

KEOWEE COURIER.

"To thine own self be true, and it must follow, as the night the day, thou can'st not then be false to any man."

BY R. A. THOMPSON & CO.]

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MISCELLANY.

Letter from General Wade Hampton.

COLUMBIA, S. C., June 19, 1865.

To the Editors of the New York Day Book:

Gents—In your paper of the 6th of May, I have just seen General Sherman's official report of his march through the two Carolinas. As this report misrepresents me in the grossest and falsest manner, I trust you will not deny me the right to vindicate myself. It is due to history, if not to me, that the falsehoods of General Sherman in reference to the destruction of this city should be exposed. This shall be done in the briefest possible manner:

The reports say, "General Wade Hampton, who commanded the Confederate rear guard of cavalry, had, in anticipation of our capture of Columbia, ordered that all cotton, public and private, should be moved into the street and fired to prevent our making use of it." * * * Some of these piles of cotton were burning, especially one in the very heart of the city, near the court house, but the fire was partially subdued by the labor of our soldiers. * * *

Before one single public building had been fired by order, the smouldering fires set by Hampton's order were rekindled by the wind, and communicated to the buildings around. About dark they began to spread and got beyond the control of the brigade on duty within the city. The whole of Woods' division was brought in, but it was impossible to check the flames, which, by midnight, had become unmanageable, and raged until about 4 o'clock, A. M., when the wind subsiding, they were got under control. * * * I disclaim, on the part of my army, any agency in this fire, but on the contrary, claim that we saved what of Columbia remains unconsumed. And, without hesitation, charge Gen. Wade Hampton with having burned his own city of Columbia, not with malicious intent, as the manifestation of a silly 'Roman stoicism,' but from folly and want of sense in filling it with lint, cotton and tinder. Our officers and men on duty worked well to extinguish the flames. * * *

It would be difficult, if not impossible, to express in an equal number of paragraphs, a greater number of falsehoods than are contained in the above extracts. There is not one word of truth in all that has been quoted, except the statement that "General Hampton commanded the rear guard of cavalry. He did not order any cotton 'moved into the street and fired.'" On the contrary, my first act on taking command of the cavalry—to which I was assigned only the night before the evacuation of Columbia—was to represent to General Beauregard the danger to the town of firing the cotton in the streets. Upon this representation, he authorized me to give orders that no cotton in the town should be burned, which order was strictly carried out. I left the city after the head of Sherman's column had entered it, and I assert, what can be proved by thousands, that not a bale of cotton was on fire when he took possession of the city. His assertion to the contrary is false, and he knows it to be so. A distinguished citizen of this State—whose name, were I at liberty to give it, would be a sufficient voucher, even at the North, for the truth of any statement made by him—has given to the public a minute history of the destruction of the city.

From this document, which is too long for insertion in your paper, I will make a few extracts, which will show how true is General Sherman's solemn disclaimer of "any agency in this fire," and his claim to have "saved what of Columbia remained unconsumed."—The Mayor had been informed that he would be notified when to surrender the city, knowing that ineffectual resistance on our part would furnish the ready excuse for all lawlessness on the part of the enemy. I would not allow my troops to become engaged in the city, and they were withdrawn on the morning of the 17th of February.

At nine o'clock, A. M., on that day, the Mayor, at the head of the deputation from the City Council, went out to meet General Sherman for the purpose of surrendering the city, which he did in the following letter:

COLUMBIA, S. C., Feb. 17, 1865.

"To Maj. Gen. Sherman: The Confederate forces having evacuated Columbia, I deem it my duty, as Mayor and representative of the city, to ask for its citizens the treatment accorded to the usage of civilized warfare. I therefore respectfully re-

quest that you will send a sufficient guard in advance of the army, to maintain order in the city, and to protect the persons and property of citizens. Very respectfully,

Your obedient servant,

[Signed] T. J. GOODWIN, Mayor.

The deputation met the advance guard of the enemy, under Col. Stone—Fifteenth Corps—outside the city, and Col. Stone returned with them to the town in their carriage.

The Mayor reports that on surrendering the city to Col. Stone, the latter assured him of the safety of the citizens, and the protection of their property while under his command. He could not answer for General Sherman, who was in the rear, but he expressed the conviction that he would fully confirm the assurances which he (Col. Stone) had given. Subsequently Gen. Sherman did confirm them, and that night, seeing that the Mayor was exhausted by the labors of the day, he counselled him to retire to rest, saying: "Not a finger's breadth, Mr. Mayor, of your city shall be harmed. You may lie down to sleep, satisfied that your town shall be as safe in my hands as if wholly in your own." * * *

"At about eleven o'clock the head of the column reached Market Hall. Hardly had the troops reached the head of Main-street when the work of pillage was begun. Stores were broken open in the presence of thousands within the first hour after their arrival. No attempt was made to arrest the burglars. The authorities, officers, and soldiers, all seemed to consider it a matter of course. And woe to him who carried a watch with gold chain pendant, or who wore a choice hat, or overcoat, or boots or shoes. He was stripped by ready experts in the twinkling of an eye." * * *

"About twelve o'clock the jail was discovered to be on fire from within. This building was immediately in the rear of the market or City Hall, and in a densely built portion of the city. * * *

The fire in the jail had been preceded by that of some cotton piled in the streets. Both fires were soon subdued by our firemen. At about 1½ o'clock, P. M., that of the jail was rekindled and was again extinguished." * * *

"The experience of the firemen putting out the fire in the cotton in the jail was of a sort to discourage their further efforts. They were thwarted and embarrassed by the continued interference of the soldiery. Finally, their hose was chopped with swords and axes, and pierced with bayonets so as to be rendered useless. The engines were in some cases demolished also. And so the miserable day wore on in pillage, insult, and constant confusion and alarm. We have shown that the robbery of the persons of citizens and the plunder of their houses commenced within one hour after they had reached the Market Hall. It continued without intermission throughout the day. Sherman traversed the streets everywhere, so did his officers, yet they saw nothing to rebuke or restrain." * * *

"Robbery was going on at every corner, in every house, yet there was no course, no punishment." * * * "Among the first fires at evening was one about dark, which broke out in a filthy portion of low houses, occupied mostly as brothels. There were then some twenty fires in full blast in as many different quarters, at nearly the same moment, and while the alarm sounded from these quarters, a similar alarm was sent up almost simultaneously from Cotton Town, the northernmost limit of the city, and from Main-street in its very centre." * * *

"The wretches engaged in this appointed incendiaryism were well prepared with all the appliances essential to their work. They carried with them from house to house, pots and vessels containing combustible liquids, and with balls of fire saturated in this liquid, they conveyed the flames with wonderful rapidity from dwelling to dwelling." * * *

"What remained from the morning of the engines and hose were brought out by the firemen, but they were soon driven from their labors by the pertinacious hostility of the incendiaries. Engines were tumbled over and disabled, the hose was hewn to pieces, and the firemen dreading worse usage to themselves, left the field in despair." * * *

"Old men and women and children were to be seen, often while the flames were rolling and raging around them—while walls were cracking and rafters tottering and tumbling, in the endeavor to save their clothing and some of their more valuable effects. They were driven out headlong, pistols clapped to their heads, violent hand laid on

throat and collar, and the ruffians seemed to make but little distinction in their treatment of man and woman. Ladies were hustled from their chambers under the strong arm or with their menacing pistol at their hearts. Their ornaments plucked from their breasts—their bundles taken from their hands." * * *

"A lady undergoing pains of labor had to be borne out on a mattress into the open air to escape the fire. It was in vain that her situation was described to the incendiaries, as they applied the torch within and without the house. They beheld the situation of the sufferer and laughed to scorn the prayer for her safety.—Another lady was but recently confined. Her life hung upon a hair. The demons were apprised of the facts in the case. They burst into her chamber—took rings from the lady's finger, plucked the watch from beneath her pillow, shrieked offensive language in her ears, and so overwhelmed her with terror that she sunk under the treatment, surviving but a day or two." * * * "The churches were at first sought by many streams of population. Thither the perseverance of the fiends followed them, and the churches of God were set on flame. Again driven forth, numbers made their way into the recesses of Sydney Park, and here fancied to find security. But the ingenuity of hate and malice was not to be baffled, and firebrands thrown from the height into the deepest hollows of the Park taught the wretched fugitives to despair of any escape from energies of such unwearyed and unremitting rage." * * *

But enough of this atrocity, the bare recital of which makes humanity shudder, the heart grow sick. Surely enough has been quoted from the narrative of these horrors to prove that General Sherman alone is responsible for the destruction of Columbia, and for the many other atrocities committed by his army. He declares that the fire set by my order consumed the city. I have shown how false is this statement; but even if it were true, how does he clear himself of the guilt of burning private dwellings outside of the city limits? Early in the afternoon of the day he entered Columbia, my house which was two miles from the city, was fired; soon after the houses of Mr. Trenholm, Gen. Lovell, Mrs. Stark, Dr. Wallace, Mr. Arthur, Mr. Latta, and Mrs. English, all in the same vicinity, shared the same fate. General Sherman cannot deny that these houses were burned by his men, nor can he deny that he destroyed, in part, or in whole, the villages of Barnwell, Blackville, Graham, Bamberg, Buford's Bridge, Orangeburg, Lexington, Alston, Pomaria, Winsborough, Blackstocks, Society Hill, Camden and Cheraw.—Does not the fate of these unoffending towns give the lie to his disclaimer of any agency in burning this city? * * *

Along the line of march followed by him there is scarcely one house left standing, from the Savannah River to the Pee Dee, and yet he dared to declare solemnly that he did not burn Columbia! I do not wonder that he should strive to escape the infamy which, like the leprosy of Gehazi, shall cleave unto him and his seed forever, for the commission of this dark deed. Nor am I surprised that he should naturally seek to escape by taking refuge behind a falsehood. But he shall not with impunity make me the scapegoat for his sins. Wherever he has taken his army in this State, women have been insulted or outraged, old men have been hung to extort from them hidden treasure. The fruits of the earth have been destroyed, leaving starvation where plenty once reigned, and the dwellings of rich and poor alike have been laid in ashes. For these deeds history will brand him as a robber and incendiary, and will deservedly "damn him to everlasting fame." * * *

I am your obedient servant,

WADE HAMPTON, Lieut-General.

REMEDY FOR SMALL POX.—A gentleman of veracity, one who has had Small pox in his family, and in his neighborhood, has placed in our possession for publication, the following recipe for the cure of the Small pox, which he assures us has been successfully used in several cases that have come under his observation:

Make a tea from the common elder root bark; and also a tea from the sassafras bark—let them cool, and pour equal quantities into a jug, to a gallon of which, add from one quart to three pints good whiskey. Drink frequently, but not more than a small wine-glass full at one time.—Edgefield Advertiser.

A Readable Debate in Congress.

On Tuesday, when Mr. Morrill had offered a resolution to appropriate \$25,000 to the destitute negroes in the District of Columbia, Mr. Saulsbury offered an amendment appropriating a like sum for the relief of the destitute white people of the District, to be appropriated under the direction of the Mayor of Washington.

Mr. Morrill said no appeal had been made to the committee in behalf of the poor white people of the District, and he thought the Senator was paying a very poor compliment to them to ask for such an appropriation. The poverty and helplessness of these poor colored people was well known. He would suggest to the Senator to withdraw his amendment.

Mr. Saulsbury said that he had no doubt that there were hundreds and thousands of poor colored people in the District, but he never walked Pennsylvania Avenue that he was not solicited by poor little white girls and boys for alms. There were thousands of whites in the District to-day who were just as helpless as the blacks. We were told that when slavery was abolished in this District it was to be converted into a paradise. A very graphic picture of that paradise has just been drawn by the Senator from Maine (Mr. Morrill). He did not see so much destitution among the negroes of this District. Day after day, when he looked up into these galleries, he saw hale, hearty, young colored men, viewing the proceedings. And how few poor young white men are able to do that! All he asked was that the same feeling of humanity should be displayed towards our own race as towards the negro.

Mr. Willey suggested to the Senator from Delaware that it would meet his views to strike out the word colored, so as to leave the appropriation to be divided amongst all destitute people.

Mr. Saulsbury declined to withdraw his amendment. If the money was to be expended under the direction of the Mayor of Washington, he would have no objection; but every one knew that if the Commissioner of the Freedmen's Bureau had the disposal of it, none but negroes would receive any portion of it. The amendment was lost.

Mr. Willey moved to amend by striking out the word "colored" from the resolution; which was agreed to.

Mr. Davis offered an amendment, as an additional section, that the corporate authorities of the District be authorized to find proper employment for the able-bodied colored and black persons, and that \$5,000 be appropriated for such purpose.

Mr. Kirkwood moved to strike out the word "black." He did not see why white people should not work as well as black. [Laughter.] Adopted.

Mr. Nesmith moved an amendment so as to exclude members of Congress from those for whom the city authorities shall find employment. [Laughter.]

Mr. Nesmith's and Mr. Davis' amendments were lost. After which, the appropriation was passed.

In the "Memphis Bulletin" we find the following: "Some time ago a man was murdered in South Memphis under circumstances which led to unjust suspicious directed against many persons doubtless innocent. In fact, the conclusions generally reached was that the unfortunate descendant put a period to his own existence. Two photographers of this city—Day, whose gallery is at the intersection of Union and Main; and Armstrong, of the Clay building—undertook the task of applying the art to the purpose of detecting the murder. On the day of the murder, with the aid of the microscope, images left on the retina of the eye of the dead were transferred to paper, and curious facts were developed.—A pistol, the hand, arm and a part of the face of the man who committed the crime are perfectly delineated. We have been told that a shrewd detective, with the aid thus furnished, has gathered other facts that will surely lead to the identification and punishment of the murderer."

We are apt to believe in Providence so long as we have our way; but if things go awry, then we think, if there is a God, he is in heaven, and not on earth. The cricket in the Spring builds his house in the meadow, and chirps for joy, because all is going so well.