

# THE PICKENS SENTINEL.

DEVOTED TO POLITICS, MORALITY, EDUCATION AND TO THE GENERAL INTEREST OF THE COUNTRY.

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## THE STATUS OF THE STATE.

### Extraordinary Proclamation from Governor Chamberlain.

Address to the People of the United States by the State Executive Committee of the Democratic Party—General Hampton's Letter to the Chief Justice of the State—His reply—Associate Justice Willard and Circuit Judge Mackey's Opinions on the Situation.

#### Proclamation.

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA,  
EXECUTIVE CHAMBER.

Whereas it has been made known to me, by written and sworn evidence, that there exists such unlawful obstructions, combinations and assemblages of persons in the counties of Aiken and Barnwell, that it has become impracticable, in my judgment, as Governor of the State, to enforce by the ordinary course of judicial proceedings the laws of the State within said counties; by reason whereof, it has become necessary, in my judgment, as Governor, to call forth and employ the military force of the State to enforce the faithful execution of the laws;

And whereas it has been made known to me as Governor that certain organizations and combinations of men exist in all the counties of the State, commonly known as "Rifle Clubs;"

And whereas such organizations and combinations of men are illegal and strictly forbidden by the laws of this State;

And whereas such organizations and combinations of men are engaged in promoting illegal objects and in committing open acts of lawlessness and violence;

Now, therefore, I, Daniel H. Chamberlain, Governor of said State, do issue this, my proclamation, as required by the 13th section of chapter 132 of the General Statutes of the State, commanding the said unlawful combinations and assemblages of persons in the counties of Aiken and Barnwell to disperse and retire peaceably to their homes within three days from the date of this proclamation, and henceforth to abstain from all unlawful interference with the rights of citizens and from all violations of the public peace.

And I do further, by this proclamation, forbid the existence of all said organizations or combinations of men commonly known as "Rifle Clubs," and all other organizations or combinations of men or formations, not forming a part of the militia of the State, which are armed with firearms or other weapons of war, or which engage or are formed for the purpose of engaging in drilling, exercising the manual of arms or military manoeuvres, or which appear or are formed for the purpose of appearing under arms or under the command of officers bearing the titles or assuming the functions of ordinary military officers, or in any other manner acting or proposing to act as organized and armed bodies of men; and I do command all such organizations, combinations, formations or bodies of men forthwith to disband and cease to exist in any place or under any circumstances in this State.

And I do further declare and make known by this proclamation, to all the people of this State, that in case this proclamation shall be disregarded for the space of three days from the date thereof, I shall proceed to put into active use all the powers with which, as Governor I am invested by the constitution and laws of the State for the enforcement of the laws and the protection of the rights of the citizens, and particularly the powers conferred on me by Chapter CXXX of the General Statutes of the State, as well by the Constitution of the United States.

In witness whereof I have hereunto

set my hand and caused the great seal of the State to be affixed, at Columbia, this 7th day of October, A. D. 1876, and in the 101st year of American Independence.

By the Governor,  
D. H. CHAMBERLAIN,  
H. E. HAYNE, Secretary of State.

#### ADDRESS TO THE PEOPLE OF THE UNITED STATES.

COLUMBIA, S. C., Oct. 7, 1876.  
To the People of the United States:  
In a period of profound peace, with the laws unresisted and the process of the courts unopposed, the Governor of South Carolina has by proclamation declared that in the counties of Aiken and Barnwell, it has become impracticable to enforce by ordinary course of judicial proceedings, the laws of the State, and it has become necessary for him as Governor, to call forth and employ the military force of the State to enforce the faithful execution of the law.

He has also alleged that certain organizations and combinations exist contrary to law in all the counties of the State, which are engaged in promoting illegal objects and in committing open acts of lawlessness, and he has threatened to declare martial law and suspend the writ of habeas corpus.

The charges perferred by Governor Chamberlain against the citizens of the State is as false and libelous as his threatened usurpation of power is tyrannical and unwarranted, and his extraordinary proclamation can be explained only upon the assumption that Gov. Chamberlain with a similar disregard of law and of fact, is determined to resort to most extreme measures to prevent the otherwise certain defeat of himself and his corrupt party.

There have been disturbances in Aiken County, non political in their character, they have long since ceased, all the parties for whom warrants were issued promptly surrendered themselves to the law. Perfect peace and the profoundest quiet prevail. No armed combinations hinder the process of the courts, and the Republican County Convention, last week, held a continuous session of twenty days without molestation.

The disturbances in Barnwell were Republican in their origin, beginning in the resistance of an armed band of negroes of the arrest of a barber, for whom a warrant had been duly issued. This band tore up a railroad, wrecked a train, fired upon and wounded the Sheriff of the County, and were dispersed by a so-called armed band of whites, who had been duly summoned by the Sheriff as a posse, with the sanction of the Judge of the Court, then in session.

The posse, after performing their duties quietly dispersed. So far from opposing the law, the whole people desire the prompt dispatch of business in the courts and the enforcement of the law by the civil arm. The white people throughout the State have volunteered their services to the Governor to maintain the law and he has refused them in libelous communication, intended solely to furnish a pretext to force the introduction of Federal troops to be placed under the control of irresponsible and unscrupulous officials to oppress the people and control the election.

The Democratic nominees in seventeen of the thirty-two counties in the State have held meetings attended by thousands of citizens of both races and parties. The Republicans have held meetings when and where they pleased, and not a single act of violence has yet occurred. On the 18th ult. the Democratic Executive Committee invited the Republican canvassers to a joint discussion at their meetings.

This invitation was renewed on the

28th ult., and accepted by the Republican Executive Committee on the 5th inst., upon the usual terms. The proclamation of the Governor is utterly at variance with the action of the Executive Committee of his own party. The latter acquiesces in free discussion; the former, in effect, suppresses debate, and substitutes armed force for free speech. We assert earnestly, with a full sense of our responsibility, that no condition of things in the State which justifies so extraordinary a proceeding on the part of Governor Chamberlain.

Its sole object is to irritate and to provoke collisions, which may be the excuse for an appeal to the administration of the United States to garrison the State. We shall counsel our people to preserve the peace, obey the laws and calmly await the day of their deliverance from this wanton despotism.

To the people of the United States we submit our wrongs, confidently relying on their wisdom and justice to rebuke this daring attempt to regulate the ballot by the bayonet, and crush the liberties of a people.

(Signed)  
A. C. HASKELL, J. D. KENNEDY,  
T. B. FRASER, J. A. HOYT,  
JOHN BRATTON, R. O'NEALE,  
State Democratic Ex. Committee.

#### GEN. HAMPTON TO THE SUPREME COURT JUDGES.

SUMTER, October 7.—Dear Sir: In view of the grave charges made by Gov. Chamberlain against the Democratic party and their mode of conducting the present canvass in his letter to Colonel Haskell, declaring that the State is an armed camp and that our meetings are attended by organized armed bodies, may I ask you as a Republican and as the Chief Justice of the State, to say if in your observation these charges are borne out by facts of the case.—You saw to day one of the largest meetings we have held, and you can, therefore speak from experience and personal observation. I have been through seventeen of the counties of the State, and have addressed, I am sure, at least one hundred thousand people, and I can say with perfect truth, that I have not seen one single armed body of men, nor has any disturbance occurred at any of these vast meetings.

My solicitude for the good name of our State will, I trust, be a sufficient excuse for my calling your attention to this matter. Requesting an early answer, I am, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

WADE HAMPTON,  
To His Hon. F. J. Moses,  
Chief Justice.

#### REPLY OF CHIEF JUSTICE MOSES.

SUMTER, Oct. 7, 1876.—My Dear Sir: I am just in receipt of your note and at once reply to the same. For the last three or four months I have not been in any of the counties but those of Sumter and Richland within that period. I have been present at only two political meetings—one held by the Republican party and the other to day at this place by the Democrats.

Although I was at the latter place but a short time, I was for the greater part of the day in the streets with every opportunity of observing the behavior and demeanor of the large concourse, which the occasion had brought together. The collection consisted of citizens on foot and horseback. I saw in no instance any exhibition of arms, or any behavior inconsistent with the strictest propriety.

At the Republican meeting to which I have above referred, there was no attempt at interruption. I shall require very strong evidence to satisfy me that South Carolina is an armed camp. I know of nothing which would lead me so to conclude,

For myself I do not know of anything which would make me doubtful in any part of the State, of enjoying the same security which I feel attaches to me under my own roof. I trust the day is far distant when violations of the peace in our own borders will require the interference of any arm more potent than that of the law. Very respectfully, yours,  
F. J. MOSES,  
To General Wade Hampton.

REPLY OF ASSOCIATE JUSTICE WILLARD.  
In reply to letters from A. C. Haskell, Chairman of the Democratic Executive Committee, Associate Justice Willard, Republican, of the Supreme Court, writes:

COLUMBIA, S. C., Oct. 7, 1876.  
To Col. A. C. Haskell: Dear Sir—Your note of this date is before me, asking an expression of my views as to the existence of rancor and manifestations of violence in the character of the Democratic canvass of this State. I am unable to throw much light on this subject, for two reasons. In the first place, I have been absent from the State for the last three months, and only a week has passed since my return to this city.

In the second place, my ideas of the character and responsibilities of the judicial office, have led me at all times, times, to abstain from participating in political action, and accordingly I have little information, except that derived from public rumor and the newspapers, of what has transpired at political gatherings. I can only say that I have witnessed nothing beyond the circumstances generally characteristic of an excited political canvass.

I have seen no violence. On the contrary, as far as I have had intercourse with gentlemen of your party, I have observed less disposition to excited statement and personal bitterness, than during any of the previous political campaigns of this State. I sincerely hope that the fears of many, that the lawless portion of the community will be permitted to disturb the peace and injure the good name of the State, are groundless.

I am satisfied that it is the intention of the leading men of your party to prevent such a state of things, and I believe they have the ability to do so. Very respectfully, your obt' serv't,  
A. J. WILLARD.

REPLY OF CIRCUIT JUDGE T. J. MACKAY.  
Circuit Judge F. J. Mackey (Rep.) telegraphs as follows:

CHESTER, Oct. 7.—To A. C. Haskell, Chairman State Democratic Committee, Columbia, S. C.: In reply to your inquiry of this date, I would state that peace and order prevail throughout the limits of the Sixth Judicial Circuit, embracing the four counties of York, Chester, Fairfield and Lancaster.

In this Circuit no armed organizations obstruct judicial proceedings, and no resistance has been offered to the due execution of legal processes.

In charging the Grand Jury of York on last Monday, I stated that if any citizen, whatever might be his race, color, or party, had been threatened with loss of employment, or put in terror, because of his political opinions, he should make complaint before the Grand Jury, or in open Court, and the law should be put in motion to sustain him in the free and untrammelled exercise of all his rights of citizenship.

The grand jury, consisting of nine white and six colored citizens, reported unanimously on last Wednesday night that no organizations, either armed or otherwise, having for their object the exhibition of force to control the free exercise of the elective franchise, existed in that county, and no complaint charging the existence of such organizations had been made to them.

The same is true of each and every

county in this circuit. The only case of political intimidation that has transpired in this circuit was tried at York on last Thursday, the defendant being one Edward McDonald, charged with threatening the life of one Henry Lowery, also colored, because he had joined a Democratic club, and had declared his purpose to vote the Democratic ticket.

The jury consisted of six Republican, colored citizens, and six white men, one of whom is an avowed Republican. The prisoner was ably defended by W. B. Williams, Esq., himself a candidate on the Democratic ticket. The jury were charged by me, that they were the soul judges of the evidence, and that the guilt of the prisoner must be established beyond a reasonable doubt, to warrant a conviction. They rendered a verdict of guilty, and I sentenced the prisoner to three months in jail, the lowest penalty prescribed by law for the offence. I have traversed many counties in the State canvassing for Hayes and Wheeler, and in favor of Chamberlain for Governor, during the past sixty days, and I have nowhere seen an attempt on the part of any portion of the population to suppress the right of free speech by armed violence. I solemnly protest against the proclamation of Governor Chamberlain as absolutely false, in so far as it imputes to the inhabitants within the limits of this circuit any purpose to obstruct the ordinary course of judicial proceedings, or to resist in any manner the due execution of the laws for the protection of life, property, or the rights of citizenship. I have good and sufficient reasons to believe, and do believe, that the said proclamation is equally false in imputing such insurrectionary purpose to the white population in the other circuits of this State.

I regard the proclamation as symbolizing, a formidable conspiracy, against the rights of the people, and having for its object the carrying of this State by D. H. Chamberlain and his candidates, which conspiracy is further typified by a board of State canvassers, or election returning board, the majority of whose members are candidates on Chamberlain's ticket, and by ninety six commissioners of election in the several counties, seventy of whom are Chamberlain's declared partisans, and of which last number, some thirty are county treasurers, and auditors, or trial justices, holding lucrative offices by his appointment, and removable from office at his pleasure; or are known to him as declared candidates for office, indorsing his ticket; who unseat themselves if they make a declaration of the election, which seats the candidates opposed to Chamberlain and his ticket.

The rifle clubs that he has ordered to be disbanded are, in the main, organizations chartered under the act of the Republican Legislature, in 1874; and all of them are acting but in the assertion of the rights of the people, to keep and bear arms, guaranteed against infringement in the second article of the amendments to the Constitution of the United States; and all assert their loyalty to the Union and obedience to its laws, and respect and uphold its flag.

T. J. MACKAY, Judge.

REPLY OF CIRCUIT JUDGE COOKE.  
Judge T. H. Cooke, Republican, writes as follows:

COLUMBIA, Oct. 7.—To Col. A. C. Haskell—Dear Sir: I have just read the proclamation of Gov. Chamberlain as to a reign of terror in this State and his inability to enforce the law through the ordinary channel and I must say that the causes alleged for issuing the same do not apply to the 8th Circuit, over which I preside; nor do I believe they have any existence as to any other portion

of the State. I am, Sir, very respectfully,  
THOMAS H. COOKE,  
Judge of the 8th Circuit.

SUMTER, (Oct. 9.—To Col. A. C. Haskell: I know of no lawlessness or violence which the law cannot remedy. In this circuit the law is maintained and administered without difficulty.  
A. J. SHAW, Judge 3d Circuit.

NEWBERRY, Oct. 9.—To Col. A. C. Haskell: In reply to your inquiry, I have to say that I am in no wise prepared to express any just opinion upon the peace of the State, except so far as concerns the circuit over which I have the honor to preside.—Since my appointment to the bench I have been engrossed by my official duties, which have been and are onerous. They have left me neither time nor inclination to become advised of particular matters outside of the circuit. In the Seventh Circuit I am not aware of any resistance to the process of the court. In the county where I have been holding court for a week an unusual quiet prevails. There seems to be a public apprehension that the times are out of joint and a general anxiety that public order shall be preserved. Speaking for this circuit, I can only say that while the public mind is of course inflamed by the ardor of the campaign, I have not yet been confronted by any organized or individual resistance to the authority of the courts. The good sense of the people, I hope, will continue to preserve the public peace.  
L. C. NORTHPRO,  
Judge Seventh Circuit.

BEAUFORT, Oct. 9.—To Col. A. C. Haskell, Chairman Democratic State Executive Committee: Officers attempting to execute warrants duly issued have been resisted in this circuit.  
P. L. WIGGINS.

COLUMBIA, October 9.—Judge P. L. Wiggins: Please name the cases, and the color and party of the persons resisting the warrants, and the offense.  
A. C. HASKELL.

A. C. Haskell: Judge Wiggins refuses to answer to night, but says he has no official information of resistance in this circuit, except in the cases of the Combahee riot in Beaufort and Colleton, all colored; and has a rumor of resistance to arrest by colored men in Aiken as the cause of the Ellenton riots.  
WM. ELLIOTT.

In response to a telegram of Judge Reed, the Charleston operator sends the following:  
A. C. Haskell: Your message left at hotel; not in town; expected back to-morrow morning.  
OPERATOR.

Ex-Governor R. K. Scott, Republican, writes as follows:  
COLUMBIA, S. C. Oct. 9.

Colonel A. C. Haskell, Chairman Democratic Executive Committee of South Carolina—Sir—I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 9th instant, making inquiries as to my knowledge of lawlessness and violence existing in this State, and I have to say in reply that I have been absent from home for more than three months, and could only form an opinion as to the condition of political affairs by the reports in newspapers, which led me to believe that the State was not quiet.—Ten days ago, I arrived at home and found Columbia as quiet as any part of the States I have been in while North. In this city there is certainly no violence, or lawlessness, nor are the courts in any way interfered with in the discharge of their functions. I have no knowledge of what has occurred in the counties referred to by the Governor, viz: Barnwell and Aiken. I have the honor to be, very respectfully, your obt' serv't,  
R. K. SCOTT.