

THE PICKENS SENTINEL.

DEVOTED TO POLITICS, MORALITY, EDUCATION AND TO THE GENERAL INTEREST OF THE COUNTRY.

VOL. VI.

PICKENS, S. C., THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 1876.

NO. 9.

Communications

We hear a great deal said about the hard times and its causes, etc. These are very important questions, and the man who can set the people right on them will confer a great blessing on the human kind. I will throw out a few hints, as to my notion of things, more for the purpose of drawing out the views of the wise. I am anxious to hear these topics discussed. Almost all tell us that cotton has ruined us. I think this a mistake, I admit that it has helped to bring a spirit of extravagance, and indirectly has been partly the cause of hard times, but it is not cotton per-se of its self. Where men raise cotton they have to turn it into cash before they use it, and it is a settled fact, that nineteen out of twenty men can not or will not take proper care of cash, but will lavishly spend it for gin-cracks and tom foolery.

But let us not blame cotton for our improvidence. Let us see what it cost to raise cotton. To cultivate an acre is worth \$6, 150 pounds guano is worth \$4.50, an acre will produce 500 pounds; picking the cotton is worth \$2.50, and this is high, as the crop is often gathered by children, whose time is worth but little; we have \$13.00 expenses; 500 pounds at 3 cents \$15.00—\$2.00 clear. It is worth about \$7.00 to cultivate an acre of corn and gather it. An acre that will make 500 pounds cotton will make, say twelve bushels corn, at 50 cents per bushel, 5 cents off for hauling to market—and often it is worth it; we have 12 bushels at 45 cts. \$5.40, \$1.60 loss. I maintain that this is a fair count. Land that will make 20 bushels corn will make 1,000 pounds of cotton, and often 12 or 1,500.

Will you admit, that cotton for the last year has been a better price than corn? To day, it is at a better price. Men surely have reasoned incorrectly, who say corn will pay better than cotton. The old crop of corn in the West would not sell at 25 cents per bushel; plenty on hand yet, the new is worth 15 cents. We cannot compete with them in raising corn, meat and stock, our climate is adapted to cotton—of course we have some lands that will only produce grain.

Let us look at some other causes, for our troubles.

Our country is full of Northern notions, in the shape of dumb watches, pistols, bedsteads, shot guns, sewing machines, etc., etc., without end, which have cost millions. Remember that buying what you don't need, causes you to need that which you can't buy.

Look at the time lost hunting, many men, loose \$50 worth of time in the year.

Let us have the courage to acknowledge that we are poor, and live as poor folks, buy your provisions first, you can get them for cash cheaper than you can raise them, mind I say for cash. For God's sake don't buy on time, if you do you are gone—gone to the verge of starvation, if not farther.

Some are buying flour at \$14 per barrel, four barrels at \$56, give a lien on corn crop at 45 cents, 125 bushels at \$56.25 cents—can you raise your children at that; you would eat the flour in two or three months. All else you buy on time, is merely in the same proportion.

We let the world cheat us out of a large portion of our hard earnings, and then we go into Messrs. Chamberlain & Co.'s tax press, and they get the last cent.

My tax receipts just before the war, from John Bowen, Hon. J. C. and Cery, show that I paid from \$20 to \$30 per year. Then I paid on my lands and twenty slaves, the

slaves were worth, say \$400 per head, \$8,000. Now my tax receipts on the same lands, less the \$8,000, are from \$125 to \$140. What is the matter?

A thinly settled and poor State like ours can't pay the salaries that the thickly settled and wealthy North pay, some of their counties have more wealth than our State.

We are indebted to Governors Scott, Chamberlain and their ilk for these blessings.

Men who have property can't keep it, and of course those who have it not can't have it, for it is consumed as fast as made. The taxes of this State, has gone up from one half million before the war, to two millions since, with one third of the property destroyed by the war, and this vast amount of money is not paying the current expenses. This is the worst feature: there is a tremendous debt accumulating over us, and no home-stead against taxes. The State debt at the close of the war was five million, and now it is twenty millions. Ought not the salaries to be fixed according to the price of produce not let the farmer be the only sufferer by the depression in prices. Every citizen feels that he is in a life and death struggle. You need not expect your neighbor to deal liberally with you, he feels that his government is starving him and his children, and he is driven to starve his fellow-man—self preservation is the first law of nature.

There is some \$35,000 paid the School Commissioners in the State; this work ought not to cost a cent. Some of the States pay them nothing. Texas for one. Our Legislators get \$600 a year to order Massachusetts laws printed for us, is the labor worth the hire? How many farm hands would it take to clear that in twelve months? Let all understand distinctly that in the coming elections, there is nothing against the black man because he is black, nor against the Northern man because of his country, but simply a struggle for an honest and economical government. To say it was a tight agains thieves would not be much too hard a term for the occasion. And every one who has the soul of man in him ought to work for his State in this the hour of her need. For God's sake throw aside for once that party prejudice that has blinded you as blind as bats, and save your State. If you will not do it, you are as false as hell to your selves, your children, and your God.

Yes, let all unite once and work for that which will redound to the greatest good, and to the greatest number; this platform is broad enough for all colors and parties, and a field wide enough to dispiy all that is "noble in man or sublime in religion."

Colored men, you need not fear General Hampton, he is the first Southern man of any note who spoke publicly in favor of you voting. Besides you know he is the soul of truth and honor. He pledges you to have a nine months school too, if he is elected, now you frequently have none. All our nominees are noble gentlemen, who are as true to their words and country as that Governor Chamberlain has failed to control his party, if he ever wanted to; why try him again. If there is not better men in this State, than has ruled it for the last eight years, it is time Gabriel was blowing his trumpet.

I honestly believe that the people will be in open war against the State authorities in less than two years without a change, men will fight before they will be starved. And a starving man is to be dreaded too. The children of this country will be crying for bread in less than twelve months without a change. Don't starve your children to a grandise a few thieves.

Man is the architect of his own fortune, and if we are worthy a better government we can have it, and all who are not worthy had better stand from under.

The most of the evils that have befallen us are within our power to remove; then be up and doing, all that have the soul of men in you. I pity the wretch, who has no love of country in his heart—cherish this principle, it will command the respect of all men, and is worth handing down to posterity. I have been a little tedious, but how can a man stop, when he sees all on the eve of ruin? Yes, it seems that the occasion is sufficient to make the very stones grow eloquent and even aware.

Let us adopt the motto of the Great Jefferson, that "resistance to tyrants is obedience to God," with this addition, so is resistance to thieves.

As I am a seeker of information on these points, I would thank some friend to set me right if my notions are wrong.

ENQUIRER.

Address to the People of South Carolina

ROOMS STATE DEM. EX. COMMITTEE.

Columbia, S. C., Oct. 18, 1876.

To the People of the State of South Carolina who desire honest government, without regard to political party or race:

His Excellency the President of the United States did, on the 17th day of this month, issue a proclamation whereby he commanded "all persons engaged in unlawful and insurrectionary proceedings to disperse and retire peaceably to their respective abodes within three days from this date, and hereafter abstain from said combinations, and submit themselves to the laws and constituted authorities of said State."

This proclamation is based upon the statements made by Daniel H. Chamberlain, the Governor of this State; which statements are aimed exclusively against his political opponents, and are proven to be untrue by the testimony of every Judge in the State, every Trial Justice or other officer, of the law from whom response has been obtained. Every resident of the State knows them to be untrue. Every Republican of character or intelligence, or who is not in office or seeking office, and many who are in office in the State have expressed horror and disgust at the course which the Governor has pursued.

We say this much for our vindication. Never has a people suffered more by dishonor of office and dishonesty of officers. Never has such bald untruth been used for the support of a movement which shakes the pillars upon which rest the constitutional temple of a mighty people. Our State is but a petty portion of the Union, but we call upon our sister States of the North to remember that the experiment now being made for "the denomination of our elections by the bayonet and by soldiers as the irresistible instrument of a revolutionary local despotism," if successful, will become the precedent before which the whole fabric of American liberty will fall, and will be applied to other States just as soon as party exigencies require it.

We make this declaration of our innocence not in disrespect of the President of the United States, but as an act of justice to ourselves as American citizens, and to put our case upon the record for an impartial trial before the great national tribunal. We bow in perfect submission to the proclamation of his Excellency the President, and exhort our fellow citizens whom we represent in the present canvass to yield full and entire obedience to every command of the said proclamation.

We know that the clubs called "rifle clubs" are associations formed for home protections; that they are

not combinations as charged by the Governor of this State; that there are but few that have arms or ammunition; that those which have been equipped were so done with the sanction and sometimes with the aid of the Governor, and have been recognized by him as useful and appropriate bodies, and not one of them has been accused of disorder.

We know that their necessity was occasioned by the reckless distribution of arms and ammunition among the colored people by the State officials; and we further know that our white fellow citizens were, on the 16th day of this month, massacred at a peaceful political assemblage, where (by agreement with C. C. Bowen, Republican Chairman for Charleston County, and Sheriff of the said County, and present at the meeting, and first Presidential Elector for the State at large on the Republican ticket) they went without arms to meet the colored race—the voters of the so-called Republican party in this State—who were likewise, by Mr. Bowen's agreement, bound to be without arms; and we know that the politicians who are the authors of all our evils are teaching among the colored race the use of the rifle and the torch; we know that our homes are in peril, and that our women and children are exposed to the horrors of ruthless butchery and barbarity; but nevertheless, we advise and command, so far as our authority goes, that every such "rifle club" against which the misrepresentations of the Governor of the State are aimed be forthwith disbanded, and that the members thereof be held in future only by those ties of humanity which bind all good men together; that the name of the club be abandoned, and the officers cease to exercise their powers. This is said with the express declaration that these clubs are not associated with or subject to our political control.

We repeat that we speak without disrespect to the President of the United States. He acts upon the statements made by the Governor of this State. But we say it that we may show our unwillingness to obey without committing an untruth against ourselves by seeming to acknowledge that of which we are not guilty.

We are not engaged in "unlawful and insurrectionary proceedings." We cannot "disperse," because we are not gathered together. We cannot "retire peaceably to our abodes," because we are in our homes in peace, disturbed alone by the political agitations created by the Governor and his minions.

But we resignedly—and cheerfully in performance of our duty—suspend the exercise of our individual and private rights to prevent evil to the whole people.

Relying upon the universal sense of right, and appealing to the Almighty to sustain us, we exhort our people to the continuance of submission to the authorities of the government feeling assured that time and patience will work our deliverance.

Remember that the campaign is now a short one, and all signs hopeful that the 7th day of November next will witness the full and complete vindication of our cause through the peaceful instrumentality of the ballot box.

A. C. HASKELL, Chairman.
T. B. FRASER,
J. D. KENNEDY,
JOHN BRATTON,
JAMES A. HOYT,
RICHARD O'NEALE, JR.,
J. ADGER SMITH.

A QUESTION.—If all the white citizens of South Carolina were Republicans and all the colored citizens Democrats, does any one believe that President Grant's proclamation would have been issued?—New York Herald.

The President's Proclamation.

We urge the Democrats of South Carolina to the utmost self-restraint, to absolute peace and non-resistance, no matter under what provocation. The real situation in South Carolina begins to be understood in the North and the language of the President's proclamation will not change opinion here. It is very well understood by the people who care to know that there is no insurrection in the State, no "domestic violence," no "combinations against law," no disorder whatever which the Governor, if he chose to do so, could not easily and summarily put down. What effort has Governor Chamberlain made to put down "insurrection" or "domestic violence?" None at all. If such a state of things has existed as General Grant is made in his proclamation to pretend, the Governor has had abundant time to call the Legislature together; but he has not done so. He should have called out the State militia, but he has not done so. In short there are no proofs of the existence of an "insurrection" in South Carolina or of "domestic violence," or of any effort of the Governor to find or suppress either.

There is a good deal of vague talk of "rifle clubs." Suppose Governor Tilden should enroll all the roughs and all the illiterate and ignorant population of the State, and none others, in the militia; should arm them with State arms; and suppose then, in the midst of an exciting political campaign, he should suddenly order all the remainder of the citizens—the whole of the substantial and intelligent class—to disarm, and if they hesitated order wholesale arrests by Federal marshals and call on the President for troops—what would be said of such a proceeding? Yet that is precisely what Governor Chamberlain has done and what the President abets him in. Fortunately, so far the members of the "rifle clubs" have quietly submitted to arrest. In fact, the whole plan of the Democratic canvass necessitates peace and order on their side; and this is so certain and evident that the call of Chamberlain for troops has clearly no other object than the hope to stir up riot and violence. We trust that the Democrats will be on their guard and give not the least occasion by their own conduct for the success of this base scheme. And we again advise the colored men of South Carolina to vote for General Hampton. He has promised them equal justice, absolute security and fair play, and they may depend on his word.

The President's proclamation, made for no true cause, violating the clear and well understood facts in almost every paragraph, ordering the dispersion of an insurrection that does not exist, on pleas which are notoriously without foundation, and threatening to send to the State not only the regular army but the militia of the State, is surely too grave and dangerous an abuse of power to pass unnoticed by Northern voters. The clause of the constitution, under which the President shelters himself and Governor Chamberlain, evidently supposes the Governor of a State to have attempted to put down disorders before he is entitled to call for Federal help. It supposes the emergency to be so serious that he would call the Legislature together for consultation before he appeals to Washington, if possible; and for this Mr. Chamberlain has had abundance of time. It supposes at least actual and notorious illegal combinations too powerful for him to put down; but there is not the least proof of any combination whatever, except one of the respectable people of the State to defeat Governor Chamberlain at the polls. There can be no plea even of resistance on the part of the rifle

clubs, which are for the most part, if not entirely, legal and chartered organizations. Their members have submitted quietly to arrest, wherever they have been called on. The plain and disagreeable truth seems to be that the President of the United States has been led to abet Governor Chamberlain in an attempt to create a riot in South Carolina for the purpose of coercing the people to re-elect him.

It is impossible to believe that so serious and dangerous misuse of power for partisan purposes will go unnoticed by the voters of the Northern States. Such acts, unless they are promptly condemned by the people, become precedents; and if the people of the United States should by their neglect allow such a precedent as this to become established, it would hang as a menace over every election and would surely be misused in a manner to create general civil discord. No one pretends to doubt that the people of South Carolina have for many years suffered from public robbery and grave maladministration at the hands of men who used the ignorant negro vote to maintain themselves in power. At last there, as in Arkansas and in Alabama, even the negroes, or at least the more intelligent part of them, have become weary of misrule; at the same time, as in those other States, the Republican party has become divided, and one faction arrays itself against the party candidate. By this split the Democrats reasonably hope to profit and carry the State. They are using their utmost efforts to do so, and they deserve the sympathy of every opponent of bad government in the North. But in this emergency, when natural causes give the friends of honesty a chance, the Federal power is invoked, and successfully, to step in to save Governor Chamberlain from defeat which he deserves and which the public demands. Surely that is not free or constitutional government. What would the people of New York have said if, when Tweed and his ring were about to be overturned, these had been able to summon Federal troops and Federal marshals to help them, and had procured a Presidential proclamation ordering the opponents of the ring to disperse?—New York Herald.

THE YELLOW FEVER.—From the News we learn Savannah has been attacked by a second scourge, small pox—a loathsome disease to be dreaded equally with yellow fever. Those who escaped the yellow fever have still to dread the approach of the small pox. As yet, this disease is confined to the locality in Savannah known as Yamacraw, and the disease being contagious, that portion of the city is guarded to prevent any one from going to other parts of the town.

The progress of the yellow fever, as indicated by the mortuary report for the twenty four hours ending at 6 o'clock P. M. Tuesday, shows a slight decrease from the day previous the total interments from all causes of death being nineteen, of which thirteen were declared yellow fever cases.

Jay Gould's Tribune justifies the military interference with the South Carolina election on the ground that Chamberlain is a "genuine reformer," and needs the troops. Now, Chamberlain is a fraud, pure and simple, more dangerous even than the unmasked thieves with whom he has consorted in South Carolina to rob the State, as he now uses United States troops to try to overaw its vote. His reputation as a student at Yale College was bad among his classmates, and the lack of principle he so early exhibited has never been supplied.—New York Sun.