embraced in the Act have been rejected, we do not yet know. So far as the public were advised there was no reason to doubt that the requirements of the Act had been, and were to be, faithfully complied with. This was the situation when Governor Chamberlain was informed that Mr. Cavender was engaged in levying black mail on persons holding claims payable under the Act. The information is mainly contained in an affidavit of Mr. Berry and a letter of Mr. Symmers. These, together with Mr. Cavender's defence, will be published to-morrow. For the present we confine our attention to the statements, for and against Auditor Cavender, contained in Governor Chamberlain's letter.

The letter shows that Mr. Cavender agreed with Mr. Berry to aid in the passage of the Little Bonanza bill for a fee of 20 per cent.; that, as clerk to the Comptroller General, he worked at his own house all night preparing the warrants for Mr. Berry, and that

Mr. Berry, with warrants to the full amount of \$9,400 before him, left warrants to the amount of \$1,900 in the hands of Mr. Cavender. It is immaterial whether the \$1,900 was to be applied to Mr. Cavender's exclusive use or not. The damning fact is, that instead of requiring Mr. Berry to accept the full amount of his claim, Mr. Cavender retained, or permitted to be left with him, about one fifth of the claim, and took receipts from Mr. Berry for \$1,900 more than Mr. Berry received. It is alleged that the \$1,900 of warrants has since been returned to Mr. Berry on his order.— This does not mend the case. Any black mailer is willing to make restitution when found out. Nor does the plea that the \$1,900 was only "a fee" lessen Mr. Cavender's culpability.— Had it been a fee, in the ordinary sense, Mr. Cavender would have retained it, in spite of discovery and demand. There is little or anything of the fearless independence of conscious innocence in Mr. Cavender's course.

The second case mentioned is that of Mr. Symmers. Between him and Mr. Cavender there is a direct issue of veracity. One of the two has solemnly said what is grossly untrue. It is admitted by Mr. Cavender, however that he did issue to Mr. Symmers warrants for 6,000, the amount of the claim being \$9,500, and that subsequently he advised the Comptroller to audit the rest of the claim before issuing the remaining warrants. It would be a fair inference that this threatened auditing was an after thought, suggested and provoked by the refusal of Mr. Symmers to pay what was expected. Putting this aside, on account of the contradictory character of the statements of Mr. Cavender and Mr. Symmers, the conduct of Mr. Cavender is still utterly indefensible. It was known to Mr. Cavender, or he knew nothing, that the claim of Mr. Symmers is believed to be "in whole or in part" illegal. Knowing this, he did not attempt to audit the claim, so as to ascertain whether any part of the whole was legal, but issued at once two thirds of the whole amount of warrants, and, at some subsequent time, resolved to audit the rest. It was the duty of the Comptroller to audit the Symmers claim and every other claim, before issuing a warrant, large or small. What assurance have the public that only \$3,750 of the Symmers claim is illegal? Why was not the whole audited, instead of a part? Mr. Cavender may say what he pleases, but the public must hold him guilty of gross and willful neglect of duty, even if it is ultimately proved that there was no connection between the auditing of a part of the claim and a refusal of Mr. Symmers to pay "a fee" upon the whole amount.

Governor Chamberlain has acted aright. Any tardiness or hesitation would have been a violation of official duty. But we have not reached the end of the Cavender matter. In the Statehouse there are many mansions, and we hope that we shall be able to find out who Mr. Cavender's partners are. A fee of twenty per cent. upon the claims to be paid under the Little Bonanza Act would amount to \$80,000. This Little Bonanza was not worked for Mr. Cavender's profit alone.

The Marion Star of Wednesday gives the particulars of a sad accident which occurred six miles from that place last Saturday, by which five children of Mr. A. Ellerbe were burned to death. The father and mother had visited a neighbor in the afternoon, leaving the children at home. On their return, about two hours after dark, they found the building on fire and the roof falling in. All five of the children, aged from 2 to 14 years, were consumed in the burning building. The remains of four of the children seemed to have been in bed, while the remains of the oldest one, a girl, was found near the door.

Florida is progressing in wealth and population more rapidly than any of the Southern States.

Give Him Rope Enough!

The speech of W. J. Whipper in the House of Representatives on Tuesday was unexpectedly appropriate and becoming, says the Charleston News and Courier. It had been feared that Whipper would have some little regard for the dignity of the office to which he supposed himself to have been elected; but he had evidently determined to prove to the public, in his own way, his fitness for the Bench. The one mistake was that Whipper nominally aspires to be a Judge in South Carolina, instead of Dahomey or Ashante. Speaking so as to prove his qualifications as judge of an African tribunal, he failed to justify the opinions of the besotted Radicals who attempted to make him judge in a civilized land. There may have been method in this madness. It is the aim of Whipper and Elliott and Leslie to build up an African Dominion in the low country of South Carolina, and, perhaps, Whipper wished to prove his ability to play the part of Mumbo Jumbo. He was not drunk with whiskey. It is due to Whipper to say that. The obscurity, the insolence, the mendacity and the effrontery which marked his speech, belong to him in his sober moments. When drunk, wholly or in part, he is less savage and ferocious, and, therefore, less natural.

Whipper assures the public that he will die before he will resign. This is welcome news. The resignation of Whipper would have looked like the faint dawn of sense and prudence in his mind and that of his rascally cohort. It would have been a mere form, as Whipper cannot resign an office that he does not hold; and it is best for the cause of good government, that Whipper and his friends should persevere to the end in their blind folly, for any sign of repentance might have led some credulous persons to suppose that the villains who compassed the election of Whipper and Moses and Wiggins had changed their spots if not their skin. Whipper, then, will not resign! To that he is bound.

It evidently did not enter into Whipper's mind that his life or death is of no consequence to anybody but himself; and that his harangues will neither hasten nor retard the action of the people. There was no vacancy on the Bench to which Whipper could be elected. Judge Reed, under the Constitution, holds office until 1878, and Whipper is not commissioned by the Governor because Judge Reed already holds the office that Whipper claims. Of course Whipper will go to the Courts. That is expected and provided for. The law and the Constitution are against him; yet it is conceivable that the Supreme Court may decide in his favor. But that will not, by any means, give him his seat. No decision of any Court will force the people of the Charleston Circuit to accept or submit to Whipper as their Judge. They will exhaust every peaceful remedy before they try any other. Prevention, in their opinion, is better than cure. But they will have the cure, if the Courts fail them. The people are pledged publicly to this, and any who doubted the wisdom of that determination on Tuesday, doubt it no longer to day.

Whipper's speech will make an excellent tract for circulation amongst those who, led astray by so-called philanthropy, have been willing to place the Southern States in the power of just such persons as Whipper. And we should like them to ask themselves the question: How many years of restraint and good example would be required to fit a Whipper for even the rational exercise of the privileges of the ballot? That such a man should be a maker of laws for honest people, that he should sit in judgment over them, is too monstrous to be borne. And it will not be borne!— No more need be said on that subject. The people can take care of themselves, and they propose to give Whipper all the rope he needs.

Subscribe for the SENTINEL.

Mr. Melton's Dilemma.

It is a pity that Attorney General Melton should resign at this time, says the Charleston News and Courier, and leave others to pluck the tempting fruits of reform. The Parker trial came to nothing, it is true; but there are, and there were, other criminals than Parker to prosecute, and it is not likely that two offenders of that class will escape in the same way. Doubtless the difficulty of obtaining good juries had something to do with the reluctance of Mr. Melton to go into Court, but the present Jury Commissioner for Richland County, Mr. Gray, is a staunch and fearless man, who will faithfully execute the law. Then again the public temper is such that the highest popularity will attend him who succeeds in putting rascals in the Penitentiary. Why, oh! why, does Mr. Melton want to resign?

The private practice of so eminent a lawyer as Mr. Melton must, of course, be very large, and there are personal reasons why he desires to avoid the temptations incidental to political life. But Mr. Melton might make the sacrifice of holding on for just a few months longer, whatever the annoyances or losses to which this patriotic act might expose him. Then could he retire with several scalps in his belt, while now he can only point to the place where a scalp might have been.

There is likewise some chance that Mr. Melton, if he resigns, will be succeeded by Elliott. This is a danger from which Mr. Melton can save the people if he will. In the course of a few months he can make himself exceedingly strong with all good people; but if he incontinently abandon the fight, his only power will be with those to whom he can say, "Thank me for what I did not do!"

Mr. Melton is an amiable man, an eloquent man, an able man, although he does not like newspapers. This is his weakness. All great men have a weakness; it runs in the family. So Mr. Melton picks at the press, in season and out of season; it amuses him and does not hurt us. Newspapers like to praise people, and they will praise him if he will give them an opportunity. They cannot praise for turning back when the struggle between the honest men and the thieves is hardest. Mr. Melton will remember what he said when galloping to the rear during the fights around Richmond. An officer asked how the battle was going. "That depends," said Mr. Melton, "on the gallop of the troops going 'in.'" The troops are going in now. Why does Gen. Melton ride to the rear?

Hill and Yancey

We take the following from the Charleston News and Courier:

The exciting debate on the Amnesty bill, in which Mr. Hill, of Georgia, and Mr. Blaine, of Maine, were the most conspicuous figures, brings to mind the atray between Mr. Hill and William L. Yancey, of Alabama, which caused the latter's death. The circumstances were first publicly given by Mr. Henry Watterson, the present editor of the Louisville Courier-Journal.

According to the published account, it was toward the close of the second session of the first Confederate Congress that Yancey broke out from the counsels and influence of Mr. Davis, and became, with Henry S. Foote, a leader of the opposition. Mr. Ben. Hill, then Senator from Georgia, had likewise changed his front, and was remarkable for the earnestness, personal interest and persistency with which he sustained the measures of an administration to which his allegiance had been given but late in the day. Mr. Yancey, it will be remembered, had returned

from an unsuccessful mission to Europe, and was representing Alabama in the Confederate Senate. The question of a navy was under discussion in secret session. The debate ranged beyond parliamentary limits, and, Messrs. Yancey and Hill became animated over the abstract doctrines of State Rights, authority of slavery. High words passed, and finally the lie was given by Mr. Hill. Mr. Yancey leaped forward, and as he aimed a blow at his adversary, was caught in the arms of the latter and violently thrown back over a desk. Mr. Hill is a man of wonderful muscular development; Mr. Yancey was never very heavy, though little and active. In the fall his spine was seriously injured, and when the bystanders rushed upon the two and dragged the one from the other, the great Southern lay unconscious upon the floor with a little trickle of blood oozing from his lips. He was carried to his hotel, a vote of secrecy was passed, and the rencontre hushed up. No one in Richmond except that body of men knew of the circumstances for six months after. Meanwhile the victim did not recover. He drooped from day to day. He became listless, hopeless and vacillating. He was transferred to his own home, where his convulsions ceased a few weeks before his death which was tranquil and calm. He died without a hope of the success of the Southern Republic he had aspired to found and govern, and for which he had labored day and night for twenty five years.

The Baltimore Gazette, with point and power, says the day laborers, the mechanics, the farmers and the honest merchants and the honest traders have never been in Wall Street, and they are the real sufferers in the financial depression which has been upon us for the last two or three years. Production is the basis of all prosperity, but the producer has almost become a pauper. Why is it? What is the wrong in our economy? The whole country has been blooming and blossoming and bearing fruit as never before. The Western fields and farms have been groaning under their load of golden grain; the Southern States have been singularly blessed in their productions; but notwithstanding it all the whirr of our machinery has ceased to be heard, and poverty and starvation stalk through all the large centres of population. There must be a cause and reason somewhere. We were told two years ago that we had over traded; that we were doing business upon an inflation basis, and that in a short time—a few weeks or a few months, the olden days would come back and we should be again prosperous. The days have glided into weeks and the months into years, and the end is not yet. As we said, whether justly or unjustly, the people believe that the evil lies in the legislation of the general government, and the remedy is a change of that legislation. Will Congress, irrespective of party and politics, tell the country how it is? No one cares about poor old Mr. Davis and his disabilities; about amnesty; about the fierce onslaughts of Mr. Blaine; about the wit of Mr. Cox or the wisdom of Mr. Kerr. The third term and what Mr. Fish said to Spain, or Spain to Mr. Fish, are all matters of a small consideration. The greater, larger question is: Why is the country in the pitiable plight it is in, and how can it be restored to the prosperity it once knew? The party that solves this question will be the winning party next November. And to all whom it may concern we send these words greeting.

A modern essayist defines gossip to be the "putting of two and two together and making five of them."

Father and Son of the Day.

We clip the following from the Kingstree Star.

What exists between father and son more than the ties of association? Nothing! The same father who now seems to care so much for his boy of twelve years, spends thousands on his education, and seems to care so much for his boy's or girl's health. Really has no motive in view but self interest. He dreams of his boy pleading at the bar, winning complicated cases and recovering heavy fees; or of him some day, seated in the supreme seat of the nation. To one, or some of these high places his child must needs aspire. Yes, he dreams that then he can roll in a great arm chair in his son's cabinet, and only receive congratulations from the millions on having a son so great. Alas! how often, too often a sad mistake. The son grows to a youth, the father loses his property. The father's income is small. The son, half educated, is flung on his own resources; he succeeds for a time very well, but at last, as every one is likely to be, he is thrown out of business; he has some means left; he goes to strange places to seek employment, he makes application, but he is only looked on with suspicion, and is sent away. Disappointments at last sink his spirits; he gives up in despair. In his rambling he comes near to where his parents are living; he has not seen them for many years; he was a boy when last he saw them; but now he is almost a man; he is 19 years old. He meets his father near his home; this is what passes between them: "W," says the father, "have you got back here again? Where are you going now?" "Well, sir," says the almost shocked son, "I have been hunting business, have failed, so far, and thought as I was passing, to call and see you. Maybe I can get some work to do near here. At a distance no one knows me, and I can get into the employ of no one." "Well, you can get down and rest a little, and then go on. Suppose you haven't been to dinner?" "No, sir." "Well you can do without, I have often done it; here's ten dollars—you had better be going. Good bye." This is a meeting that took place between a Methodist preacher and his son, after an absence of six years. Has he the heart and sympathy of a man of God. Prepare, boys to hoe your own row; poverty makes enemies of friends and friends of enemies.

LUFUS.

ABOUT ADVERTISING.—If you have a good thing advertise it. If you haven't don't.

If you don't mean to mind your own business, it will not pay to advertise.

It is as true of advertising as of anything else in the world, if it is worth doing at all, it is worth doing well.

We don't recommend advertising as the best way to get a wife, but we know that is the best way to get a good trade.

Don't expect an advertisement to bear fruit in one night, like the prophet's gourd. Advertising will take effect, but it takes more than one night to do it.

"A SWINDLE."—A merchant who was absent from his home received a telegram informing him of his wife's safe delivery of a little girl; at the same time a letter from his partner advised him that a draft had been presented for \$5,000 and the signature seemed rather doubtful. The merchant replied to both dispatches, but misdirected them. The astonishment of the wife may be imagined when she read: "I know nothing about it; it's a swindle." The partner received hearty congratulations upon his safe deliverance.