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# THE DARLINGTON NEWS.

"FOR US PRINCIPLE IS PRINCIPLE—RIGHT IS RIGHT—YESTERDAY, TO-DAY, TO-MORROW, FOREVER."

VOL. XIV. NC 32.

DARLINGTON, S. C., THURSDAY, AUGUST 9, 1888.

WHOLE NO 708.

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### "The Virginians of the Valley."

"The knightliest of the knightly race  
That, since the days of old,  
Have kept the lamp of chivalry  
Alight in hearts of gold;  
The kindest of the kindly band  
That, rarely hating ease,  
Yet rode with Spotted round the land,  
And Raleigh round the seas.

"Who climbed the blue Virginia hills  
Against embattled foes,  
And planted there, in valleys fair,  
The lily and the rose,  
Whose fragrance lives in many lands,  
Whose beauty stars the earth,  
And lights the hearth of happy homes  
With loveliness and worth.

"We thought they slept—the sons who kept  
The name of noble sires,  
And slumbered while the darkness crept  
Around their vigil fires.  
But see, the Golden Horsehoe's k' rights  
Their Old Dominion keep,  
Whose foes have found enchanted ground,  
But not a knight asleep!"

### The Mass Meeting at Florence.

ELOQUENT SPEECHES FROM RICHARDSON, MAULDIN AND EDWARDS—HARRANGUES FROM TILLMAN AND BIGHAM—A DISGRACE TO THE STATE.

(Special Correspondence of The Darlington News.)

It is plain that no weighty questions like those that thrilled the heart of the Democracy of South Carolina in 1876, are before the people now. The fiery wave of protest which swept over the land during that period, when hordes of thieves and rascals were to be ousted from office, and the very complexion of our State Legislature, literally speaking, was to be changed, finds not even a faint counterpart in the present campaign. The wrongs which the people suffered then had become so many cancerous sores, and when the prospect of relief opened to them, they came almost desperate in their enthusiasm. If any evils have crept into existing public affairs, it is evident that they set very lightly upon the public heart, and touch communal interests with quite a soft and subtle hand.

Are there any evils save such which a clamoring few always imagine? That is one of the questions furnishing the source of the current political agitation. That and the farmers' pet scheme of a separate Agricultural College form perhaps the chief incentives to the campaign meeting gathered here to-day, in the thriving little village of Florence. And to debate these questions Gov. Richardson, Lieutenant-Governor Mauldin, and Ben Tillman, with the ever-present N. G. G., of the *News and Courier*, rolled in to-day on the morning train, from Sumter. Divided as these gentlemen are on political matters, they came divided as well in their travels. Ben was left the conspicuous occupant of the first class car, while the Governor and his aids took themselves to the second class coach, not caring to breathe the air of Tillmanism under any circumstances. Mr. Bigham, of Marion reformer, with two carloads of his followers, and Col. B. W. Edwards, of Darlington, both announced speakers for the occasion, were already upon the scene.

Capt. F. W. Dawson, who had been expected to take a prominent part in the discussion of the day, was, it is said, unavoidably absent. The speech making took place at Mr. Gambell's Hotel, where a thin grove of trees afforded some shade for the sweltering assemblage. The day was excessively warm and free from refreshing breezes. The west end of the broad hotel veranda was allotted to the speakers and reporters. The remaining space, capable of holding about a hundred people, being provided with benches for the accommodation of ladies, distinguished citizens, and other delicate persons. The main concourse, if it could properly be styled a concourse, disposed itself upon the grounds in front of the hotel, keeping closely within the welcome configuration of shade that in not over-abundant measure presented itself. The entire audience, at its best, did not number over five to six hundred, and even these may be excessive figures.

The speaking commenced at a quarter to twelve o'clock, and was opened by Gov. Richardson, introduced by County Chairman Beasley. The Governor said that he was there to defend the present administration of State affairs against the assaults which an ill-advised and harping class of citizens were making upon it. He characterized these assaults as unworthy and base, and referred in glowing terms to the integrity and purity of the State's ruling officials. He was conscious of no designs in the discharge of the responsibilities resting upon himself as Governor, but the judicious conservation of the best interests of the people. He explained his action in the Pawley case, by reading a telegram, representing that Mr. Pawley, who was in Savannah, had given himself up to a Georgia Sheriff voluntarily, therefore necessitating no requisition from himself, and avoiding expense. He believed existing salaries of public officers to be as low as a wise economy, which held in view efficient work, could afford to make them. Many eloquent periods were devoted to the time-honored names which had made South Carolina lustrous in the history of American civilization. Was the heritage left by these grand old names to be trampled upon now and the fair fame of our State brought down into disgrace and shame at the instance of a cabal of demagogues and schemers? He could not believe it. He had better hopes of the gallant sons of South Carolina, and felt convinced that the ancient prestige of their commonwealth would ever be nobly and fitly sustained by them. Attention was called to the high position of credit to which the State had attained under united Democratic rule, from which high place no act of the present government had in the slightest degree tended to detract. On the contrary, confidence had been actually increased, enabling him to convert a large portion of the State debt into 4-1-2 per cent. bonds, an infallible criterion of excellent financial standing. A comparison was drawn in this connection between the condition of the State at the end of the Radical regime, when its bonds were sold on the New York market at 10 cents on the dollar, and the current status of affairs, with the obligations of the State ranging freely at 110, on the same market. The published charges relative to the furniture of the Executive Mansion, were refuted by the production of a receipted schedule, setting forth that matter in its true and satisfactory light.

The question of the State appropriations was made the subject of some extended remarks. The Governor claimed that there was no extravagance. Such increase in expenditures as might appear was fully justified by the increased demands incident to our progressive age. The benefits which would accrue, and were now accruing from it to the State, would more than recompense the people at large. The farmer might as well attempt to make his crops and prepare them for market, without horses or mules and plows, as to try to run a government without proper appropriations. He was a farmer and knew how important it was in agricultural pursuits to keep abreast with all improvements, if success were to be attained. Government was just as much a practical business as farming, or manufacturing, or any other avocation. It cannot stand still. With everything under the impulse of advancement, it must also move on. In his judgment no part of the appropriations could be dispensed with. If the people differed from that view their wishes of course would be respected, and no one would be more willing than he to yield to their sentiments.

Gov. Richardson said, that there was another question, however, of far greater import than that of retrenchment in expenditures. It was the question of education. No saying was truer than that "knowledge is power." It becomes us, therefore, who have the real welfare of the State at heart, to look after the matter of education. In Radical days there were no schools, no colleges, in the State of any standing, except the South Carolina College. Since then there has been vast progress. Now there exist a large number of higher institutions of learning. This was the reason that now a population of 400,000 whites controlled without jar or trouble a body of 600,000 blacks. The latter were not without organization, but ignorant. Yet more than one-half of the school fund is devoted to their education.

Concluding, the Governor said that he was not here to win votes or flatter public opinion. He appeared solely in the interest of his common mother, the dear old State of South Carolina, whom he loved with his whole being. With such feelings he could not advise the expediency of a separate agricultural college. If the farmers, however, wanted such an establishment let them have it by all means, but they should pay for it. Let them well consider the expense of the undertaking. Let them bear in mind that existing institutions must go in part, or be seriously crippled if such a college is built at the public cost, unless the burden of taxation be heavily increased. The Clemson bequest should not be accepted until its perfect validity was assured. The will was in dispute, and loss instead of advantage might ensue to the State, if any imprudent steps were taken in regard to it. With a string appeal to his hearers to bear up the name of South Carolina, through every emergency, bright and untarnished before the world, and preserve for her the proud position she holds, the Governor closed his remarks. He was listened to with great respect, and elicited some applause, in answer to his stately flights of oratory.

Lieut-Gov. Mauldin was then brought forward. He said he was acquainted with many of the people of Darlington and approached them as friends. His position as Lieutenant-Governor carried with it few responsibilities. He performed the duties of his office in accordance with the best interests of his State. There are questions on which good men differ. He had voted for 5 in lieu of 5 1-4 mills State taxes, not simply for the sake of the lower rate, but that he had considered the lesser amount sufficient. He felt that the highest type of manhood was exhibited in the fearless expression of one's convictions. That was the platform he stood upon. He regarded public affairs in the same light as private business. It was a false economy to stint the salaries of important public officers. But if the people think the salaries are too high, they have only to speak through the Legislature. We have a thoroughly competent Comptroller-General, but it is owing to a good compensation. The high reputation of South Carolina cannot be maintained on poor salaries paid her public officials. Shall the pay be reduced and her lofty standard lowered? Take the Judiciary. Fearless, upright and intelligent Judges in our Courts are the greatest bulwarks of the people. But with a low remuneration this class of officers are not obtainable.

Let everything be regulated on the principles of fairness, justice and truth. He recognized agriculture as the leading pursuit of our citizens. Farmers were more largely represented than any other class in the Legislature. But they should not seek to enhance their calling through legislation, at the expense or in neglect of other interests. He regarded the lien law as more of a curse to the country than a blessing. A change in the system of farming must be made or even a separate agricultural college will be of no good. The best prosperity is always found where the farmer raises his own supplies as far as possible. He favored the agricultural college, with the requisite taxes for their erection and support. Common schools should be made more efficient. But it should not be attempted to carry education too far. Instruction should be given with a view towards the position in life that is held in anticipation by the recipient. As to the men holding public office, he said, it is the duty and privilege of the people to make any changes they might desire. He had for himself no ambition for public place. He was entirely subject to their wishes. In any case the unity of the party was the controlling consideration with him. Superior numbers were in opposition, and the supremacy of the Anglo Saxon must be maintained in South Carolina.

The next speaker called upon was Col. B. W. Edwards. He opened on the subject of the college of agriculture at once. He did not omit to speak in terms of eulogy, however, of the great men the South Carolina College had produced in the past. The Blair Bill he would not discuss, yet he had no fear that under its provisions the Republican party of South Carolina itself would be rehabilitated, as to become educated meant no less than to become a Democrat. The public schools were not up to what was wanted. More means and better teachers were wanted. But the question of the day really was industrial education. He was in favor of the agricultural college and the Clemson bequest. There was a way to freeze this bequest and there was a way to warm it up. He wanted it warmed up. There are those who say, let the farmers have their college, but put forth no helping hand. The people need instruction and leading in this matter. Yet when attempts were made to guide citizens into a proper conception of the subject, the cry of demagogue was raised. It should not be overlooked that with this cry came another commending the people to help themselves as in derision. The constitution provides that an agricultural college shall be built. Why has it not been done? \$15,000 derived from the Hatch bill has been applied to the State University, but nothing towards an agricultural institution. All education seems to be looked after excepting that which would redound to the benefit of the farmer. An agricultural college would embrace mechanical and industrial training also. It is a good thing to educate men for special callings. Instead of prejudging other industries it quickens them. It means the development of our great and varied resources, and the acquisition of wealth and influence to our State. We are not too poor to build an agricultural college. We expend \$200,000 on the completion of the State House, \$50,000 to indigent soldiers, \$20,000 on the Citadel Academy, thousands on the Columbia Canal, and hundreds of thousands on the State College, and then comes the recommendation of the Governor to expect \$100,000 more upon the Capital building. Yet when the mod-

est sum of \$50,000 for the farmers' college is asked for we are too poor. Judicious retrenchment in expenditures would soon secure that amount. And it would not be a dead outlay. It would come back with manifold interest in the general enhancement of the commonwealth.

Col. Edwards made an eloquent plea for the elevation of the humbler classes of our citizens, and said that until a high standard was reached by the masses, government by the people would fall far short of the ideal it should hold in enlightened minds.

After Col. Edwards' address Ben Tillman was loudly called for, and when he made his appearance an old fashioned yell broke forth, plainly indicating that the crowd upon the grounds was emphatically a Tillman one. Ben said it afforded him pleasure to look South Carolina citizens in the face. He was here at the behests of the Farmers' Association. He had opposed undertaking the work of the farmers' canvass, as all the brunt of the battle fell on him. But the farmers' executive committee had demanded and he was there to comply. He did not like the haste which had been shown in determining the plan for nominations. He had desired a general discussion of the matter before deciding. Public discussion was a great educator of the people. Without agitation of public questions men trod the paths of office like gangs of pack mules. There was but one party, and vigilance within that party was required. South Carolina is not governed now by a Democracy, but by an aristocracy. (Cheers.) A nomination generally was an election, voting merely a ratification. Though an aristocracy meant a government of the best, he desired, if forced to choose, an aristocracy of brain instead of an aristocracy of blood and money. (Cheers.) They called him a crank. (Cheers.) He was proud of it. A crank is one who strives after higher things and falls into line with progress. On this plane he was struggling, and although he had not yet succeeded in accomplishing his aims, he was going to succeed. (Cheers.) The movement of the farmers could not be put down. He had little to say about the agricultural college, that straw was thrashed. His charge in regard to the appropriations, which has been for some time a matter of publicity, he rehearsed, with abundant figures, those plant entities, to support his statements. He said that the Comptroller General, in his report, did not meet him fairly on this issue, but dodged around and bamboozled, but never acknowledged. When Radicalism was thrown off the best men came to the front and were selected to steer affairs. Things improved wonderfully until 1880.

Even then Gen. Hagood in his inaugural, said there was still room for retrenchment. But the pendulum of reform which had been swaying so admirably in the right direction, commenced to swing backwards. There came a chance. It was soft and subtle, but it was none the less a fact. While cotton went creeping down taxes began to creep up. The politician began his arts, too, such as capturing votes by taking up the wife's baby and kissing it, and engaging in general honey talk. He was accused of desiring to climb into office. His endeavors were directed rather towards reducing the supply of how do do statesmen at Columbia. Making laws requires honesty, ability and labor. He related a good story about the boy and the fish, told him by Judge Hudson. The Judge was traveling along on horseback one day when he came to a small brook where he saw a boy fishing. Presently the little fellow jerked out a minor, and the Judge asked him, "Sonny, what kind of fish is that you are catching?" "Oh that's a Baptist fish," said the boy. "And why do you call him a Baptist fish?" Further inquired the Judge. "Cause he spiles so soon after 'o' take him outen the water." (Cheers) so the politicians though dully good fellows and sweet at home spilled quickly after they got to Columbia. The atmosphere of Columbia was too aristocratic. The clodhopping farmers walked up and—"great was the drama of the Ephesians." Alas, too great for them, Col. so and so and Gen. this and that comes around with his "happy to meet you" carries farmer off to barber shop, and then to the tailor. At home he probably knows how to live on 25 cts., per day, but the support of the dignity to which he has risen now requires a daily offering of at least \$5.00. Appropriations come up in the assembly. He don't exactly like them but his "bosses" do, and the bill passes. Continuing Ben said "lets stop finishing the State House while clamoring for education." The declining sun here shone in fiercely on Ben, and he remarked as he moved back into the shadow, "I am a farmer but I won't deny that

I love the shade." He next touched on the railroad commissioners. He objected to them because the majority were lawyers. He didn't like the way the railroads had fallen in love with them. They called to his mind the figure of a head with the body cut off. The crows had troubled his corn in the spring, and he set about making some scare crows. He fixed a lot of old shirts on stakes and placed hats on top of them. But the crows came along and after cawing around for a while, at length alighted within pretty close range when one old fellow said "blest it that thing's got anything but a head to it" and the whole congregation swooped down again upon the corn. (Cheers) The railroad commissioners resemble these scare-crows. Speaking of the penitentiary he said that in other States these institutions were made sources of profit but in South Carolina they required an appropriation, to keep them up. He harshly criticized Charleston in its course regarding the census when new apportionment of voters was made. He saw the Legislature composed in three-fourths part of farmers, and yet lawyers ruled in this way. He found fault with the judiciary. He respected the office but when Judges become unworthy of the exalted station the people should kick them out. There are too many lawyers, he said in Columbia and Washington. Here came a snarling between *The News and Courier* correspondent and Tillman. Ben then went on and said that *The News and Courier* sat down on him but every time it did so he got higher and higher. It was the truth that hurt. He related the ancient dog story where the dog was killed with the wrong end of pitch fork, because he came at the man with the wrong end. He had to say that if he had been approached properly he would have responded in kind. But as he was being assaulted roughly he must return the like treatment.

As Ben now retired Capt. Singletary, walked to the front to indulge in a few remarks. But cries for "Bigham" from his crowd snowed him under, a fit of persis teney, however, or something stronger still perhaps, had possession of him, and he had to be drawn forcibly away by three Bighamites who came up at this moment.

Bigham, of Marion then came to the front. During the whole of his speech, if it can be called such, there was much noise and confusion prevalent, and not a little wrangling. Mr. Gonzales of *The News and Courier* took offense at some remark made and tried to make himself heard, but the two carloads of Marion men would not permit it. He was just able to get in the following words spoken right into the teeth of Bigham. "If you have any matter to settle with Dawson go to Charleston and do it. If you want a row with me you can have it right now." Bigham made no reply. Mr. Gonzales had some time previous risen at the reporter's table and called Bigham an ass, which very contemptuous appellation Bigham either did not hear, or else affected to be unconscious of. Gov. Richardson had left the stand hours ago and heard none of the farmer reformers' speeches. His address had been chaste and elegant and free from all vituperative language. It was in this respect in marked contrast with the speeches of Tillman and Bigham. It was regretted by all, however, that the Governor did not remain to refute the scurrilous charges raised against him, especially since so flourishing a display of authorities was made in support of them.

The county candidates were present in force at the meeting, prepared and ready to fling oratory at the populace by the thousands, but they were all cut out by Capt. Singletary at one fell swoop, he having the honor of making the closing harangue, as before intimated. If any good has been accomplished by this meeting in any way it is difficult to perceive it. Had it been conducted in a decent and orderly style throughout, it might have proved of much value to an inquiring public. Even where chaos begins and order ends, there is matter for congratulation, but when order begins and chaos ends the results can never be gratifying.

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Denote an impure state of the blood and are looked upon by many with suspicion. Acker's Blood Elixir will remove all impurities and leave the complexion smooth and clear. There is nothing that will so thoroughly build up the constitution, purify and strengthen the whole system. Sold and guaranteed by Dr. John A. Boyd.

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Conductor: Certainly, madam; take one of the back seats. Step lively, please.—N. Y. Sun.

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