

SENATOR TILLMAN AND GOVERNOR BLEASE WRITE OPEN LETTERS

OPEN LETTER TO GOVERNOR

BY U. S. SENATOR TILLMAN.
The newspapers have received for publication the following open letter from Senator B. R. Tillman:

Hon. Cole. L. Blease,
Columbia, S. C.

My Dear Sir:

While the returns from the primary election are not complete, enough is known to make it certain that you and I are both reelected to the high offices we now hold.

In every way possible you have tried to make my old friends among the people believe that you are the representative of Tillmanism, and therefore entitled to be my political heir.

Permit me to explain briefly the difference between Tillmanism and Bleasism as I understand them. Tillmanism means genuine democracy, the rule of the people—of all the white people, rich and poor alike, with special privilege and favors to none, with equality of opportunity and equality of burden to all. It was so understood by the Tillmanites in 1890 and 1892, and it is so understood by them still.

Bleasism on the contrary means personal ambition and greed for office—the office to be used not for the welfare of all the people and the state, but office for "Bleas and his friends. None other need apply."

When Tillman as governor did not hesitate to pardon a constable by telegraph who had been unrighteously punished by the liquor element in Charleston for raiding Chico's house, Tillman always tried and did administer the law equally and justly as he understood it. He had no favorites, and tried to obey the will of the majority of the people, even in those counties which had voted against him. He refused appointments as trial justice to some of his bitter political opponents, but they had not been elected at a primary, but were nominated by his political enemies in the legislature.

Tillman in Washington has never asked whether a man from South Carolina who has applied to him for a favor, for promotion or for protection was a Tillmanite or an "anti", his only purpose being to try to discover whether the man was trustworthy, honorable and clean and would make good if he got Tillman's endorsement.

Sticks in Right Way.

I believe in sticking by my friends, governor, but I want to stick by them in the right way, and not in the wrong way as you have done. Again Tillman said many harsh and bitter things on the stump because he was tantalized and howled at worse than you have ever been, but he always tried to tell the truth, and never under the greatest provocation did he threaten to make anybody "sweat blood" or indulge in indecent speech, blackguardism or vulgarity on the stump. It is not the business of a governor nor ought it to be permitted to him to threaten his constituents. The law is for the protection of every man and not for a governor's friends only.

The one thing which gave Tillman the most concern was dealing with petitions for pardon—the life, death and liberty of the poor wretches for whom the petitions were filed. Bleas is charged with selling pardons through his lawyer friends and sharing the money. Governor, you know whether there is any shadow of reason or foundation for this. I do not, but for your own fame and good name as well as for the good name of the state you can determine for yourselves and whether or not this is true. Others have examined the records and can not be mistaken in their opinion. I have not examined the records as a lawyer for a Tillmanite, but as a citizen, and I believe in the legislature as having voted as he had the same opportunities.

I want to say to you that I know since my last stroke of paralysis in February, 1910, my memory has been very much impaired, but the other parts of my brain have gradually and very perceptibly increased in efficiency and vigor and I am now fully capable of doing as good work as I ever did. The only reason why I have felt unwilling to make speeches in the senate and on the hustings this summer is because I know I can not speak with any force or vigor without turning on the full voltage of the dynamo. Under excitement the blood rushes to the brain for that is the way the mind works. Dr. Babcock had warned me that to attempt to make a speech would mean grave danger and he probable bursting of a blood vessel followed by paralysis or death. Therefore I have refrained and restrained myself, though at times the temptation has been very, very great. But, governor, while my memory is

slight change in the law, which Tillman would have aided to obtain, meant untold money for the railroad interlopers. I thought over all the consequences as the people treaded them. I thought of the people that would be made to sweat blood. I thought of the people that would be made to sweat blood. I thought of the people that would be made to sweat blood.

When I told my wife that I intended to write an open letter to you and outlined some of the things I intended to say, she pleaded with me thus: "Bleas is not a wholly bad man. He is passionate and has been tantalized, abused and misrepresented until he has lost all sense of responsibility and self-control". Recollect, governor, this same noble woman has been your advocate with me until your recent statement came out about what occurred last spring in Washington. She knows you told an untruth and has never forgiven you. It is in this spirit I now speak. You have been lied on, slandered and abused almost beyond endurance, but so was I. I had courage and self-control enough to rise above it. You have been weak enough to surrender to the impulse to strike back and to strike below the belt.

I want those who consider Bleasism as Tillmanism to take this contrast in consideration when they make up their final judgment. Tillmanism as Tillman preaches it and has always preached it is noble, high and elevating. Bleasism is selfish, low, dirty and revengeful.

I have been very greatly blessed in my life and every day I return thanks to the Creator for his many blessings. The greatest among these has been a good woman whom God gave me in her youth and purity 45 years ago. I have had one grief and that was the knowledge that so many good men in South Carolina seemed implacable and irreconcilable in their hatred of me. These men truly and honestly hated me as badly as many South Carolinians hate you now, but there are more of them in your case than there ever were in mine, thank God. Honesty compels me to say that you deserve the hate and distrust in which they hold you. I never did. You had an opportunity when you went into the governor's office such as comes to few men in this life. Your inaugural was a great disappointment to your friends and provoked your enemies to renewed and relentless activity. You had shown yourself too little and narrow to be governor of any state for, my dear sir, the governorship is a very high honor indeed, but it also carries the very heaviest responsibilities. You will recall when you were elected two years ago I wired you congratulations and added, "let the heathen rage". The heathen have raged, but the righteous have also moaned and their cries are now rising to heaven in accusation of you.

Returning to the blessings which have been showered upon me, I have before I die the satisfaction of knowing, as I now do know, that I have won the admiration, love and confidence of the anti-Tillmanites of old, and of the Haskellites even. I owe my reelection to the senate to these men that came to me when some of my old friends, the "wool-hat one-gallus boys" and my fellow citizens who work in the cotton mills were shouting, "crucify him!" "retire him to private life!" "we can no longer trust him!" etc. My reelection to the senate is assured and I shall die in harness "when the Lord's time comes for me to go, conscious that all of the good people of the state now appreciate me and realize at last what manner of man I am.

It is a sweet thought to feel that many of the Haskellites voted for me, and right here I want to say that "Haskellites" ought not to be an epithet of opprobrium in South Carolina any longer. Judge Haskell and I made friends before he died and I always felt that he was a blind fanatic who had been led off into the frenzy of independence by the same emotions which your election has produced. He was a knightly gentleman and a brave soldier. Peace to his ashes. Haskellism and Bleasism ought to be buried in the same grave and the world hear no more of either. It is time for South Carolinians to quit wounding each other's feelings and fighting like cats and dogs. No good can come of it and much harm has already come of it, and more will follow if we do not realize that a "house divided against itself can not stand". As good men voted for Bleas as voted for Jones. They felt it to be their right as citizens, and many of them religiously believed that their liberties were in danger, for you, governor, are reported as saying that if Jones was elected they would never vote again.

Jefferson said once that as between government without newspapers and newspapers without government he would take the latter, for the newspapers would keep the people informed and they would have intelligence enough to give themselves good government in some way. Our newspapers in South Carolina have lost sight of the necessity for fair and square dealing with their readers, so much so that they have not the influence with the people that they ought to have. There is room for a great many reforms in this particular and I sincerely hope that the editors of the South Carolina papers will seriously consider how they can regain the confidence of the people again. So great has been the distrust caused by the dishonesty and partisanship that hundreds, nay thousands of my friends could not be made to believe that I had written the letter to Ferguson or given out the statement accompanying it. I received many, many telegrams and letters asking whether it was authentic. This condition of the public mind has been brought about by seeing that the newspapers in their headlines and in the body of the articles themselves distort and color unrighteously the facts. When the people are taught they can always be trusted, but when the people distrust the newspapers and believe them corrupt and dishonest and given to all manner of lying they lose that respect for them that is necessary to preserve free government.

Would Talk to Friends.
If I ever get able to speak again I want to go to three counties in South Carolina and talk to my old friends face to face, Anderson, Laurens and York. You have stolen the love and confidence of those people—I did not lose it; you stole it. Who would ever have believed it possible that the men who 22 years ago were so frenzied in their Tillmanism and worship of Tillman as to unhitch the horses from his carriage and hitch themselves in to drag him in triumph through the street would come to distrust and abuse him without cause.

Madame Roland before she was guillotined exclaimed: "O liberty what crimes are committed in thy name!" Nothing the progress which has been made toward the demoralization among the Democrats in South Carolina one can shout, "Oh, Democracy, will the people never learn to know their true friends from their false leaders, never to distinguish between a statesman and a demagogue, always listening to flattery and sweet words without looking below the surface and the true inwardness of things and men". To think that the very men for whom I have done most, the poor farmers and factory people, should turn and read me this way! I gave them Clemson college and Winthrop. At least I had more to do with it than any other one man. I gave them the primary, for I wrote the Democratic State constitution with my own hand in conjunction with my brother, G. W. Tillman, and made the rules governing the primary and safeguarded in every possible way their rights, so that now every citizen has a voice in the government and can protect himself if he has sense enough.

All pleasure and satisfaction in my reelection to the senate is gone because of the desertion of these old friends and followers of mine. It makes me doubt seriously whether I have not erred grievously in giving the power of self-government to these people and teaching them their rights. They show such a woeful lack of gratitude. I feel that when I am dead and in the grave that they will realize and understand the criminal folly of their action and the enormity of the betrayal of their best friend. I know if I could have spoken to them this summer this tragedy could not have occurred. When these old friends have had time to cool off and think it all over they will curse themselves for such base ingratitude, and for their idiosyncrasy in being misled by a demagogue. To think that they had been such fools as not to understand and grant the old man's last plea to "die in harness" serving them and serv-

ing the state and nation. Oh, it is pitiful!
The object of every true patriot should be to pour oil upon the troubled waters and bring a return of harmony and good will among our people. "Let us have peace". And if that can not be given us, let us see what a return to decency and sanity will accomplish.
If you clear yourself of the foul accusations made against you in the governor's office and will pursue a wholly different policy hereafter, there is some future for you in the state yet. If you do not, your name will go down in history as the very worst native South Carolina who was ever governor. Moses not excepted, I repeat you are "eminently qualified to be governor as far as brains go," and if you reform and make good in the two years you have yet to serve in that office the people may forgive you. But you must be governor of the whole people and not of your friends alone and they will take care of your future destiny, always supposing that you clear yourself of the infamous charges that have been brought against you. For unless you do this, you can never hope to aspire to higher promotion, for the people of South Carolina will never send to Washington a man not above suspicion. Your destiny is largely in your own hands, governor. For the honor of the state I hope you can and will clean yourself up. May God forgive you for the sins you have committed against yourself and the people of this state.
Gov. Blease, you are given another opportunity. Will you make use of it and show that you are a man and not a demon? Put the devil behind you and be the governor of all the people instead of your friends alone; conquer yourself and instead of being the governor of 72,000 become the governor of the 140,000 men in South Carolina! If you do this, the "heathen will quit raging," while the righteous will rejoice. You have the brains. Make use of them instead of giving way to your evil passions. I do assure you that you will die a happier man if you will follow this advice. Conquer your enemies by kindness and justice. You can not conquer them in any other way.
B. R. Tillman.
Trenton, Aug. 30.



News Snapshots Of the Week

James S. Sherman and Governor Thomas R. Marshall were formally notified of their nominations for vice president on the Republican and Democratic tickets respectively. At the Marshall notification the grand stand fell and a number of persons were injured. Bramwell Booth succeeded his father, the late General William Booth, as commander in chief of the Salvation Army. Sam Schepps confessed his part in the murder of Herman Rosenthal, the New York gambler, and on the strength of his testimony the grand jury returned seven indictments for the crime. Senator Penrose of Pennsylvania, accused of accepting \$25,000 from the Standard Oil company, declared that the money was a contribution to the political campaign of 1904.

papers would keep the people informed and they would have intelligence enough to give themselves good government in some way. Our newspapers in South Carolina have lost sight of the necessity for fair and square dealing with their readers, so much so that they have not the influence with the people that they ought to have. There is room for a great many reforms in this particular and I sincerely hope that the editors of the South Carolina papers will seriously consider how they can regain the confidence of the people again. So great has been the distrust caused by the dishonesty and partisanship that hundreds, nay thousands of my friends could not be made to believe that I had written the letter to Ferguson or given out the statement accompanying it. I received many, many telegrams and letters asking whether it was authentic. This condition of the public mind has been brought about by seeing that the newspapers in their headlines and in the body of the articles themselves distort and color unrighteously the facts. When the people are taught they can always be trusted, but when the people distrust the newspapers and believe them corrupt and dishonest and given to all manner of lying they lose that respect for them that is necessary to preserve free government.

State Committee Did Not Declare Result, Meet Today

The following account of the meeting of the State Democratic Executive Committee in Columbia last Friday is taken from The State:

Charges of illegal voting in the South Carolina primary last Tuesday will be rigidly probed by the executive committee of the Democratic party. The committee, after two sessions yesterday, adjourned until next Wednesday at noon, when the investigation will begin. Several specific charges have been filed with John Gary Evans, State chairman.

The following resolution by W. F. Stevenson of Cheraw was adopted by the committee yesterday: "Whereas, an unprecedented vote is reported and widespread charges of fraud and irregularities have been brought as to the election on the State ticket and it is the duty of this committee to see that whatever nominations have been made have been honestly made, and if the charge is true it shall be corrected, and if not true it shall be refuted and the primary election system vindicated and preserved. "Resolved, That the chairman shall call on each county chairman, where fraud or irregularities are charged, to take charge of the club rolls and compare the poll lists with each other, and make such evidence as shall be available and pertinent and send up club rolls and poll lists or certified copies of the same to his committee and report all irregularities."

Resolved, further, That the chairman of this committee do furnish such assistance to the respective county chairmen as may be necessary to facilitate the completion of this work and that the candidates for governor be each allowed a representative at such hearing if desired. That this committee hereby declare it to be its purpose to see that every effort be made to see that the primary be honestly conducted and detect and punish all frauds committed, vindicate the primary system and rid it of all imputations of crookedness and to call on all citizens to cooperate with this committee in such work and save the primary system from destruction.

"This committee calls on citizens, and especially all members of the executive committee and all club officers, to swear out warrants for persons violating the primary laws in connection with the said election and have the offenders bound over to court."

The resolution, which was generally discussed by the members, is the sum and substance of the work accomplished at the meeting of the executive committee yesterday. Several members objected to the introduction of the resolution, given above on the grounds that there was no fraud reported in their counties. The resolution was ably defended by Mr. Stevenson. The position of Gov. Blease was fully explained to the committee by E. S. Blease, brother of the governor, and his substitute on the committee from Newberry county. State Chairman John Gary Evans last night sent the following telegram to county chairmen in accordance with the resolution adopted by the executive committee: "If any fraud or irregularities are charged in your county as to any part of the State ticket, investigate it thoroughly. Take charge of club rolls, compare them with poll lists, poll lists with each other, taking such evidence as is available and pertinent. Then forward all records bearing on matter, including those above named with evidence to Christie Benet, secretary, Columbia. If you need assistance call on me. Act promptly. State committee has adjourned until Wednesday next. Have reports here as soon as possible. Letter confirming above instructions follow."

"John Gary Evans, "State chairman." Members of the executive committee made it very plain that the nomination for governor and other State offices would not be declared until the committee, after a thorough investigation, was able to write the words "clean and fair" across that nomination. Mr. Stevenson made it clear that it was not the intention of the Jones members of the committee to show favoritism, but if illegal votes were found for Jones they would be thrown out. The members of the committee expressed themselves as being in favor of investigating the situation to save the South Carolina primary law from destruction. Every charge or intimation of fraud in the State will be carefully investigated.

Harry D. Calhoun, candidate for Congress in the Second district, last night wired Chairman Evans, calling his attention to "use of whiskey and illegal voting" in that district and asked that a thorough investigation be made. To Report on Ticket. At the meeting yesterday Christie Benet, secretary of the committee, said that the governor of the State had criticized him and that he desired that a special committee be appointed to investigate the charges. He said that the governor had charged in a public speech that he had not sent a sufficient number of tickets to Pickens and Lee counties. Mr. Benet showed that he had sent out 522,000 tickets to the various counties. After some discussion W. T. Crews of Laurens, R. I. Manning of Sumter and J. I. Willis of Barnwell were appointed as members of a committee to investigate the charges by the governor. The committee will make a report at the next meeting of the committee on Wednesday.

At the afternoon session of the committee B. Caldwell of Chester reported that the special committee named during the morning to assist in canvassing the returns was not ready to report, as all of the counties had not made reports. Chairman Evans read several telegrams intimating fraud in connection with the election in several counties. Two of the telegrams charged fraud in Alken and Anderson counties. The official protest for Anderson county was lodged with the committee.

Among the telegrams read was one from Senator Tillman, in which he asked the committee to be very sure before acting, but if there was fraud to investigate it and save the primary law from destruction. Several members of the committee objected to the resolution as first introduced by Mr. Stevenson on the ground that fraud had not been charged in all of the counties. J. B. Park of Greenwood took the position that it was the duty of the committee to canvass all the returns. He thought that the committee should be in a position to say whether the election was clean or unclean, fair or unfair.

Must Be Clean. "We must be able to say to the world," said Mr. Park, "we have held a clean and fair election or we have held an unfair election. If the election has been fair we must be able to repudiate the charges. I think that the resolution should apply to every county. We must investigate." The resolution was finally amended so as to apply only to counties where fraud has been alleged. J. M. Greer of Union said that he was a Blease supporter, but he wanted a square deal for both candidates. He was satisfied that there was no fraud in Union county.

In reply Mr. Stevenson stated his position clearly. Mr. Stevenson said it was the duty of the committee to throw out all illegal votes, no matter who they were cast in favor of. He said that the primary must be saved and cleansed at any cost. E. S. Blease of Newberry took the floor before the committee and outlined the position of the governor with lined the position of the committee. He said that his brother, the governor, was a member of the committee from Newberry, but did not think it proper to appear in person. He said that he had come as representing his brother and that he desired to make several statements. He outlined his position as a Democrat and said all that "Cole L. Blease wanted was a fair and honest election." He declared that if his brother had not been fairly elected he did not want the office.

"I have never heard of an executive committee attempting to do something on base rumors or reports," said Mr. Blease. Later it was called to the attention of Mr. Blease that official protests had already been filed with the committee. Mr. Blease, in the course of his speech, charged that the apparent majority of his brother was hurting the situation in Newberry and said that he had tried to be fair to the candidacy of Judge Jones. He referred to a minor contest in that county. Mr. Blease expressed faith in the members of the executive committee and said that he thought

(Continued to last page.)