

THE KU KLUX KLAN IN SOUTH CAROLINA

(Continued from first page.)

"The rule in South Carolina should not be dignified with the name of Government. It is the installation of a huge system of brigandage. The men who have had it in control, and now have have it in control, are the picked villains of the community. They are the highwaymen of the State. They are professional legislative robbers. They are men who have studied and practiced the art of legalized theft. They are in no sense different from, or better than, the men who fill the prisons and penitentiaries of the world. They are, in fact, of precisely that class, only more daring and audacious. They pick their pockets by law. They rob the poor and the rich alike, by law. They confiscate your estate by law. They do none of these things even under the tyrant's plea of the public good or the public necessity. They do all simply to enrich themselves personally. The sole, base object is to gorge the individual with public plunder. Having done it, they turn around and buy immunity for their acts, by sharing their gains with the ignorant, pauperized, besotted crowd who have chosen them to the stations they fill, and which enables them thus to rob and plunder."

Such being the nature of the State Government, and the outrages referred to having been committed upon those by whose votes this Government was established, it can be understood that the public opinion, which in any normal condition of society rallies to the support of law and order, was not aroused to the necessity of putting down the Ku Klux Klan, but when it became apparent that the country was in a state of anarchy and that gangs of ruffians were bent upon driving the negroes out of the country, public sentiment was aroused and began slowly to concert measures for the restoration of law and order. Public meetings were held, and people began to consult together as to what should be done.

It was about this time that measures were introduced and agitated in Congress, looking to action by the Federal Government, and inasmuch as everything that had been done up to that time by the Republican party, had been apparently directed to the oppression of the white race, and to the support of the Reconstruction Government, which had been so oppressive and humiliating, the threat of Federal interference tended to quench the nascent desire of the better element among the white to undertake measures and the repression of the prevailing disorders.

Things remained about in this condition for several months, there being intermittent raids and whippings, when some time in the autumn of 1871, Gen. Grant issued his proclamation suspending the writ of habeas corpus in the counties above named, and the military, under the command of Major Merrill, began making arrests. Five or six hundred men were arrested in the counties of York, Union and Spartanburg, a good many innocent men among them, and at the December term of the United States Court, at Columbia, true bills were found against about five hundred. Five men were convicted and sent to the Albany Penitentiary, and about fifty pleaded guilty and were sentenced to various terms of imprisonment in the county jails.

In the trial of the case against Mitchell and others a copy of the Constitution, by-laws and oath under which the Ku Klux Klan was represented, to have been organized in York County, was offered in evidence.

The oath is as follows: "I (name,) before the Immaculate Judge of Heaven and Earth and upon the holy Evangelists of Almighty God, do, of my own free will and accord, subscribe to the following sacredly binding obligation:

1. We are on the side of justice, humanity and constitutional liberty as bequeathed to us in its purity by our forefathers.

2. We oppose and reject the principles of the Radical party.

3. We pledge mutual aid to each other in sickness, distress and pecuniary embarrassment.

4. Female friends, widows and their households shall ever be special objects of our regard and protection.

Any member divulging, or causing to be divulged, any of the foregoing obligations, shall meet the fearful penalty of traitor's doom, which is 'Death! Death! Death!'

The head of the Order was called the Grand Cyclops. The awe and terror inspired by an organization moving at night, silently and mysteriously, with horses and men shrouded and masked, upon the lonely country roads, can be readily

understood, and many were the tales told of the mystery and horror of these raids.

When the organization was broken up by the action of the United States Government, as above stated, a good deal of this mystery was cleared up. While a good many outrages were uncovered, the Government failed to prove that there was any general movement throughout the State in the nature of conspiracy to overthrow the State Government and to nullify the Reconstruction Acts, for all the offenses tried occurred in the three counties above named, and on the other hand those who sympathized with the Ku Klux movement to the extent of employment gentlemen of national fame, like Messrs. Reverdy Johnson and Stanbery to defend the prisoners brought to trial in the belief that, however misguided, they were engaged in a movement unlawful, though patriotic, to overturn the State Government, were disappointed to find that most of the offenses committed were of the character which Mr. Johnson stigmatized in the words above quoted, and most of the offenders were mere ordinary ruffians, who had taken advantage of the disorganization of society to commit crimes which could not be extenuated on any plea that they were perpetrated for any public good.

Nearly all of these outrages occurred in the regions where the whites were in the majority, and those who were convicted or pleaded guilty belonged to a class which had never been slave owners, and always most intolerant towards the negro. The quiescence of the land owners and their apparent toleration of practices, which tended to drive the laborer out of the country, and therefore was against their interests, was in large measure due to the disintegration of the moral forces of society by bad government, the State administration being so obnoxious that the better elements would not rally to its support, and partly to that feeling of race solidarity, which in the unhappy conditions prevailing in the South, seems to compel all white men to stand together.

My own position during this dark period was not a happy one. I had been elected Solicitor in 1868, shortly after my admission to the Bar, most of the older lawyers being then under political disabilities, and with the zeal natural to a young man holding the office I did, I felt it my duty to prosecute the men who were committing these outrages, and although I did not accomplish much, I gave some of them some trouble, which naturally did not make me very popular.

Later, when legislation was pending in Washington, to put the country under martial law, believing that pressure from outside would tend only to solidify the white people here and prevent the awakening of those moral energies among our own people so essential to our own well being, believing that any real and permanent reform should come from within and not be imposed from without, and at the same time fearing that the interposition of the Federal Government would be considered by those then in control of the State as an encouragement to continue in ill-doing, I went to Washington, as one of a committee appointed for that purpose, to see if I could do anything to defeat the proposed legislation.

I was probably not very discreet, and some talk that I had with the member of Congress from our district was repeated by him and construed as a threat, and so I came to be publicly branded as an emissary of the Ku Klux, endeavoring by threats to defeat legislation against them, and there was some denunciation of me in the newspapers; and some talk of proceedings before the House of Representatives to commit me for contempt, all of which has tended to confirm me in the view that in periods of "storm and stress" in South Carolina, which occur from time to time, the position of a man of moderate opinions is an unhappy one.

Major Merrill, of the Seventh Cavalry, was the officer in command of the troops in York county. He was a man of considerable ability and of great energy. In appearance and in the thoroughness of his investigations he reminded me more of a German professor than of an army officer. It was doubtless due largely to his reports that the writ of habeas corpus was suspended and that the Government put forth its powers for the suppression of the Ku Klux Klan, and he was present at the trials and took an active part in the prosecutions.

When he afterwards claimed and received from the State something like \$15,000 in payment of rewards, offered by an Act of the Legislature for the detection and conviction of members of this organization, it naturally created a most unpleasant impression.

I have endeavored to give, briefly, the main features of an episode

THE TILLMAN-BRICE DEBATE.

2,000 PRESENT AT TIRZAH,
BUT ONLY 500 LISTENED.

Tillman Stated That the Members of the State Board are all Thieves and Should be Removed — Senator Brice Spoke Briefly in Answer to Tillman's Assertions.

The Red Nose law was discussed at Tirzah, York County, September 7, by Senators J. S. Brice and B. R. Tillman.

The exercises were opened with prayer by the Rev. Dr. J. L. Stokes, who asked for divine guidance, and that reason and not passion or prejudice should influence the people in disposing of the problems now before them.

The speakers were introduced by the Hon. J. C. Wilburn, and the first to be presented was Senator Brice, who spoke for about an hour and a half. He denounced the dispensary law as being the most infamous ever enacted, and maintained that the only remedy was to wipe out the whole miserable business. He compared the corruption recently brought to light to that which existed during the days of Scott, Moses and Neigle, and stated that under no circumstances would he, as representing the people of York in the Senate, vote for any measure calculated to give the law a new lease on life.

Mr. Brice stated that in his efforts to amend the law so as to give the people the right to drive out the dispensary, he had been inspired only by a desire to promote their best interests and restore to them the right of local self-government. He stated positively that he was not a candidate for Governor or any other office. He made out a good case against the dispensary and received liberal applause. At the conclusion of Senator Brice's speech, the chairman announced that in view of the fact that it was then after 12 o'clock, and that Senator Tillman would speak for possibly two hours, the meeting would adjourn for 45 minutes.

SENATOR TILLMAN'S SPEECH.
After reassembling Senator Tillman was introduced. By a preface he referred, as he always does when he appears on the stump in York county, to his having made his first political speech at Tirzah in 1886, and explained that he was there now at the invitation of friends in the county, who had sent him a numerous signed invitation of come up and defend himself against attacks made on him at the anti-dispensary meeting held in Yorkville on August 7.

He devoted considerable time to defending his course in obtaining the passage of the law, and repeated his claim that a majority of the voters in 1892 did not ask for prohibition, thirty thousand against it and eighteen thousand who did not vote on the proposition.

Senator Tillman, however, denounced the management in Columbia as thieves, and stated that while there are scores of honest men in the State who are working for a salary of \$100 a year, they are not in charge of a three and a half million dollar business. He had something to say about the great benefits the agricultural class was receiving from the dispensary, in that by reason of the money paid into the school fund the schools were kept open six weeks longer than they would be without it. Much of his time was devoted to sarcasm and ridicule, his target being Senator Brice, and those who are standing with him in the fight against the dispensary. He referred to the communication recently addressed to Ex-Senator McLaurin by four citizens of Spartanburg urging him to become a candidate for Governor on an anti-dispensary platform, and stated that he had investigated the men who signed the letter and found that at least two had been tried by the courts for violating the dispensary law.

Mr. Tillman said that under the Constitution the Governor is given authority to remove a corrupt and incompetent board of control, and that the investigation of the dispensary now in progress has shown that the entire State board of control is both incompetent and corrupt, and he mentioned the label purchase as

which was one of the darkest and most painful in the history of the State. It was the outcome of a situation that has no parallel, and it is to be hoped will remain unexampled.

"WE DO SUGAR OVER THE DEVIL HIMSELF."—HAMLET.

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From sugar-cane to sugar-bowl, every step in the process of refining the sugar we sell, spells purity.

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OUR SUGAR

is packed in clean, dry barrels at the refinery and kept free from dampness in transportation. That's where our sugar differs from the ordinary kind.

You order sugar from your grocer as a matter of course. Sometimes it takes a great many spoonfuls to sweeten your tea or coffee. You keep shoveling in, and shoveling in, yet it refuses to get sweet.

Large quantities are washed out of the cup, and you wonder why? Pure sugar doesn't act that way. Pure sugar dissolves and sweetens. Sugar that does not dissolve is not pure.

Our sugar dissolves rapidly, and it sweetens. A little of our sugar goes a long way. And sugar bills are reduced. Think it over.

The Union Grocery Co.,

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instance of both, and stated that it was the duty of Governor Hayward to remove the entire board and appoint one composed of honest, competent men to administer the affairs of the dispensary. He took a hand primary on the proposition as to what the Governor should do, and every man in sight voted to Senator Tillman's views.

Senator Tillman said that, from what he had been able to gather as to the situation in York, he was of the opinion that the people were going to vote to close the dispensary at Yorkville, and that he was entirely willing for them to do so, if they so desired.

Senator Tillman repeated his recent deliverance relative to voting out dispensaries and having blind tigers in their stead, and then gave the editor of the Yorkville Enquirer a number of Scripture quotations, which, he claimed sustained the morality of the liquor business.

SENATOR BRICE'S REPLY.
Senator Brice was allowed twenty minutes in which to reply, but did not consume so much time. Among other things he said, in reply, was that Tillman's attitude toward himself, reminded him of that ancient bully, Goliath, of Gath, and quoted First Samuel xvii, 43-44, and said that Tillman's use of Holy Scripture to sustain the rum business was similar to that of the devil, when he quoted Scripture to Christ, when he attempted to tempt Him after His feast.

MANY THERE, BUT FEW LISTENED.
It is estimated that there were about two thousand people present. At no time during the speaking were over 500 making any pretense to listening to either Brice or Tillman, the balance being scattered over the village and in the grove, where the stand was erected, out of ear shot of the speakers. Both speakers were applauded. Mr. Brice, when he made an especially forcible point, and Tillman, when he said something especially sarcastic, or made one of those gestures which has made him especially dear to the hearts of his old worshippers.

There were no unpleasant features at the meeting, practically everybody feeling in a good humor.

It is the general opinion of the observing, thinking people of the county that the dispensary will be voted out by a majority of at least 3 to 1 on September 26.

Strikes Hidden Rocks.
When your ship of Health strikes the hidden rocks of Consumption, Pneumonia, etc., you are lost if you don't get help from Dr. King's New Discovery for Consumption. J. W. McKinnon, of Talladega Springs, Ala., writes: "I had been very ill with pneumonia, under the care of two doctors, but was getting no better when I began to take Dr. King's New Discovery. The first dose gave relief, and one bottle cured me." Sure cure for sore throat, bronchitis, coughs and colds. Guaranteed at Dr. F. C. Duke's drug store, price 50c and \$1.00. Trial bottle free.

Bring your job work to THE TIMES. We can please you.

Orgia.

William Winter (from a volume of poems out of print.)

Who cares for nothing alone is free—
Sit down, good fellow, and drink with me!

With a careless heart and a merry eye
He laughs at the world as the world goes by.

He laughs at power, and wealth, and fame;
He laughs at virtue, he laughs at shame;
He laughs at hope, and he laughs at fear;
At memory's dead leaves, crisp and sere;

He laughs at the future, cold and dim—
Nor earth nor heaven is dear to him.

O, that is the comrade fit for me!
He cares for nothing, his soul is free;

Free as the soul of the fragrant wine—
Sit down, good fellow, my heart is thine!

For I heed not custom, creed, nor law;
I care for nothing that ever I saw.

In every city my cups I quaff,
And over the chalice I riot and laugh.

I laugh, like the cruel and turbulent wave;
I laugh at the church, and I laugh at the grave.

I laugh at joy, and well I know
That I merrily, merrily laugh at woe;

I terribly laugh, with an oath and a sneer,
When I think that the hour of death is near.

For I know that death is a guest divine,
Who shall drink my blood as I drink this wine.

And he cares for nothing! a king is he—
Come on, old fellow, and drink with me!

With you I will drink to the solemn past,
Though the cup that I drain should be my last.

I will drink to the phantoms of love and truth;
To ruined hopes and a wasted youth.

I will drink to the woman who wrought my woe,
In the diamond morning of long ago.

To a heavenly face, in sweet repose,
To the lily's snow and the blood of the rose;

To the splendor, caught from Orient skies,
That thrilled in the dark of her hazel eyes—

Her large eyes, wild with the fire of the south—
And the dewy wine of her warm, red mouth.

I will drink to the thought of a better time;
To innocence, gone like a death-bell chime.

I will drink to the shadow of coming doom;
To the phantoms that wait in my lonely tomb.

I will drink to my soul, in its terrible mood,
Dimly and solemnly understood;

And, last of all, to the monarch of sin,
Who scaled his rampart and reigned within.

My sight is fading—it dies away—
I cannot tell if it night or day.

My heart is burnt and blackened with pain,
And a horrible darkness crushes my brain.

I can not see you—the end is nigh—
But we'll laugh together before I die.

Through awful chasms I plunge and fall—
Your hand, good fellow—I die—that's all.

From The Argonaut.

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25 CENTS
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