

TO THE PUBLIC.

The editorial columns of the *Williamsburg Herald*, of the 19th of Nov. 1885, contained an article from Mr. E. G. Chandler, which article was also published in the issue of *THE MANNING TIMES* of the 25th Nov. 1885, and in which he has made several allusions to me, in some instances, making statements contradicting some that were made in the *Clarendon Enterprise* of the 5th Nov. 1885, the substance of which was made by me to Mr. S. A. Nettles, the Editor of that paper; and in making some of these statements, Mr. Chandler claims to be corroborated by Mr. Charles Wolfe.

Some of the following are instances: "As to the charge of partiality in the conduct of the examination, Mr. Nettles has only the testimony of the defeated candidate. When Mr. Nettles' first attack on the board was published, we immediately sent it to Mr. Wolfe, the successful candidate, asking if the charges were true. From Mr. Wolfe's reply, dated Oct. 25th, we quote as follows: 'I can certify that the charge of your peremptory closing the examination is untrue, and, also, charges both of undue partiality and your suggesting the rewriting of my papers.'"

Again Mr. Chandler says: "We certainly know that no part of Mr. Wolfe's paper was rewritten at our suggestion, except as indicated in our former article, which shows the suggestion made to both applicants."

Mr. Chandler asserts that arithmetic was disposed of the first day and "that both applicants so understood it, or should have so understood it, from what was told them, and that neither made a figure upon his paper on that branch after Friday evening."

Mr. Chandler quotes from Mr. Nettles as follows: "Both applicants had not failed to do one example given, and then replies thus: 'We do not find that either did it, and we offer proof that both tried it. In the letter above quoted from Mr. Wolfe says: 'The other applicant (Mr. Wilson) told me on the morning of the nineteenth ult., that he could not get the example.'" Mr. Chandler then goes on to say: "Mr. Wilson worked at arithmetic and grammar from before noon until nearly night—a time of about six hours—and he did not make an elaborate paper upon either. If in all that time he had been working at what he submitted upon those branches to the board, he is too utterly slow for a military man. The enemy would shoot him all to pieces before he could arrange himself." In speaking of the example in cube root, Mr. Chandler says: "The simple truth is, that Mr. Wilson did not do the example because he could not. Now we asserted that had either done the example the second day he would not have been accredited with it; and again we assert that he would not."

Mr. Chandler says: "Mr. Chandler certainly never replied that it was Fillmore's to any question put by Mr. Wolfe. Of that we are perfectly assured; and our memory is very clear upon the point."

Now, as to Mr. Wolfe and his alleged statements, I have only this to say, for the present at least: That my short acquaintance and association with Mr. Wolfe during the examination were of the most agreeable and pleasant nature, and I am not prepared to accuse him of wilfully making misstatements, unless I had better proof of his having made such statements. But this I have to say in regard to the matter: Mr. Wolfe asked Mr. Chandler, "Who succeeded President Tyler?", and Mr. Chandler replied, "Fillmore"; whereupon, I said to Mr. Chandler, "You are wrong, but that is a question for us to answer," to which Mr. Chandler said, in substance, "Oh yes, that is so, Charlie, I can't answer that, that is one of the questions." Of this I am "perfectly assured," and "my memory is very clear upon the point."

What Mr. Chandler means by saying: "But we have never felt it incumbent upon us to notice an insult offered by a 'baby,' I can hardly conceive. It surely ought not to have been an 'insult' to him to be reminded of the impropriety of answering a question for one of the persons standing the examination. I certainly did not intend to 'insult' him; but had I done so, I think the 'baby' would have been perfectly willing to have held himself responsible,—at any rate, he is now nineteen years old, and would have Mr. Chandler to understand that he, the 'baby,' is able, ready, and willing to answer for whatever he may say or do."

I assert that Mr. Chandler did the rewriting of one of his papers, which, I think, was his paper on arithmetic, for it was Friday evening, and we commenced on arithmetic first. Mr. Chandler asserts that arithmetic had been disposed of the first day, and "that both applicants so understood it, or should have so understood it, from what was told them, and that neither made a figure upon his paper on that branch after Friday evening." Why the applicants should have "understood" that arithmetic had been "disposed of," I am at a loss to know, and cannot understand why Mr. Chandler should have made such an assertion. The applicants commenced on arithmetic on Friday, and as I thought, about one o'clock, although I had no time-piece, and I was then under the impression, that the examination would close that night, and did not know any better until nearly dark. When I had worked all the examples in arithmetic except the last (the cube root), I commenced on grammar, without attempting to work the example in cube root for this reason: I presumed that it was difficult, as nearly

all examples in cube root are; and as I was under the impression that we would have to finish that night, I wanted to get through with as many questions on the different branches as possible. But the examination did not close that night, and as I had started on the other branches, I continued, expecting to work—or attempt to work—the example in cube root at the last. On Saturday morning, after we had been working for some time, Mr. Chandler asked us for the papers on which we had been working, so that he could look over them; whereupon, both of us (the applicants) told him, in substance, that we had not finished arithmetic and wanted to try the last example; and Mr. Chandler told us that he "would not mark arithmetic then" and that we "could try the example." A short time before I finished my history (the last branch), Mr. Wolfe got through and made about this remark: "Well, I believe I'll try that example now," and soon after announced that he "could not work it," and left the office. A few minutes after this, I got through and said: "Now, Mr. Chandler, I want to try that example." Mr. Chandler then said that "I have given you boys over the length of time allowed; Charlie has tried the example and could not get it, and I think that both better quit at the same time," Mr. Chandler then closed the examination, if not "peremptorily," it was very much on that order, and Mr. Wolfe was not present at the time. Yet, Mr. Chandler says that, "had either done the example the second day he would not have been accredited with it." Why then did he tell us that morning that we "could try it?" and why call time after Mr. Wolfe had announced that he "could not get it," and when I stated to him (Mr. Chandler) that "I wanted to try it?" Now, I believed then, and do still, that I could have worked the example, Mr. Chandler's opinion to the contrary notwithstanding. I did not tell Mr. Wolfe "on the morning of the nineteenth ult." or at any time, that I "could not get the example." On the morning of the 19th, (the second day of the examination), Mr. Wolfe came round to the Hotel, and we were talking of the examination when, he asked me "had I got the example," and I told him "I had not" which was true, because I had not even tried the example. Not that I "could not get it." I did not propose to tell Mr. Wolfe the ways and wherefores about it,—for we were competing for the appointment,—and simply answered the question as above stated.

As to Mr. Chandler's comments upon my military capacity, extreme slowness, and not making "elaborate papers &c." I have only this to say: That the contest was between me and one other, and Mr. Chandler's purpose, it seems, is to create the impression that that other exhibited capacities just the opposite to what he says I showed. His language can be reasonably construed in no other way. But if there was such a difference, why only three points difference between us, according to Mr. Chandler's own marking—or rather, Prof. Allen's? It would seem that it was unnecessary for him to mark my papers at all; for from his own statements it appears that he delegated to himself the right to pass upon the applicants' military qualifications, and as I was "too utterly slow for a military man," why, of course Mr. Chandler decided, right there and then, that I should not go to the Citadel whether I deserved it upon my papers or not. It is possible, but extremely improbable, that an examiner entertaining such feelings towards and opinions of an applicant as Mr. Chandler's own statements declare, should be capable of rendering an impartial decision. Had I been allowed to work the example in cube root and succeeded—which, as I have stated, I believe I could have done—it would have put me three points ahead of Mr. Wolfe according to the markings that were made upon our papers; and I claim that this right I was entitled to and it should have been accorded me; for, Mr. Chandler had not stated any definite time at which the examination should close. Had he done this, and I had failed to finish in the time, the case would be altogether different.

Mr. Chandler alludes to the "testimony of the defeated candidate," and would disparage my statements on that account. But although I am, in effect, "the defeated candidate," I have not been raised under a code of morals that would prompt me to be so far biased as to misstate facts. I attach no blame to Mr. Wolfe, and wish him all success; but, I do say, that I believe that I was unjustly dealt with, and my belief is not only based upon the facts above stated, but it is strengthened by Mr. Chandler's own statements in several instances in his article and the reasonable conclusions to be drawn therefrom. I did not request Mr. Nettles to write upon this subject, but in talking of the examination, I made, substantially, the statements he refers to, and while I was satisfied that the examination was not fairly conducted, at that time I did not pretend to accuse Mr. Chandler of wilfully doing any thing wrong, and thought that he was perhaps unconsciously biased in favor of his kinsman and acquaintance (for I have been informed that Mr. Chandler and Mr. Wolfe are related); but I am forever to conclude now, from Mr. Chandler's own declaration, that he was not the proper person to conduct that examination, and I fear, is totally unsuited to conduct any other. I am perfectly willing that my examination papers be published—provided, Mr. Wolfe's be published also, and that both be published exactly as they were when turned over by us.

Engaging in a news-paper controversy is extremely distasteful, I presume, to any one, and it is especially so to one while pursuing his studies, nor would I have taxed the patience of the readers of this article, had not Mr. Chandler seen fit to attack my ver-

acity and attempt to excuse his faults by contradicting my statements. A sense of justice to myself, as well as to Mr. Nettles, who, unsolicited, has so ably and fully exposed the wrong done me, prompts me now to make the above statement and give the truth of the matter to the public. Mr. Chandler, no doubt, thinks that, because I am a "baby" and alone in my version of the matter, that his statements will be accepted as correct. "But I am perfectly willing for the matter—so far as I am concerned—to go before those who know me, and as to those who do not, I simply refer them to Mr. Chandler's article for ample evidence to corroborate me, and will be satisfied with the verdict rendered by any unbiased mind. In making the statements above, in which, Mr. Chandler, Mr. Wolfe, and myself are concerned, I do so from memory, and do not mean—because I use quotation marks—to give the exact language used; but the substance of the language quoted, as to the effect, and my whole version of the matter, is absolutely true.

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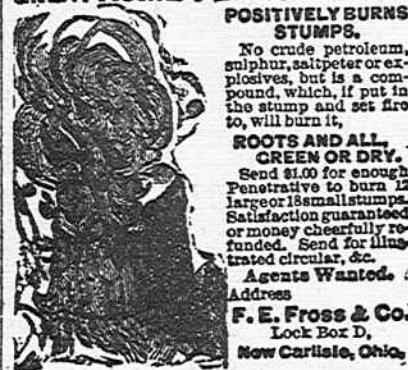
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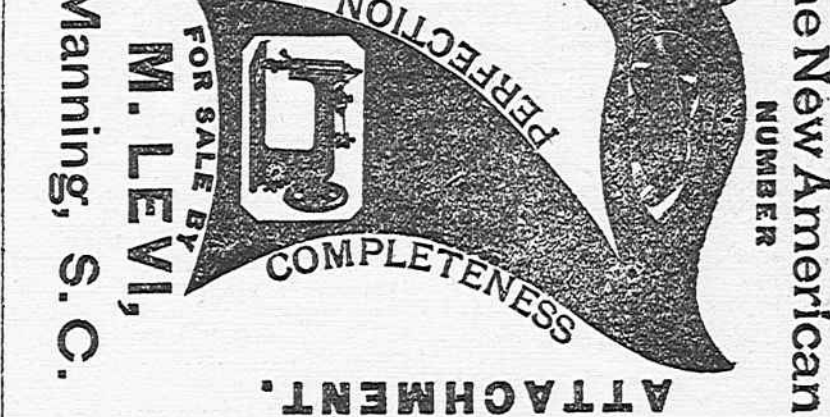
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