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HAMPTON AND TILDEN.

THE ATTACK OF "A TILDEN DEMOCRAT."

AUTHORITATIVE REPLY FROM COL. HASKELL.

GEN. MCGOWAN TO THE RESCUE.

Standards and Misrepresentations Exposed.

The annexed communication signed "A Tilden Democrat" appeared in the August *Chronicle and Sentinel* on the 10th inst.:

Editor *Chronicle and Sentinel*:

I have observed that the Northern Democratic press do not seem to know what to make of Judge T. J. Mackey's recent visit to the Republican candidate for the Presidency, and of the extraordinary communication which he bore from the legally elected President of the South Carolina State.

I have observed, also, that Southern journalists seem to be equally as much befogged on this subject as their brethren of the North, and that even South Carolina editors either do not know, or, else, have declined to give, the true solution of a mystery more apparent than reality.

Some newspapers have been swift to recognize the embassage, the ambassador and the document which he bore, as a mistake upon the part of Governor Hampton; Northern and Southern members of Congress, and Democratic politicians generally, have deplained the mistake, and the Democratic candidates have endeavored to weaken the chances of the inauguration of Tilden. They have said that it seemed an admission by a prominent Southern Democratic leader—one who had just fought and won a desperate battle in a State long considered hospitable to Republicanism—that the National Executive Committee had been deceived and that the Republican candidate was the legally elected President of the United States, and as such came at a most inopportune time and had done much mischief. The *Louisville Courier-Journal*, one of the leading Democratic papers of the West, whose editor is generally supposed to be high in the confidence of Governor Tilden, declares that the letter "felt like a wet blanket on the Democrats in Washington City." It says "General Hampton's Southern friends and admirers are deeply mortified at the step he has taken. The opinion of the best observers is that the letter is a gross error, and that the utterances, and so far from the prospect of a collision being lessened by letters like these, it is greatly increased. The Republicans are justly encouraged by these demonstrations," etc. The *New York World* has been equally outspoken and has deplained a mistake that was so injurious to the efforts of the Democracy. It said the letter "added to the demoralization of the Democrats," and that if Hampton could obtain the recognition of the State government he would not object to the inauguration of Hayes as the price of such recognition.

A LETTER THAT WAS NOT ANSWERED.

After this matter had been arranged and the Democracy had fairly commenced their canvass, a letter, which attracted the attention of the whole nation, still others occurred tending to breach between Hampton and Tilden. I learn that with a view of restoring that *entente cordiale* which should exist between the Democratic candidate for Governor of a State and the Democratic candidate for President of the United States, after Hampton wrote a letter to the latter, after his committee, assuring him of his hope of carrying the State. This letter received no reply, though common civility should have dictated an answer. I understand that Governor Tilden's explanation is that he was too busy to attend to the matter. This is scarcely a valid excuse, and that he had a regiment of clerks at his command. But this was not all. The Carolina Democrats were poor and needed money for campaign purposes. The State Democratic Executive Committee wrote to Hon. Abram S. Hewitt, Chairman of the National Executive Committee, reciting their necessities and asking for some assistance. Mr. Hewitt replied that he had no money to give them, and said, in effect, they must take care of themselves. These successive rebuffs, taken in connection with Tilden's opposition to Hampton's nomination, naturally enough irritated the latter, and almost rendered him morose. He made the Democratic Presidential nominee anything but a favorite with him. He can well wonder at his feelings when these facts are remembered?

TILDEN'S CANDIDACY NOT RECOGNIZED.

It is not astonishing, then, that in the campaign which General Hampton conducted himself to making votes for the State ticket, and let national politics and the candidacy of Governor Tilden severely alone. I am credibly informed that from the opening of the canvass at Anderson C. H. to its close in the city of Columbia, Hampton had scarcely a word to say on the subject of the nomination of Tilden to the Presidency, or of the candidacy of Tilden. In his Darlington speech, when he said he should vote for Tilden, he also complimented Hayes, and said he accorded to the latter all the capacity and patriotic worth attributed to him by his most ardent supporters. Hampton invariably took the position that he stood on a platform higher than the platform of the other candidates, and that he would not deign to make the fight against Chamberlain. Another wing of the South Carolina Democracy were in favor of a straight-out campaign, but opposed to the nomination of General Hampton, because they did not believe him conservative enough to win the Presidency. They were said to be General John Bratton, General John D. Kennedy and Colonel Jas. H. Rice, and perhaps Colonel J. A. Hoyt. These gentlemen were all delegates to the St. Louis Convention

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THE COLUMBIA CONVENTION.

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I must ask permission, too, to say that your editorial gives a force to the letter which it itself has not, when you say: "We print this letter because it is written in such a way as to show its perfect good faith and because it is the opinion that it could carry the State, and applied for assistance—provided that he occurred in our opinion, and would regard this to be a true disposition of means for the benefit of the national party. He deemed it better that his assistance should be rendered directly to the party, than that it should be applied to upon our own resources. In fact, we pardoned persons much nearer home, who fancied, as Mr. Hewitt did, that our hopes transcended our prospects. His answer was not a rebuff. We made no appeal for charity, but submitted our demand solely upon the merits of the reply did not irritate General Hampton, was, by day and by night, canvassing the State with an energy and a prudence that has never been excelled; nor did it in anywise diminish his efforts, which were always brave and earnest in behalf of the National Democratic Presidential ticket. It is utterly untrue that in the campaign which General Hampton conducted himself to making votes for the State ticket, and let national politics and the candidacy of Governor Tilden severely alone." The evidence given to maintain this assertion is too puerile to notice.

"I am credibly informed that from the opening of the canvass at Anderson C. H., to its close in the city of Columbia, Hampton had scarcely a word to say on the subject of national politics, and almost refused to recognize the candidacy of Tilden. In his Darlington speech, when he said he should vote for Tilden, he also complimented Hayes, and said he accorded to the latter all the capacity and patriotic worth attributed to him by his most ardent supporters. Hampton invariably took the position that he stood on a platform higher than the platform of the other candidates, and that he would not deign to make the fight against Chamberlain. Another wing of the South Carolina Democracy were in favor of a straight-out campaign, but opposed to the nomination of General Hampton, because they did not believe him conservative enough to win the Presidency. They were said to be General John Bratton, General John D. Kennedy and Colonel Jas. H. Rice, and perhaps Colonel J. A. Hoyt. These gentlemen were all delegates to the St. Louis Convention

and the first named was chosen Chairman of the South Carolina delegation. At St. Louis the delegation met Colonel Pelton, a nephew of Governor Tilden, one of the active, though not the aggressive, of that party in the State. While in St. Louis it is understood that Carolina politics were fully discussed by the delegation with Colonel Pelton, and that the latter gentleman strongly advised against the nomination of General Hampton. He urged that some man of less prominence than Hampton should be selected as the candidate, and said that the nomination of Hampton would injure the party at the North. It was generally recognized that the candidacy of Hampton would be distasteful to Governor Tilden, because the latter feared it would work mischief to the National Democracy.

In the meantime General Gary and others had continued to urge the nomination of Hampton to the State ticket, and the close of the campaign, and everywhere spoke, from the platform occupied by the Democratic candidates, in advocacy of the election of Hayes and Wheeler and Hampton. Tilden and Hendricks seemed entirely forgotten, and the whole fight was made against Chamberlain. With this change there was also a change in the tactics employed. The most ultra conservatism was practiced. With the tacit repudiation of Tilden and Hendricks there was also a repudiation of the plan of campaign adopted. There was a more radical and aggressive policy, and a more conciliatory of Radicals and flattery of negro policy instead of the bold and aggressive policy inaugurated by the straight-out leaders, and thus a majority of ten or fifteen thousand votes was lost to Tilden in South Carolina, while the State ticket was only elected by a bare majority. Though the election of a tremendous opposition from within the Democratic party, and though their courage and skill had so much to do with redeeming the State, they claim to have been practically ignored by General Hampton when he selected the State Executive Committee. Three of his opponents were placed on this committee. Five out of six of these gentlemen failed to carry their own counties in the election, while the straight-outs carried Edgefield, Laurens, Abbeville, Barnwell, Aiken and Colleton by a large margin. Richmond, General Kenney's stronghold, went heavily against Hampton. It is safe to say that but for the fatal mistake made in this campaign—the desertion of Tilden and the surrender to Cooke and Mackey—the majority for the State and National ticket would have been too large to admit of investigation or question.

This is the lead of secret history given to me. The facts as stated render any mystery connected with Mackey's mission to Columbia and make his embassage the logical sequel of events. Names and dates are given with great particularity and so many witnesses are mentioned that, if any of the statements above given are untrue, it will be an easy matter to disprove them.

A TILDEN DEMOCRAT.

Col. A. C. Haskell's Letter.

COLUMBIA, S. C., Jan. 12, 1877.

Editor *Chronicle and Sentinel*:

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