

Col J. P. Gibson

Replies to Pollock

Fellow Citizens of South Carolina:

My attention has been directed to a vile, malicious, premeditated untruthful attack made on me last week by W. P. Pollock at the senatorial, campaign meetings held in Greenwood and Newberry and other places. Why should I be dragged into this senatorial campaign? I am not a candidate for any office, and had concluded not to actively become connected with politics, but it seems that it will be necessary for me to enter the race for the house representatives in order to vindicate my record and refute purposely concocted falsehoods directed at me, with the intention to damage and blacken my record and character. Why did Mr. Pollock make these statements about me in the up-country, where I am not so well known, and where Governor Blease is popular and his supporters are numerous? It was done for the purpose of injuring Governor Blease, attempting to create the impression that I had in 1880 made the race for the house of representatives on a Republican ticket and that I had affiliated with negroes, and that Governor Blease, knowing this, had appointed me a member of his military staff with the rank of colonel.

Now it will become necessary for me to review the incidents of that campaign, 34 years ago, when only two members of that ticket are living, Judge C. P. Townsend and myself. In 1876 I returned home from Trinity College, North Carolina, where I had been for three years. I was not 20 years of age; our county and State were dominated by Republicans and negro office-holders. True to the principles which my ancestors had always advocated, for their loyalty and devotion to Democracy and white supremacy have never



COL. J. P. GIBSON

been questioned, I then, before my majority, did as much in 1876 to redeem my county and State from negroism and alien tyranny as any young man in Marlboro county. I put on my Wade Hampton red shirt, and for two months previous to the election rode on horseback day and night, being associated with Messrs. W. D. Moore, J. F. David, the Drakes, Rogers and many others, who were as true and loyal as any citizens of this State. On the day of election in 1876 with my red shirt on, with two large pistols in my belt, I, in company with W. D. Moore, came to Bennettsville before daylight, under the direction of Col. C. S. McCall, voted a handful of Hampton tickets in the Bennettsville box. We then rode to Brightsville, ten miles, where we again voted, returned to Bennettsville, reported to Col. C. S. McCall and in the afternoon went to Adamsville, eight miles, where I again voted, and W. D. Moore and I returned to Bennettsville at midnight and participated in the jubilation and glorification of our victory for white supremacy. In 1878 I did the same kind of work for Democracy that I had done in 1876. I was one of the managers of election at Adamsville and placed red shirts on negroes and had them vote the Wade Hampton ticket.

In 1880 I was still a young man; some of the best citizens of Marlboro county advised me to connect myself with white Independent Democratic ticket and promised their support. It may have been an unwise step, but I was honest and sincere. We had our own white Democratic ticket printed on white paper; this ticket contained the Democratic electors for Hancock and English, who were the candidates that year for president and vice president, also contained the State Democratic ticket and our Independent Democratic county ticket. Fortunately I have kept and preserved a copy of our platform of principles which we had published in July, 1880, and with your permission I will copy a few paragraphs from that pronouncement or address to the people of Marlboro county. It commenced as follows:

Fellow Citizens: The undersigned citizens and members of the Democratic party announce themselves as candidates for your suffrage at the approaching election. We have been nominated by no convention, manipulated by a few political wire-pullers, but have adopted the old time-honored mode by declaring ourselves candidates.

"In 1876 a united effort was made by the white people of the State to free themselves from Radical rule. Under the leadership of the pure and patriotic Hampton, and after a heroic political campaign, the deliverance was achieved from the manifold evils consequent upon the ascendancy for years of a corrupt political party.

"In 1878, under the leadership and with still more heroic efforts; the same party was overwhelmingly defeated and the ascendancy of the white people securely established. We are opposed to the restoration of Radical rule in this county and State."

This address was signed by the following white Democratic candidates, members of the Independent ticket:

Judge C. P. Townsend, J. P. Gibson, for the legislature.
Capt. Frank Manning, for clerk of court.
A. G. Johnson, for sheriff.
R. H. McKinnon, for school commissioner.
Major J. C. Dunbar, Dr. M. C. Wallace, J. F. Grant, for county commissioners.
Major W. A. Rogers, for probate judge.
Dr. H. R. Easterling, for coroner.

Now, my friends, does this sound like appealing to the negro, for these candidates were property owners and taxpayers and were gentlemen of recognized integrity? Now I will explain the existence of the "calico checked back ticket," which was sent to Mr. Pollock from this county, and which is being exhibited by him in the upper part of the State. That "checked back ticket" was not our ticket. If I had to go into judgment this moment, I did not know anything about the existence of that Republican ticket, with our names on it, until I went to Brightsville on the day of election. Mr. D. D. McCall was my personal friend as long as he lived, and he was the father of the present Democratic chairman of this county. He told me after the election in 1880 that he and other white Republicans in this county had advised the Republicans to place our names on their tickets. My name was placed there without my consent or knowledge, and any intimation or declaration that I have ever catered to or affiliated with the negroes or Republican party is an absolute lie as black as perdition. Mr. Pollock certainly knew the above facts, and his perversion of truth and misrepresentation is vile, damnable and most reprehensible. I doubt that Governor Blease knew that I was a candidate in 1880; he did know, however, before he commissioned me as a member of his staff that the white Democrats of Marlboro county county had, for six years elected me to represent them in the house of representatives, and he knew that I made a valuable and faithful member. It seems that many of the newspapers and extreme anti-administration men are industriously exerting themselves to vilify and misrepresent Governor Blease and his friends. They are welcome to all they will get out of this dastardly and untruthful attack on me.

After I spoke at Smithville during the campaign in 1880 Dr. Bouchier shook

hands with me and said that I had made one of the best Democratic speeches he had ever heard. Capt. J. N. Drake was not in sympathy with our movement, but he will say today that he heard me declare on the stump during that campaign that I was not a leader of the Republican party; that I was a white Democrat, and if the Republicans put out a county ticket, that I would withdraw from the campaign and do all I could to elect the convention candidates. Ten years after this I wrote a column and a half editorial against Haskellism and advised our people not to support the Haskell ticket, and some of that same crowd who voted the Haskell negro ticket are uttering vile falsehoods and misrepresentations about me. I dislike to be forced to dig up the past record of 34 years ago, for these gentlemen have long since passed over the river and are not here to speak for themselves, but so long as I am able to raise my voice or use my pen I will endeavor to silence the calumniators and dirty falsifiers against the good names and exalted characters of my friends. Why did not Mr. Pollock mention the name of his own uncle, Dr. H. R. Satterling, who was on that ticket a candidate for coroner? Dr. Easterling lived to be 85 years of age, a graduate of an American medical college and a post graduate in a Paris medical institution, a Christian gentleman, and had more honor and real integrity of character in one hour of his long honorable life than W. P. Pollock is capable of enjoying should he live a thousand years.

From 1883 to 1889, six years, I lived in North Carolina, where I made speeches in behalf of Governor Thos. M. Holt, and I was placed in nomination in a Richmond county Democratic convention for the office of register of deeds. I attended as delegate a Democratic congressional convention, held in Wadesboro, N. C., and all night voted for my friend, the Hon. Jas. T. LeGrand, of Rockington, but the Hon. Alfred Rowland, of Lumberton, received the nomination and was elected.

In January 1889 I returned to Marlboro county and located in Bennettsville. In 1889 I returned to Marlboro county and located in Bennettsville. I became editor of the Pee Dee Alliance, later becoming sole owner, where I have resided ever since and during the 26 years have been connected with newspaper work. I have always been foremost in the advocacy of every industrial proposition, having for its aim and object the betterment, development and upbuilding of my county and State. While I do not claim to be an angel, yet I defy refutation, to the assertion, that at all times I have ever been on the right side of every moral and industrial question that has been agitated in my county. In 1904, again in 1906 and in 1908 I was elected by the Democrats of Marlboro county to the house of representatives, and for six years I endeavored to honestly and faithfully represent my people and made a legislative record of which any man might justly be proud. I was then all right, a good Democrat, and enjoyed the esteem and confidence of our people. What is the matter? Why this sudden change and hellish attack on me? I am no worse now than I was then, why has Pollock opened his dirty cancerous mouth and belched forth his vile lying vituperation against me? Listen and I will tell you, Pollock was born and reared in Cheraw, 14 miles from my home, he is familiar with conditions in my county and he knows that the impression he is attempting to create is a slimy damnable lie. Pollock knew from the beginning that he would not receive one thousand votes in the State, but the impression prevails throughout the State, that he had been promised a judgeship or something else if he would succeed in aiding Senator Smith to defeat Governor Blease. Pollock and his kind would besmirch and forever damn the character and good names of every Bleaseite in South Carolina, if by so doing it would contribute in any way to the defeat of Governor Blease, for the United States senate. Our people are aroused and indignant at this uncalled for and unwarranted attack on me, and the result will be, that Marlboro county will give Governor Blease a majority—he will be triumphantly elected to the Senate and a Blease candidate will be elected governor. What did I do the next campaign after 1880? In 1882 I attended my township Democratic club in Adamsville, Hon. T. I. Rogers, then a young man was teaching school at Pine Grove, he made a speech. I was called on and responded with a few remarks. What did those "tried and true" Democrats of Adamsville township do? Did they regard me as a Republican, and as one having affiliated with negroes two years before? I was sent by the Democratic club, at that time, either as a delegate or alternate to the county convention, and during my entire life have labored as industriously and patriotically for Democracy and white supremacy, as any man in South Carolina. Any faction or party that will endorse and tolerate the contemptible methods employed by Pollock, deserves defeat, and a just God will visit His wrath and condemnation on the entire crowd.

I have just learned that some dirty hound and villian, an anti-Bleaseite, is secretly telling that I taught a negro school. Will my friends and relatives stand for these malicious and slanderous lies? What little character and reputation I have is all that I can leave to my sons and afflicted daughter, and I swear by the eternal heavens that I will die rather than submit to such outrages.

Respectfully,
J. Preston Gibson.

Bennettsville, S. C., July 16, 1914

Today, August 7th, at the senatorial campaign meeting in Bennettsville, before three thousand people, sixty-five per cent. of whom were Bleaseites, Governor Blease said the following: "If I have anything good or bad to say about a man, I always say it in the county where the man live." "Press Gibson needs no defense from me here where he was born and reared among his own home people. He was appointed, in 1910, magistrate by Governor Ansel and was confirmed by the State senator." "He was elected in 1904, 1906 and 1908 to the house of representatives by the white Democracy of Marlboro county. I served in the general assembly with him, he was an able and influential representative, he was praised and highly complimented by the newspapers of the State as the leader of the prohibition forces in the house of representatives." "Four years ago when I ran against Mr. Featherstone, Press Gibson came to me and said that he liked me better than he did Mr. Featherstone, but that Mr. Featherstone was advocating State wide prohibition, and that he (Gibson) had three times been elected on a State wide prohibition platform, therefore he would have to support Mr. Featherstone." "After you had honored and endorsed him, could I not appoint him to a lieutenant colonelcy on my military staff."

At the request and advice of many of my real true friends, I simply ignored Mr. Pollock and treated him with silent contempt during his speech here today, when he merely mentioned my name in connection with the Independent ticket in this county in the year 1880. He has not injured me here at home, and by his attack on me throughout the State, has made several thousand votes for Governor Blease.

The following is a copy of a statement made yesterday by E. J. Sawyer, who was the chairman of the Republican party in Marlboro county in 1880.

STATEMENT.

To whom it may concern: This is to certify that in 1880, I was chairman of the Union Republican party in Marlboro county, S. C. I remember distinctly the white Independent Democratic ticket in this county during that year. So far as I know Col. Gibson's relation to the county Republican ticket of 1880 is correctly stated in his reply to charges made by Mr. Pollock. I know that I had no talk or communication during the campaign of 1880 with Col. Gibson, in fact, I don't think that I knew him at that time.

We did not have suitable material in our party to fill the county offices, and it was through my advice and the influence of a few white Republicans, that the Independent Democratic county ticket of 1880 was adopted by the Republicans.

Respectfully,
E. J. Sawyer.

Bennettsville, S. C., August 6th, 1914.

Who is Pollock? Is he immaculate, with an unsullied record? Mr. Bright Williamson, of Darlington, the president of the Bank of Darlington, is a high toned cultured gentleman, whose integrity has never been questioned. He is a very strong anti-Bleaseite, but would vote for Blease before he would vote for Pollock. I charge that more than two years ago, that Mr. Williamson placed an account of more than one hundred dollars in Chesterfield county in Mr. Pollock hands for collection. Letters from Mr. Pollock to Mr. Williamson concerning this claim were very unsatisfactory, and Mr. Williamson was informed by the gentleman who owed the account, that he had settled the claim. Numerous demands were made on Mr. Pollock by Mr. Williamson for a remittance, without avail, and I further charge that Mr. Williamson obtained from the Bank in Chesterfield, a check made payable to W. P. Pollock, by the party who owed the claim, that the check bears the name of W. P. Pollock written across the back of said check, which was canceled and marked paid by the bank. I further charge, that up to a few days ago, Mr. Williamson had not received any money from Mr. Pollock.

Now this is the man, who is trotting over this State, abusing and vilifying Governor Blease, and attempting to blacken and besmirch the character of reputable gentlemen who see fit to support Governor Blease.

Respectfully,
J. Preston Gibson.

Bennettsville, S. C., August 7th, 1914.

COUNTY CAMPAIGN SCHEDULE.

Little Mountain—Thursday, August 13.
Young's Grove—Saturday, August 14.
Silverstreet—Tuesday, August 18.
Utopia—Wednesday, August 19.
Newberry—Saturday, August 22, 10 a. m.
Willowbrook Park—Saturday, August 22, 8 p. m.

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L. H. Senn,
J. O. Johnson,
Chappells, S. C.

ANNOUNCEMENTS.

FOR CONGRESS.

I hereby announce myself a candidate for Congress from the Third Congressional District, subject to the rules of the Democratic party.

John A. Horton,
Belton, S. C.

House of Representatives.

C. T. Wyche is hereby announced as candidate for the house of representatives and will abide the results of the Democratic primary.

Godfrey Harmon is hereby announced as a candidate for the legislature and will abide the result of the Democratic primary.

I hereby announce myself as a candidate for the House of Representatives, subject to the Democratic primary.

Neal W. Workman.

George S. Mower is hereby announced as a candidate for nomination for the House of Representatives in the approaching Democratic primary.

Joe B. Derrick is hereby announced as a candidate for the House of Representatives and will abide the result of the Democratic primary.

Dr. J. Wm. Folk is hereby announced as a candidate for the legislature and will abide the rules of the Democratic primary. Platform: Cooperation, education and lower taxes.

B. V. Chapman is hereby announced as a candidate for election to the House of Representatives, and pledges himself to abide the result of the Democratic primary.

Arthur Kibler is hereby announced as a candidate for the House of Representatives and will abide the result of the Democratic primary.

For Probate Judge.

C. C. Schumpert is hereby announced as a candidate for reelection as Probate Judge for Newberry county and will abide the results of the Democratic primary.

County Supervisor.

The many friends of D. C. Boland hereby announce him a candidate for County Supervisor and pledge him to abide the result of the Democratic primary.

I hereby announce myself a candidate for County Supervisor for Newberry and will abide the rules of the Democratic primary.

L. C. Livingstone.

I hereby announce myself as a candidate for Supervisor for Newberry county subject to the Democratic party

J. C. Sample.

I am a candidate for Supervisor, subject to the rules of the Democratic party.

J. H. Chappell.

I hereby announce myself a candidate for Supervisor of Newberry county and will abide by the Democratic primary.

Henry M. Booser.

The many friends of J. Monroe Wicker recognizing his ability and qualifications, we hereby nominate him for County Supervisor, subject to the Democratic primary.

Friends.

I am a candidate for the office of Supervisor of Newberry county subject to rules of the Democratic primary election.

L. I. Feagle.

I hereby announce myself a candidate for Supervisor of Newberry county and will abide the result of the Democratic primary.

Custis L. Leitzsey.

Magistrate Nos. 1 and 8.

Ben F. Mills is hereby announced as a candidate for Magistrate for Townships Nos. 1 and 8, subject to the rules of the Democratic primary.

I hereby announce myself a candidate for Magistrate for Townships Nos. 1 and 8 and will abide the result of the Democratic primary.

L. M. Player.

Charles W. Douglas is hereby announced as a candidate for Magistrate for Townships Nos. 1 and 8, subject to the rules of the Democratic primary.

E. L. Rodelpesberger is hereby announced as a candidate for Magistrate for Townships Nos. 1 and 8, subject to the rules of the Democratic primary.

Jacob L. Dickert is hereby announced as a candidate for Magistrate for townships Nos. 1 and 8 and will abide

the result of the Democratic primary.

Magistrate No. 2.

S. J. D. Price is hereby announced as a candidate for magistrate for No. 2 township and will abide the rules of the Democratic party.

Magistrate Township No. 3.

I hereby announce myself a candidate for Magistrate in Township No. 3, subject to the rules of the Democratic primary.

Jno. B. McCullum.

I announce myself a candidate for Magistrate for Township No. 3 and will abide the result of the Democratic primary.

W. D. Rutherford

Jos. H. Adams is hereby announced as a candidate for Magistrate for township No. 3 and will abide the result of the Democratic primary.

For Magistrate No. 4 Township.

R. M. Aughtry is hereby announced as a candidate for re-election for magistrate No. 4 township and will abide by the rules of the Democratic party.

For Magistrate No. 5.

Hix Connor is hereby announced as a candidate for Magistrate No. 5 township and will abide the result of the Democratic primary.

For Magistrate No. 6.

B. R. Guin is hereby announced for Magistrate of No. 6 township, subject to the Democratic primary.

For Magistrate No. 7 Township.

Mr. W. R. Reid is hereby announced as a candidate for magistrate for No. 7 township and will abide the result of the Democratic primary.

Magistrate No. 9.

S. L. Fellers is hereby announced as a candidate for nomination for Magistrate for No. 9 township in the approaching primary.

Friends.

G. W. Kinard is hereby announced as a candidate for nomination for the office of Magistrate in township No. 9 in the approaching primary election.

B. B. Hair is announced as a candidate for reelection as magistrate for No. 9 township and will abide the rules of the Democratic primary.

Magistrate No. 10.

J. A. Kinard is hereby announced as a candidate for Magistrate, Township No. 10, and will abide the result of the Democratic primary.

Magistrate No. 10.

J. J. Kibler is hereby announced as a candidate for Magistrate No. 10 township and will abide the result of the Democratic primary.

Magistrate No. 11.

H. H. Ruff is hereby announced as a candidate for reelection for magistrate of No. 11 township and will abide by the rules of the Democratic party.

W. B. Graham is hereby announced as a candidate for election for magistrate of No. 11 township and will abide by the rules of the Democratic party.

A Friend.

K. A. Kibler is hereby announced as a candidate for Magistrate for No. 11 township and will abide the result of the Democratic primary.

TEACHER WANTED

For Tranwood school. Salary \$40 per month. Term eight months. Send application to

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Charleston, S. C.

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