

# NEARLY FIGHT

## Brooker and Derham Get Belligerent.

### "LIE" PLAINLY SPOKEN BY DERHAM

Circular Issued By Brooker the Immediate Cause of the Difficulty—Trouble Occurred at the Edgefield Meeting—Friends Prevented An Encounter—Brooker's Circular Bore a Masonic Emblem.

#### The Candidates at Abbeville.

Abbeville, Special.—The Abbeville campaign meeting was quiet and orderly. It was unresponsive and tame. It would not enthuse. It barely thaed for Tillman. The first speech was that of Tillman, who had to go home on an early train. He was feeling unwell and tired and did not speak with customary vigor. He did not hold his usual hand primary because he did not wish to do so until Col. Hoyt spoke, he said, and when Col. Hoyt spoke he omitted the hand primary.

The general run of speeches were as usual; Gov. McSweeney coming in for a good installment of criticism for his course as to Charleston and Columbia. And Gov. McSweeney in turn insisted that this seemed the entire argument against his administration. The fight is now warm and seems to be narrowing down.

Mr. Frank B. Gary being at home, had all arrangements pleasantly made for the speaking and candidates.

After the gubernatorial candidates had spoken the crowd began to thin out materially, and the last speakers had a mere handful to talk to.

Senator Tillman was the first speaker. He said he was not altogether well. He would not have come here at all but for the fact that he did not like to give the county the go by. There is no county in the State that outstrips this in civilization and refinement. It is the only court house in the State where he was never subjected to harshness and where he was always well received. He had the sense of gratitude to a large extent, and that was his chief reason for being here. He then took up, as heretofore, why he had come here. He wished to emphasize that he was here as a public servant, and then took up the preachers and said it was an unexpected incident and one not of his seeking or desire.

#### At Greenwood.

Greenwood, Special.—There was nothing unusual in the campaign meeting. Col. Hoyt called down Mr. Patterson for what he claimed to be persistent misrepresentation of his position.

W. D. Evans took a bold dash and waded right into Maj. B. B. Evans and Mr. Wharton, and there was a sharp colloquy between the two Evanses.

Mr. James H. Tillman was absent because of the death of his father-in-law, Mr. A. J. Norris.

Tillman made his usual speech.

Whitman pitched into McSweeney for failure to enforce the law.

Gary reiterated his views on the dispensary.

McSweeney stood by his record.

Patterson went for Col. Hoyt as usual.

The meeting was long, hot, and tedious, with nothing new to add interest or break the monotony.

#### Meeting at Aiken.

Aiken, Special.—This has been a thoroughly prosaic meeting. No one got excited. There was no "jawing back" from candidates or audience. There were no fights nor the symptoms of any scraps. It was a tame and well-mannered meeting. The audience, 600 to 800, sat and listened.

Dr. Timmerman and Capt. Jennings had their friendly boats and paid each other compliments.

Mr. Brooker and Mr. Derham spoke more pleasantly. Mr. Brooker has compiled his 19 charges and Mr. Derham said he had tried to get them since June and would reply in detail. Mr. Brooker regretted having made any personal allusions, if he had done so, but had said nothing improper that he knew of and Mr. Derham said he confined himself to the records and had nothing to apologize for. Mr. Brooker said he reiterated his charges and would only stick to the record. Mr. Derham and Mr. Brooker differed as to the law as to the duty of the comptroller in making settlements.

Mr. Ellison Capers, Jr., though, his being the head of a family, his opponent being a bachelor and his experience in county schools better fitted him for the office. He could concede to McMahan that he was honest and earnest, but still he could urge that his administration had been a failure because of his views and friction. He jumped on McMahan's one man power, alleging that he ignored all county officers.

Mr. McMahan insisted that he was not a self-seeker and in the performance of duty he did not fear making enemies. He claimed as a student and worker he was familiar with the needs of the State. He knew something of the country schools from actual con-

tact with them. He had appreciation from all sides of the work already done. Mr. McMahan said Capers approved his county superintendents bill and Mr. Capers said this was a mistake. Capers, he said, was running for advertising purposes. McMahan joked Capers for defeating a paralytic opponent in Richland and Capers said he would paralyze McMahan on election day.

Gen. Floyd thanked Aiken for the fine vote given him two years ago. He wanted a comparison of the record of the office as conducted by the veterans and that of the younger men since 1876.

Capt. Rouse said he had pitched his campaign on a high plane and would continue to do so, and spoke of the ambition of young men.

Mr. J. H. Wharton said freight rates had increased on the South Carolina and Georgia division since the purchase by the Southern. He said it costs more to ship cotton 32 miles in South Carolina than 60 miles in Georgia, quoting the rate from McCorkle.

He never thought railroads were chartered with the right to passing stations without stopping for passengers. He wanted sheds or stations built at every place where freight is delivered.

Barnard B. Evans first took up the rate from Aiken to Charleston. This has been denied and he wanted the proof published that the rates had been increased.

	1898.	1900
Rate from New York to Aiken on sugar	24	36
Rate New York to Augusta on sugar	26	27
Rate from Charleston to Aiken on commodities	51	53

The increases on this line he held were from 10 to 300 per cent. He then took up the North Carolina and South Carolina comparative local rates and insisted that the North Carolina local rate was lower and that W. D. Evans had made misstatements on these rates. The board could not deny the figures he gave. Here he has a magnificent station for northern people, and at Warrenton he has a station shoved up. They have a regular \$2 shanty there. Aiken has been put in the same class with Bath and Graniteville, which was not fair to Aiken's wholesale dealers. The merchants here had to force the railroads to reduce any rates. The Cumberland Gap road misses connections regardless of the public and this should be stopped. W. D. Evans, he said, had denied there was any increase in the rates to and from Aiken and on the South Carolina and Georgia railroad, but he had the records to prove the increased rates he charged and he would do so.

Mr. Thos. N. Berry spoke of his special business qualifications and wanted to be elected as a business man for a business office.

J. E. Pettigrew said he would do as much as any one man could and he would always be found struggling in the interests of the people.

W. D. Mayfield said it would not be long before all the small roads are gobbled up by the larger ones. Congress is now controlled by railroads and it will be well to see that this legislature is not so controlled. The low rate on cotton seed has brought cotton seed mills. A low rate on furniture will bring more such factories. The bleaching was established here because of the water and not the rates. The cotton rates to the South Carolina ports bottled up these ports and the rates forces South Carolina cotton from this section to Savannah and Wilmington. Until the wholesale dealers here are given rates they cannot compete.

W. D. Evans said he wanted to be judged on his record and has served the people honestly and faithfully no matter what was said. Then he took up the reduction on fertilizers, wood and cotton. The Piedmont mills prefer not to buy cotton here but prefer to buy cheaper cotton in Alabama where it is more plentiful and cheaper. He took up the reductions in live stock, wheat and tobacco. B. B. Evans did not deal in personalities when he came after him and then he took up the insurance placed by B. B. in alleged "begun" companies, and that the losses under the B. B. Evans policies were never paid. If the rates were so bad why is there so much prosperity? He expected over in Georgia some demagogue is also talking about rates as here. He was willing for past records to be considered.

Aiken under the manipulation of L. A. Emerson was given the same rate as Augusta, Blackville and Denmark and other places clamored for the same rate and the old rate had to be restored. Aiken now has a rate based on mileage and is alike for all towns and cities and Aiken was on a par with all other places.

Senator Tillman was then graciously presented by State Senator Henderson. Senator Tillman first took up the charge of "boeism" and why he was in this campaign. He had sense enough to know any attempt from him to "boes" would be resented. Hampton came here years ago in entirely different circumstances and he charged here that you wanted a repeal of the Mahone campaign and such things. Common consent then said Hampton was to be returned to the senate and he was no candidate, and Tillman was here as a candidate under the orders of the State committee. There would have been half a dozen candidates and anyone felt there was a show for them. The prohibitionists have started to draw factional lines. He asked whether he was expected to accept the

bribe of universal support, to keep his mouth shut and not do his duty. Why then did they attack him and utter slanders against him, he asked.

Then he took up the election of 1892, which was not conclusive for prohibition, he argued, and the dispensary has been endowed five times. Then he gave the history of how the dispensary was agreed upon.

He reiterated the "alliance" statement and incidentally said he heard there were no "blind-tigers," here but he did not know whether it was so.

Then he took up the preachers and said he was not afraid of them. It was the truth that hurt them. As long as he told the truth he was indifferent as to who it hit.

There were no fly specks on Col. Hoyt, and he had absolutely no candidate or favorite, but he was defending his administration and the dispensary.

Then he jumped the Rev. W. R. Richardson and his sermon, and then said way be needed no machine. Fifteen or twenty thousand would scratch him if Gonzales could muster them, but he would rather be scratched than muzzled.

He then took up the advantages of the dispensary.

He insisted on voters standing for principle and not friendship or admiration.

He was thankful that party lines were very nearly obliterated.

Senator Tillman did not speak as long as usual, and held no hand primary.

G. Walt Whitman alleged that Tillman stole his whole speech and then he fell into poetry on liquor, etc. He joked about his opponents. Suppose Col. Hoyt were elected, which would be a miracle. It would be a victory in getting the job, but it would be no victory for anyone. Even Tillman, the great mogul, does not tell you the whole thing, but the fight is against the reform party and the dispensary is the mark for the fight. He told of his experience with a drink of beer on the Isle of Palms, which he said he got on Sunday. The liquor people have more judgment and sense than the prohibitionists.

Mr. Frank B. Gary took up a connected argument against prohibition and then he took up the non-enforcement of the dispensary law and urged that this non-enforcement was the reason of all the opposition to the incumbent. No one dared say he was opposed to the dispensary and indeed Senator Tillman, at Greenwood, argued in favor of the same policy he advocates; that is a county may have prohibition or dispensary as it sees best. He then took up the advantages of the present system and distribution of profits. He spoke of the necessity of textile education and he would favor it and was glad he had made every one take up the argument for liberal appropriations for veterans. He discussed his right to make the race and wanted the strictest test applied to him. He said the opposition must be in desperate straits when it harped on his being a Gary.

A. Howard Patterson took up the proposed prohibition platform and insisted that men would love and drink liquor as long as they love women and that would be for all time. Col. Hoyt's platform was chock full of politics. He then took up the "coalition" editorial of Col. Hoyt and said if he was willing for coalition and compromise then why not now? Prohibition, he thought, would not last over a year, at least that is what Gonzales thought. Hoyt would leave on his tombstone: "Killed by N. G. Gonzales."

Then he took up the charge that the enforcement of the dispensary in Charleston and Columbia was a farce. The reason he did not talk about other counties was because they did not need attention like Charleston and Columbia and they enforced the law, he censured McSweeney for turning over the prosecutions in Charleston to the police, who were the enemies of the law. He insisted that any man who got Charleston's vote could not enforce the dispensary law. It was late in the day for Gary to talk about the old soldiers. He never offered a bill to increase the pensions in ten years. Then he took up the Gary family in politics and office and said they were too many birds for one nest.

Governor McSweeney spoke of his pleasure at being here and wished to give a full and free account of his every act. The dispensary law is better enforced and has more friends than ever, and this he felt came from his business administration. He explained why he reduced the force and had the records to show how well the law was enforced. The people of the State are getting behind the law. He explained the Charleston situation. He did not believe there was a sane man who expected him to nose around and hunt up tigers and he would not do so. He could not regulate the grand juries. Under previous administrations the custom house was used as a contraband storehouse and he and the constables broke it up. All knew that he was the man to beat. The people, he felt, appreciated a business administration and not a political humbug. He was proud of his record for peace and good will. He took up the Pons case and his removal of the magistrates in Bamberg. He also took up the pensions for veterans and said the veterans of Anderson had endorsed him for his message and support of the veterans. Cole L. Bleasie thought it a pity that the educational issue was not the over-shadowing issue of this campaign, instead of the whiskey question, and spoke of the importance of looking after educational matters.

Mr. C. L. Winkler said he was in favor of the dispensary and had also favored the appropriation of \$100,000 for the Confederate soldiers. He closed his short speech with a sketch of himself, showing his fitness for the position he aspired to.

Col. John T. Sloan followed. He thought he was competent to fill the position to which he aspired. He had held the position of State Senator from Richland county, was a member of the constitutional convention and he felt competent to undertake the responsible position of lieutenant governor. He referred to his efforts in behalf of Clemson and Winthrop colleges, which he was proud of.

Col. James H. Tillman criticised his opponents in turn and claimed that no one measured up to his standard of what a candidate for lieutenant governor should be. He alone could fill the bill. He said that he did not claim to be of superior ability to any of them, but the supreme court of the State would show that he was as good a lawyer. He had been a friend of the factory operatives and was opposed to prohibition.

Col. Knox Livingston said he aspired to one of the highest and most important offices in South Carolina, and referring to himself taught he was qualified to fill the office. Touching upon the chief issue of the day he said, in echoing the sentiment of his county on the subject, he had always voted for prohibition.

Col. Hoyt said that through no fault of his he had missed the train, but would not attempt to make his accustomed speech. He supposed he had been well advertised by the speakers who had preceded him. He then referred to Tillman's injecting himself into this family quarrel.

Voice—Hurrah for Tillman.  
Hoyt—I say hurrah too, but hurrah for Tillman as a candidate for the United States Senate.

He did not agree with Tillman that this liquor question had been properly settled by the people of South Carolina. He thought the dispensary morally wrong and politically unwise; referred to the election of 1892, when a separate box had been placed at the polls for prohibition votes.

Col. Hoyt, on account of being a late arrival, condensed his speech, especially as the crowd had very much thinned out before he arrived.

#### Edgefield Meeting—Almost a Fight.

Edgefield, Special.—There was another scene here in this great educational campaign. The campaigners were on historic grounds and the meeting was held on the public square. There was no actual clash but the participants no doubt felt very much like it and would no doubt now feel very much better had they been allowed to embrace each other and scrap it out. For days and days the question has been whether Derham and Brooker have fought it out. They have not yet done so, but they talked it out and the unqualified "lie" was passed. There was a little tempest and everyone thought there would have to be an encounter but the approximation will no doubt answer as it ought.

Everyone who has been reading the accounts knows that there has been friction between Mr. Derham and Mr. Brooker and that they have been throwing rocks at each other in each other's estimation. Mr. Derham insists that Brooker started the mud-slinging by dragging his father and his reputation into the contest and Mr. Brooker claims that Mr. Derham started the racket by publishing a card in which he spoke of his "pocketing" sinking funds and overdrawn his accounts. So they have been going from stump to stump. At a previous meeting they assumed a fighting posture and here it took half a dozen on the stand to stop a genuine encounter.

At Aiken Mr. Brooker said he would no longer indulge in personalities and all things quiet. He had nothing to apologize for but regretted having said anything uncalled-for but would not admit saying anything uncalled.

At Aiken it was a pleasant cross-fire but here it broke loose in good style. After the Aiken meeting Mr. Derham was handed a copy of a circular letter which he supposed had been given general circulation. Mr. Derham was the first speaker and when he got up he was trembling all over and he had the offending circular folded in his hand. Mr. Derham in starting out in his speech said he wished first to say something about himself and then told that he was born in 1861 and how he was elected county superintendent, State Senator, member of the constitutional convention and to other places, continuously since 1888. This was to show the confidence of his people in him and then he related the story of his father, being a one-armed man and coming here from Ireland and turning over his funds to Hampton and that he was not responsible for his father, but had himself always been a Democrat.

Then opening the folded circular he said Mr. Brooker had promised not to indulge in personalities yet here was a circular that had been handed him. In the corner of the circular was the Masonic emblem, by what authority he did not know. He did not care to read the whole circular, as he was too much wrought up, but just wanted to read this one paragraph, and then read the following from the circular:

MASONIC EMBLEM  
in corner.

To Democratic Voters.  
Norton W. Brooker, Candidate for Comptroller General.

Two paragraphs omitted.

Who is this man J. P. Derham who

would now try to drag me down and ask to be continued in the highest office of the State? The people who have been deceived and defrauded by him have just right to know. He was arm in arm with the negro against the white people in the dark days. As a matter of record (see State treasurer's office) his father, J. H. Derham, not a native of South Carolina happened here and was appointed treasurer of Horry county by Robt. K. Scott, governor, Jan. 7th, 1869, and served under Scott, Moses and Chamberlain until kicked out by Governor Hampton in 1876.

Three paragraphs omitted.

(Signed) Norton W. Brooker.

After reading the paragraph quoted Mr. Derham turned on Mr. Brooker, sitting near by, and cried out: "It is a slander; it is a lie; I say it is a lie." Mr. Brooker, who was sitting near by, jumped up, stepping forward and said "Now, sir." He said nothing more, but the evidences were he was making for Mr. Derham, but as he took one step forward Senator Tillman caught him on one shoulder and Mr. Wharton on the other and pressed him down. A dozen men rushed upon the stand and Chairman Rainsford told everyone to be quiet and sit down. Four or five out in the crowd cried for "Derham," and "Go it, Derham." "Let him fight it out," and the like.

Senator Sheppard was the first to speak and he said that it was always characteristic of Edgefield people to show fair play and he hoped such would be the case now and he begged everyone to sit down and listen. Then Mr. Derham went on to say his heart was too full to speak and then he broke down and began to cry and tears trickled down his cheeks. Turning around

he said he thanked God he had never dealt in such stench and filth as this man. He wanted to tell these people and the people of the State he had been a faithful servant of the people and would slander no one and then he took his seat. Many went up and shook Derham's hand at what he had said or to restore his feelings or heart for he was still nervous and showed his feeling.

Mr. Brooker was then presented and stepping up to the table was as quiet and collected as a man can be. He said he was calm and deliberate, but he need not have said that, and then he entered into his usual argument, that Derham had absented himself from his office beyond excuse, that the tax books throughout the State, in many instances were in a mess; that he had been stopped more by Derham than any one else in prosecuting his expert work in collecting back taxes and then he went on to say he never courted a fight; that he was not a belligerent man, but that he would fight if necessary and never ran from trouble, but he wanted it understood for once and for all time that he was not to be intimidated by Mr. Derham or any one else.

On twenty-one stands he said that he had called Mr. Derham a gentleman, and so regarded him, but Derham had published a card about him which he denounced as a slander. In that card he was charged with "pocketing" \$86.46 and overdrawn his account. This was not true and at Greenville he denounced the card and these statements as slanders and false and this was, he urged, the starting point of the trouble. Had Derham not published this vile slander he would never had said anything about him. As to the circular, it was prepared under the heat of the campaign, but after thinking about the matter he had withdrawn the circular and not given it circulation.

Mr. Brooker said he had nothing to apologize for, but was sorry if he had hurt any one's feelings. He insisted that he had confined himself to the records. If Derham was not satisfied let him say so here or elsewhere and he would try and satisfy him. He said he thought he and Derham were about even as he had at Yorkville denounced the newspaper card of Derham and if Derham was satisfied it was all right. Mr. Brooker's time was then up and no further time to say anything more.

Mr. Derham said nothing further and after the speaking he soon afterwards had left the stand.

There was nothing further said or done about the matter and the hope is, and the appearances are that the storm has blown over.

Mr. Derham seems to have said about all he wanted and Mr. Brooker said things are about even and quits.

The speeches of the other candidates were of the customary variety, and failed to create any excitement.

#### High-Priced Eggs.

Two specimens of the egg of the Great Auk were recently sold in a London auction room, and brought \$1,675 and \$650 respectively, says Nature. The more important of the two eggs is an unrecorded one from a French collection, and is described as the finest specimen known of a special type of marking. The price just obtained for it establishes a record, \$1,600 having been, until this sale, the highest amount ever received. About seventy-five eggs of the Great Auk are known to be in existence.

The Great Fowl, or Great Auk, was a bird about the size of the domestic goose, but with abnormally small wings, formerly abundant in Newfoundland, and is a visitor to Iceland and to some of the Scottish Isles. It is now extinct, the last specimen probably having been hunted down for museums about sixty years ago.