

THE NEWBERRY HERALD.

Reply of Mr. F. W. Dawson to Mr. B. F. Whittemore.

COLUMBIA, S. C., May 2, 1877.
To the Senate of South Carolina:
I have read this morning the remarks of Mr. B. F. Whittemore, Senator from Darlington, delivered in the Senate yesterday.

These remarks cover a gross attack upon my character and upon the character of the gentleman who is associated with me in the management of the *News and Courier*. So soon as the news that this attack had been made reached me in Charleston I came to Columbia that I might meet our accusers face to face; for that purpose and none other I am in Columbia today.

I feel that in any statement that I may make before this body, it might seem out of place to suggest any special reason why this proprietary attack upon me might with propriety be disregarded; inasmuch as, in Mr. Whittemore's words, "I am dragged before the public by one who seeks to cover his own corruption and corrupt practices by accusations of fraud and improper transactions against me" and my associate.

But I owe an answer to the citizens of South Carolina, who, through good report and evil report, have honored me these ten years with a large measure of their confidence; and to them, not to the Senator from Darlington, I make, in this place, my reply.

The letters purporting to be written by me, or by Mr. Riordan, read by Mr. Whittemore in the course of his remarks, have not been examined by me, and, therefore, I am unable to say whether they are wholly or in part genuine. From grand larceny to perjury is no great distance, even when measured by the penalties of the criminal law. I take, however, the letters as they stand, and find that, if genuine, they prove:

1. That the proprietors of the *Charleston News*, who are the present proprietors of the *News and Courier*, desired to obtain, and made a price for, the printing of the laws and other official notices.

2. That they agreed to pay Joseph Woodruff a commission of 20 per cent. on the gross amount of their bills for printing as the money was collected.

3. That Mr. Riordan and myself addressed the person, Woodruff, in an exceedingly familiar manner.

The first charge needs no special answer. The printing for which we made a price was, by the laws of the State, authorized to be done, and the price that we made was far less than has ever been charged by us to private persons for the same amount and character of work. For example, the published advertising rate of the *News and Courier* is, by measurement, 10 cents a line in the daily edition; 10 cents a line additional for the tri-weekly and 15 cents a line for the weekly editions, making for all three editions 35 cents a line. In 1871 the rate at which the work was offered to be done for the State, and was done, was 20 cents a line for all three editions.

2. It is true that we agreed to pay Woodruff a commission of 20 per cent. on such moneys as he should collect. Such a practice is common in every other business, and there was the special reason for it in the case of Woodruff that we were satisfied that without the discount there would be no collection. To insure the collection of our bills as rapidly as possible, we allowed the commission when they were paid. Whenever Woodruff collected any money for us, he deducted his commission for his services and paid over to us the balance. The commission was paid by us, and was no loss to the State.

3. It is true that Woodruff is addressed in the letters in question with what may now seem, and would be an undue familiarity; but it must be remembered that Woodruff was well known to Mr. Riordan from 1861 as an industrious local reporter for the *Charleston Courier*, in which capacity he appeared to be as laborious and unassuming. It would have been as much out of place in those days to address him as Mr. Woodruff as to attach a similar handle to the name of any one of the numerous waiters at the Charleston Hotel. The accustomed use of the first name was continued when Woodruff emerged into politics and became Clerk of the Senate. When such a time came that we could not with propriety address him familiarly, we ceased to have any communication whatever with him. This was several years ago. Ever since the *News and Courier*, with only intermitting encouragement, has opposed and exposed the swindles of the printing ring with unabating vigor and systematic pertinacity.

Of the letter dated March 18, 1871, I have no knowledge nor has Mr. Riordan. Our presumption is that it was written in reply to a complaint that publications made by us had affected injuriously the credit of the State. We had from 1868 to 1870 diligently endeavored to bring the public mind to the point of repudiating entirely the *bayonet bonds* of the reconstruction government. In this we were not sustained by the monied interests of the State, but were openly denounced as wanton destroyers of the public credit. If in 1871 we had suspended our efforts in that direction, we were fully in accord with the views of the large body of those citizens with whose opinions we had become painfully familiar.

What a Change!

Every State officer during Chamberlain's term was a carpet-bagger; every one for Hampton's term is a native South Carolina Democrat. Was there ever so complete a victory?

Reputation.

The Abbeville *Medium* is advocating a repudiation of the entire State debt. Other papers go not so far, but propose for the Legislature a close scrutiny of the debt and a payment of that portion not fraudulent. The greater part of the debt is no doubt tainted with fraud. It does seem to us, however, that since all the records are in the hands of competent and experienced and honest men the real, lawful debt can be ascertained. And it is our opinion that when the scrutinizing and sifting process begins the creditors should have the benefit of the doubts. If a claim can not be proved clearly fraudulent it should be paid. Repudiation is a desperate step for any Government to take.

Editorial Review.

The Extra Session of Congress is postponed to the 15th of October.

The Legislature has adopted a joint resolution to adjourn the 17th.

Roanoke College.

The Catalogue of this institution, for 1876-7, located at Salem, Va., shows an attendance of 177 Students.

State Officers.

The following is the list of State officers of South Carolina: Wade Hampton, of Columbia, Governor; W. D. Simpson, of Laurens, Lt. Governor; Johnson Hagood, of Barnwell, Comptroller-General; R. M. Sims, of York, Secretary of State; S. L. Leaphart, of Columbia, State Treasurer; James Conner, of Charleston, Attorney-General; H. S. Thompson, of Columbia, Superintendent of Education; E. W. Moise, of Sumter, Adjutant and Inspector General.

Newspaper Change.

Col. James A. Hoyt, for the last sixteen years editor of the *Anderson Intelligencer*, has disposed of his interest in that paper, and together with Messrs. H. N. Emlyn and W. B. McDaniel, has purchased the *Columbia Register*. Mr. Hoyt assumed editorial charge of the *Register* the 3d instant. The following is his graceful

SALUTATORY.

In taking editorial charge of the *Register* it is proper for me to address a few words to its numerous readers, and briefly outline the purposes of the future. As the successor of the lamented Pelham, whose graceful pen contributed so much to the good reputation achieved in a short time by the *Register*, it will be my earnest desire to promote and advance the objects steadily maintained in these columns from the beginning of its existence. To be true and faithful to the highest interests of the State will be my chief concern, and to maintain the blessings of good government for the whole people will be my constant aim. Firmly believing that these objects can be subserved only through the solidity and unity of the Democracy, it will be an unremitting effort on my part to strengthen and sustain whatever measures will tend to solidify and unify the power of the Democratic party for the common good. The opinions of others will be carefully weighed, and when differences arise I will always seek to guide my actions so as not to engender bitter feelings, but with firmness and all the ability I possess endeavor to urge the views dictated by my own judgment of men and measures. I am not an extremist in politics, and yet my record as a journalist of long standing will sustain the assertion that there is never any doubt as to my position. I expect to discuss measures of public moment with calmness and moderation, governed by my convictions of right and duty, and unworried by the blandishments of popular favor.

As a newspaper in its true meaning, I will strive to make the columns of the *Register* even more valuable than heretofore, if it can be accomplished by energy and activity on my part. It will be my constant study to extend the sources of information and gather the freshest and latest news from all parts of the country, so that our readers may enjoy to the fullest practicable extent the advantages of all accessible information.

My long connection with the newspaper press of this State makes it unnecessary for me to do more than to express my gratitude to the journalistic fraternity for their unremitting kindness and cordiality in the past, and to cherish the hope that they will accord hereafter the generous confidence bestowed upon me during so many years of labor in their ranks. JAMES A. HOYT.

Legislative.

TUESDAY, MAY 1.—SENATE.—Mr. Jeter, dem. Union, introduced a bill to reduce the expenses attending the partition of small estates.

Mr. Taft, (rep.) Charleston, a bill to amend an "Act to fix the salaries of certain public officers," approved March 25, 1876.

Mr. Whittemore, (rep.) Darlington, rose to a question of privilege. He referred to the charges made by the *News and Courier* against himself, Senator Nash, and Joe Woodruff, Clerk of the Senate, of paying for cigars, wines, brandy, etc., with public funds. In the course of his remarks he read the following copies of notes and telegrams:

OFFICE OF THE DAILY NEWS, CHARLESTON, S. C., January 4, 1868.

DEAR WOODRUFF: Enclosed find bill against the Speaker, arranged for discount of 20 per cent. to paying office. Moses said it should be paid promptly.

Let me know what the Port Royal Railroad wants of the Legislature. Nothing from you this evening. I hear that *Courier* has result of mandamus, and had telegraphed you.

Yours, F. W. DAWSON.

OFFICE OF THE CHARLESTON NEWS, CHARLESTON, S. C., December 18, 1870.

The Committee on Contingent Accounts reported on the account of the Charleston *News*, and recommended that it be paid. Adopted.

MY DEAR JOSEPH: This is the most interesting feature of the Legislative session. Show it through the House in the same happy way, and there will be a Christmas turkey and trimmings for both you and me.

Yours truly, F. W. DAWSON.

OFFICE OF THE CHARLESTON NEWS, CHARLESTON, S. C., January 22, 1871.

MY DEAR JOE: DeFontaine tells me that you want our proposals for State printing, and I enclose you two proposals—one private and the other public. We have put the price at ten cents a line—a fair living rate—and five cents less than our regular transient rate. If the offer can be amended or improved, let me know.

What we want is to get as good a price as we can, and to give you 20 per cent. on the gross amount, whatever it may be. Answer.

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PUBLIC PROPOSAL.

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J. Woodruff, Esq., Clerk of the Senate.

SIR: We respectfully make application for the printing of the acts and joint resolutions of the General Assembly for the session of 1870-71, and agree to print the same, as furnished us, in the *Daily News*, at the rate of ten cents a line, by measurement, for each session; or, we will print them in both the *Daily News* and *Tri-Weekly News* for 15 cents a line; or, in the *Daily News*, *Tri-Weekly News* and *Weekly News* for 20 cents a line.

We are, yours obediently, RIOR DAN, DAWSON & CO., Proprietors Charleston *News*.

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OFFICE OF THE CHARLESTON NEWS, CHARLESTON, S. C., January 25, 1871.

MY DEAR WOODRUFF: I enclose bill for advertising elections, subject to usual discount; also, bill for papers. Bear in mind what I told you before, that we don't want you to pay for the "News" out of your own pocket.

If the money is forthcoming for the election notices, it will be as welcome as a daisy in a cow's mouth.

Yours truly, F. W. DAWSON.

OFFICE OF THE CHARLESTON NEWS, 140 EAST BAY, CHARLESTON, S. C., March 18, 1871.

DEAR JOE: I send bills for acts up to January, inclusive. I am afraid I have worried you too much about the document. But I hope you won't give it up. My silence is often more valuable than any action. For instance, had I telegraphed the strong points of Perry's letter, including the prediction that *bonds would not be paid*, it would have given the market a terrible black eye. But I didn't.

Will rush the acts from this time forth.

Yours faithfully, R.

HOUSE.—Thomas, of Newberry, and Straker, of Orangeburg, (col'd reps.) were denied seats and their places declared vacant. Andrews, (col'd rep.) from Sumter, refused to purge himself of contempt, and his seat was declared vacant.

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