

THE WATCHMAN AND SOUTHERN

The Watchman and Southern

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 18.

The Farmers in Politics.

From accounts we get, the organized farmers of the State are already getting into deep water in State politics and redeveloping among themselves a fight on the lines upon which the Democrats of the State have all along been divided. General Johnson Hagood is, we are told, being put forward by the conservative element while B. R. Tillman is being backed by the more aggressive—and perhaps it is proper to say, progressive—element. The voters in the Alliance are divided exactly as the voters outside the Alliance are, and it is right and proper that they should be. No organization can or should bind the consciences and control the votes of free men or limit freedom of thought.

The inevitable result of these conditions, unless they are changed, will be factions within the Alliance, to be followed by intrigues, disputes and dissatisfaction and the turning of the order from its wise and great purposes to be a political machine run by politicians in their own interest.

The Alliance has certain well defined principles. It is for the protection and advancement of the farmers. Members can very properly and safely as individuals or by agreement among themselves support only such men as have proved themselves to be in sympathy with Alliance purposes and principles and who can be depended on to express their sympathy by practical action when it is needed; but the use or attempted use of such an organization to promote the ambition of individuals means danger.

As an independent organization bound to nobody, the Alliance is a formidable force which can command respect from men of all shades of opinion. Once hitched to the tails of some man's coat it must become a mere faction, inviting the same opposition and enmity from which other factions suffer.

It must be remembered that there are two political organizations in this State—Democratic and Republican. The latter is invisible, but it is here, ready to be wakened into life and dangerous activity in a day whenever encouragement and hope are offered it.

The Farmers' Alliance, composed virtually entirely of white Democrats and doing its political work in Democratic primaries and conventions, constitutes a Democratic organization within the Democratic organization, and if bound to the support of certain men will shut out all others and destroy the discipline and strength of the party. The wheel within a wheel system is always dangerous. Followed to its last analysis, it must mean basism. If the Alliance controls the Democratic party, and a faction of the Alliance controls the Alliance and few men control the controlling faction it means power in a very few hands, which is precisely what we have been working to get away from.

So far as we know, the controlling power of the Alliance is on the line the Greenville News has always held in State politics and if we wish to have our views prevail by the shortest possible method we would labor earnestly to stimulate the Alliance to political activity. But in doing that we would go against what we believe to be the best interest of the State, the party and the order.

Let Alliance men refuse to be led as a body into any political movement for the promotion of any man's interests. Let them stand squarely by the principles of their order and vote for men representing those principles, each member reserving the right to use his judgment in selecting his men and refusing to be bound by the orders of judgment of anybody else.

If the friends of General Hagood or Mr. Tillman or Mr. Stackhouse or anybody else are trying to use the Alliance as a ladder for them to climb on, let all be sent to the rear.

Committed to and working only for principles the Alliance will be a permanent power in politics and will be free, solid and undivided to give its attention and strength to the execution of its purpose outside of politics. Committed to and worked by and for men, it will surely be divided and distracted, turned from its most important objects and wrecked as the Grange was wrecked—Greenville News.

HAPPINESS AND CONTENTMENT. Contentment is based on what we have on the dark side of every little incident. Nothing willadden life and make it burden as does Acker's Hypnotic Tablets will cure the worst form of hypochondriacal and indecisive, and make life a brightress and pleasure. Sold at 25 and 50 cents by J. F. W. DeLoach.

A WOMAN'S DISCOVERY. Another child added by the use of opiates given in the time of Scrofulous disease. Why not let the world know that this discovery is simple when they can have relief of its painful troubles by using Acker's Baby Soother. Contains no opium or Morphine. Sold by J. F. W. DeLoach.

DRESSMAKING. LADIES' DRESSES CUT AND MADE IN THE LATEST STYLISH AND MODERN TASTES. RATED AND SATISFACTION GUARANTEED. By Miss Adele Wilson, Residential Dressmaker, Harry Avenue. Prices reasonable and good work can be done for \$1.50 per dozen.

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WRIGHTS HOTEL. THIS NEW AND ELEGANT HOUSE WITH ALL CONVENiences, is now open for the reception of guests. Address, S. L. Wright & Son, Proprietors.

THOMAS CUNNINGHAM & SON. Booksellers, Stationers, Printers, etc., 100 King Street, CHICAGO, ILL.

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