

The Watchman and Southron.

WEDNESDAY, FEB. 27, 1895.

The *Sumter Watchman* was founded in 1859 and the *True Southron* in 1866. The *Watchman and Southron* now has the combined circulation and influence of both of the old papers, and is manifestly the best advertising medium in Sumter.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

The *Augusta Chronicle* says that Sumter is one of the few Carolina towns that furnishes a good *Item* daily.

Capt. Tillman's interview completely overshadows the address of the Irby Committee. That address will not be heard of again.

The large number of dogs in the city and the few licenses paid is a matter for investigation. Let's have a Lexow Committee, or some such thing in Sumter.

Hawaii has gotten rid of Queen Lil, and calls for the dispensary. We have had no experience with Lil, but if she is worse than the dispensary the Sandwiches are not to be blamed for ridding themselves of her.

The eagerness of foreign and American capitalists to buy United States bonds proves that the credit of the country is good, even though the gold reserve gets down near the vanishing point every now and then.

The Legislature of North Carolina has capped the climax, and a new word is needed to fully express our feeling of disgust. After refusing to adjourn for Washington's birthday, a resolution to adjourn out of respect to the death of Frederick Douglass prevailed. Washington repudiated and Douglass honored—What next?

The political condition at a glance: Irby vs. Tillman; McLaurin vs. Irby and Tillman; Shell vs. et al; Pindal and Ellerbe vs. Tillman, Evans et al; Farley and the Forty—where are they at? McLaurin vs. Evans; Evans vs. Irby; and the coat-tail swingers all at sea.

Senator Irby has drawn his knife on the Tillman-Evans combination, and a trace is patched up the lines of battle will be pitched in a new place this summer. The political situation becomes more complex each day, and the man who endeavors to keep track of events, must be prepared to revise his estimate every other day or he will get lost and lose track of what is going on.

Members of Congress have been most vigorous in denouncing President Cleveland for his conduct in office, and they have been exceedingly bitter in condemning his financial policy. Nevertheless, when President Cleveland turned the financial question over to them Congress failed absolutely to do anything. Cleveland has done something. He should have, at least, credit for having done what he thought best under the circumstances. Congress should keep very quiet along this line.

The propositions laid down in Capt. Tillman's interview are too important to be hastily rejected or accepted. The Straightout faction must consider the conditions confronting them before any decisive action is taken. We are confronted by entirely different conditions from mere factional issues over which we have been fighting for four years, and we must meet the changed conditions. Once for all we are free to declare that we would rather be under the rule of a clique of white men than to rule by allying ourselves with the negro. Those who would rule by the negro will soon find themselves ruled by the negro. And this we are not prepared to countenance. Tillmanism is better than the Radicalism that this State once endured, if we have been correctly informed concerning Radicalism.

We see the matter clearly now, and an inquiry made by a negro served to clear our mental vision. Col. Dargan must make his choice and make it promptly. Will he lead the negroes or will he remain with the white people and as a good citizen use his endeavors to secure laws that bear upon all alike? His course at present tends to ally him with the negro against the white people. The negroes are taking up his words and already there is an undercurrent of excitement among them. They are saying on all sides: "Dargan is with us." "Dargan is going to lead us." "Dargan says they cheated us in '76." "Dargan is our man." "We must send Dargan to the Convention." Thus it goes. Let Col. Dargan make his choice. Will he lead the negro, or not?

The value of personal property has decreased materially since last year. The shrinkage in values is most noticeable in live stock. Horses have fallen from \$150 to \$60 or \$75 in actual value; and when the returns are made up for the collection of the next taxes the result will be rather surprising to most people.

The distribution of the world's goods has long been known to be very unequal, but we never had the truth so forcibly impressed upon us as when we saw a white man making his returns. He returned one dog at \$10 and household goods at \$15. This was all, or at least he took an oath to that effect.

The interview given out by Senator-elect Tillman is a document that will have an effect of the first importance upon the campaign for the Constitutional Convention. Capt. Tillman is just as important to-day as a political factor in South Carolina as he ever was, and his influence if, is anything, more powerful and wide-extended than ever. His opinion in matters political is accepted as final by thousands of white men in the State, and no man knows this better than Capt. Tillman himself. Therefore we must accept this interview as his deliberate and well considered opinion as to what should be the action of the Constitutional Convention. He has a good deal to say about the unification of the two factions of the white people and the necessity of mutual concessions if it is desired to preserve white supremacy, but, it will be noticed that he very explicitly sets forth certain things that the convention must do. Here are the three most important, divested of all verbiage.

1. Adopt a qualified suffrage that will preserve white supremacy.
2. Adopt a constitution that shall not be submitted to the people for approval.
3. Adopt a constitution that shall not contain the two mill tax for school purposes.

Do the people as a whole approve of these demands?

The Conservative faction is split wide open. The *News and Courier* says compromise, and *The State* says fight. Each paper represents a strong element in the Conservative faction, and since the issue has been made so clearly we are satisfied that there is no prospect of the Conservatives making any unified fight. The faction is divided, and the good results that might be obtained by a united fight against Tillman from a compromise are sure to be lost unless there is unity of action. And this is out of the question now. The factions of the faction have arrayed themselves against each other and from the present appearance the fight will be bitter and to the finish. There is no back down or compromise in *The State*, and the *News and Courier* gives evidence of a set determination to carry through to the end the compromise policy.

We regret to see the faction split into opposing and hostile elements, but we had expected this result for sometime. We regret the occurrence because it tends to increase the power of the Tillman combine, and defers to an indefinite day the time when the State shall be freed from a ring of unprincipled politicians. We believe that the Reformers will be in absolute possession of the Constitutional Convention and that the few others who will have seats will be disregarded and run over.

Something might be gained by either a compromise or a fight; but everything will be lost by a compromise and a fight. It does seem that the remark once applied to the Democratic Party is very appropriate to the Conservative faction. It can be depended upon to make a fool of itself at the right time for its opponents.

Since the last turn of affairs we are much more favorably disposed to the plan of compromise agreed upon by the conference called together by Mr. J. C. Hemphill and other gentlemen. And furthermore, the address issued by the committee of that conference gives more light on the subject than we had before obtained. There are features that we have not been able to agree to, but conditions may arise that will make it preferable to accept those features of the compromise plan rather than become a party to a coalition that would necessitate the surrender of principles, sentiments and rights more important and far more sacred than any opinion that we may have entertained. Just at present, with the lights before us, we believe that it will be both sensible and politic to reserve judgment and take no decided action beyond using every effort to register every white voter. The line of action is not yet clearly defined, and those who

have not already formed decided convictions are not called upon to bind themselves either one way or the other. None of us are bound to the primary or to the general election, and we can and must choose between the two as seems best to us. If we can obtain a better Constitution and restore peace between the white people of the State by going into the compromise, then by all means let us go into the compromise; if we see that we will lose everything and will not gain peace nor an honest constitution by becoming parties to the compromise, then let us choose rather to fight the entire force of the ring.

The negro vote will not count in the election to any great extent after all, as we have discovered after examining the law in respect to registration for the convention election. The section was drawn with the intent to prevent the registration of the disfranchised negroes, and by "intelligent" management by Supervisors of Registration few undesirable voters will be able to obtain registration certificates. Therefore those who have been counting on the negro who have not counted wisely. Of course there are sufficient negroes registered or to be registered to have a great weight in determining the election, if led by and allied with white men, and there may be men who will rather undertake to win all or lose all by the negro than to compromise for the sake of peace and good government.

REGISTER.

The duty of the hour is to register, for unless there is a full registration of all citizens the Constitutional Convention will go by default to the ring.

We publish to-day the law in relation to registration for the election of delegates to the Constitutional Convention. Every man should carefully consider the provisions of the law, and if he has never registered or has lost his certificate he should let nothing prevent him from complying with the law and qualifying to vote.

All who have registration certificates and have not changed their place of residence since the registration will not need another certificate, but those who have never registered, have lost their certificate, or have changed place of residence, must obtain new certificates to be entitled to vote.

The provisions of section 7, are most misleading, and while it apparently provides for the registration of those who have been disfranchised since 1882 by the operation of the Registration Law, it imposes such conditions as to make impossible, on the part of a great many, compliance with the requirements. How many unregistered voters can make application according to the requirements? The requirements are:

"Application under oath in accordance with a printed form to be prepared by the Attorney General, setting forth in each case the fact, to wit: The full name, age, occupation and residence of the applicant at the time of the general registration, or at any time thereafter when the said applicant became entitled to register, and the place or places of his residence since the time when he became entitled to register, which affidavit of two reputable citizens who were each of the age of twenty-one years on the 30th day of June Anno Domini eighteen hundred and eighty-two, or at the time said applicant became entitled thereafter to register; or any elector who has become a citizen of this State by moving into the same according to the Constitution of the State, and who shall make application under oath stating the time of his moving into the State and his place of residence since living in the State, which application shall be supported by the affidavits of two reputable citizens who were twenty-one years of age... the time the applicant became a resident of this State; such applicant shall be allowed to register as a voter and to be entitled to vote at said election for delegates to said convention."

Very few can furnish the required affidavit, and we have it straight that it is not intended that undesirable parties shall be permitted to obtain certificates unless their applications are absolutely flawless. This section is the keystone of the law, and there has been much anxious study and consultation over it both by politicians in this county and by the State Executive Committee over which Irby presides. Orders have been issued and no one need expect a full, free and fair registration of all citizens of a legal age. Section 7 was framed to defeat this very thing and orders have been issued for the rigid enforcement of the provisions of the section, in cases where it is thought necessary.

COL. DARGAN'S SPEECH.

From the Daily Item of Feb. 23.
Col. Dargan made his second speech Friday night to an audience that was estimated at two hundred, of whom one hundred and fifty were negroes. The speech was similar to that made on the preceding Friday night. He was more bitter in denunciation of Tillman than ever. He also paid his respects to the *News and Courier* and all those who are favoring a compromise in the interest of white supremacy. Portions of the speech were applauded to the echo by the negroes. This speech has not created as much comment as the first one, and the people, as a rule are evincing little interest in Col. Dargan's caudality.

Explaining and Defending Col. Dargan.

Editor the Item:
In your issue of February 23d, you publish a short account of Col. Dargan's speech on Friday night, in which you make it appear that he is opposing "all those who are favoring a compromise in the interest of white supremacy."

In your editorial columns you go further, and intimate that he intends to lead negroes in order to prevent this white supremacy, and call upon him to "make his choice and make it promptly," whether he will "lead negroes or remain with the white people." The editor of the *Item* knows that Col. Dargan desires white supremacy and will never lead negroes against it, and we can see no reason for the insinuation except it be that he (the editor) is opposed to the Conservatives making an open, manly fight, and accepting negro support, as Hampton did in '76. At any rate, Col. Dargan's utterances speak for themselves, and the people of Sumter County know him to be loyal and true to his race.

He is charged with opposing "all those who are favoring a compromise." Such is not the case. He is opposing any compromise that would involve the necessity of committing fraud. Your readers are no doubt familiar with the terms of the compromise offered by Tillman. Such compromise every patriotic, truth loving citizen should refuse to touch. Tillman, the perjured liar, not satisfied with damning himself, is seeking to make Conservatives partners in his crime.

Such a compromise means a surrender to Tillman, and will not even bring peace. A convention elected thus will be pledged to perpetuate fraud in our constitution and the managers of election appointed under it will be obliged to perjure themselves in order to disfranchise the negro. Provisions will be made, says Tillman, for every white man to vote, and this cannot be done without fraud and perjury. A property qualification will also be put in the instrument and thousands of white men will be legally debarred from voting. The constitution thus "fixed" will stifle our people forever; and knowing that the people would repudiate such a paper, the ring requires that conservatives elected under the compromise shall be pledged not to submit the new Constitution to the people for ratification. Such a system of fraud and perjury once established there is no telling where it will end.

By the terms of the compromise Tillman will gain every point for which he has ever contended and if the Conservatives refuse his offer make a fight and are defeated, they will be no worse off and will have the satisfaction of knowing that they contended for the right like men. On the other hand, if they win, Tillmanism will sink never to show its head again in South Carolina. We are for a fight against the ring—with everything to gain and nothing to lose. Let everybody register!

Justice.

Editorial in The Daily Item, Feb. 25.

"Justice," as blind as the fabled goddess, hastens to defend and explain Col. Dargan, and there is no doubt about an explanation being necessary. But, as usual with the person who essays the role of "Justice," he loses himself in a maze of supposed insinuations and imputations. The editor of *The Item* made no imputations or insinuations. What was said, was said unequivocally and there is no excuse for finding imputations and insinuations, save a desire to hunt devious ways, or an obtuse understanding.

We made direct assertions and there is no necessity of going into heroics because Col. Dargan is the man under discussion.

- It was stated that:
1. Col. Dargan's course tends to ally him with the negro against the white man.
 2. The negroes are taking up the charges against the white people made by Col. Dargan.
 3. Col. Dargan is exciting hopes in the minds of negroes that can only be realized by means of white leadership.
 4. Col. Dargan must choose between the negro and the white man. Will he lead the negro or will he not?
 5. Col. Dargan assailed those who favor a compromise.

These are neither insinuations nor imputations, but facts.

Justice asserts that the editor of this paper knows thus and so concerning Col. Dargan. There never was a greater mistake. The editor does not pretend to imagine what Col. Dargan will or will not do. In the past he has been the most persistent advocate of white primaries under any and all circumstances, at present he talks as if he prefers a black primary to anything else. We do not know what he wants or what he intends doing, therefore we asked: Will he lead the negro or will he not? We want information.

If there is to be a political fight on the color line we are going with the white people every time, sink or swim, because the evils that will result from the triumph of the negro and mongrel party will be a vast deal worse than the ills that could follow any other condition we can imagine. To go a little further for the purpose of preventing other imaginary insinuations and imputations we will state a few facts concerning ourself in relation to the questions at issue:

We oppose incorporating in the Constitution

1. Any provision that will not bear equally upon every man, white as well

as negro or that will disfranchise one and not the other when they are possessed of equal qualifications.

2. Any provision that will materially injure the public school system—a thing that needs improvement rather than injury.

3. Any provision that will not permit the constitution to be submitted to the people.

But above all things we oppose an appeal to the negro. Such an appeal Col. Dargan is now making, to all intents and purposes, although he may have no intention of appealing to, or exciting them. He is setting a movement going that will sweep him off his feet before he knows it if he does not call a halt at once.

From the Daily Item, Feb. 25.

Col. Dargan's Position.

Editor of the Item:
You call upon me to define my position. I thank you for your consideration, and would have answered more "promptly," but for an unusual pressure of business yesterday.

To define my position in a few words, I take from *The Freeman* of last Friday, the following editorial deliverance and say I wrote it and I stand by it, viz:
The man who imagines he can ever hold high office in South Carolina on negro votes against the whites is a simple fool, no more and no less. The white man who would attempt to hold office here, or any where, by an appeal to negro race prejudices against the whites is a fraud and black-hearted villain. But the white man who would rather see negroes in office than cheated out of them by the whites and would rather die a thousand deaths than suffer a humble, helpless race to be deprived of all opportunities of an education in this enlightened land of ours is only true to his race, and its proud history, its civilization, its high religious principles, its justice, its humanity, its magnanimity.

I think we, the whites of this State, have often struck at the negro unjustly, through a mental hallucination, the natural birth of slavery, and have invariably caught the blow full in our own faces. It is to avoid a similar blunder at the present crisis that I am reviewing the past.

You are right in saying I favored a white primary very strenuously. My reasons for favoring it were often given in *The Freeman*.

I make the following editorial extract from a recent issue in regard to it:
As all will recollect *The Freeman* once advocated a white primary, instead of a "Democratic" primary, because the one could be held honestly and the other was a palpable fraud, as the people voting at such primary were not all Democrats, but only a minority of them were true Democrats. Then we distinctly saw that the speediest way to relieve our people of party shackles was to do away with party names and party action. But our counsel was rejected then. Now the advocates of a white primary are numerous, but they like the Irishman's chicken "speak too late." For by force of circumstances we have passed the white primary period and have got into full political freedom. Every man, white or black, is now going to vote, as he sees proper at the "General Election," and have his vote counted as cast, or know the reason why. Before cheating by registration irregularities, or otherwise, will be longer submitted to, every legal remedy will be exhausted and then the ever reserved right of revolution, by physical force resorted to. Freedom live in South Carolina from this time forth and forever, thank God, hurried to their liberty by the intolerable tyranny of Tillman and the glaringly fraudulent trickery of Irby trying to keep for themselves places of power for purposes of plunder.

Gratefully acknowledging your generous allowance of space to my candidity I am, Respectfully,
JOHN J. DARGAN.

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Feb. 20. H. A. HOYT, Agent.

H. A. HOYT,

THE WELL-KNOWN Watch and Clock workman has sold out the Jewelry Business, and will devote his entire time and energy to repairs. He can be found at Walsh & Shaw's Shoe Store, next door to Bank of Sumter. Signs of Big Watch. Will do work in first-class manner, and cheaper than any other.
Feb. 20. H. A. HOYT.

State of South Carolina,

COUNTY OF SUMTER.
By T. V. Walsh, Esq., Probate Judge.
WHEREAS, MOSES WILSON, made suit to me, to grant him Letters of Administration of the Estate of and effects of KELLY WILSON, late of said County and State, deceased.
These are therefore to cite and admonish all and singular the kindred and Creditors of the said KELLY WILSON, late of said County and State, deceased, that they be and appear before me, in the Court of Probate, to be held at Sumter Court House on March 6th, 1895, next, after publication thereof, at 11 o'clock in the forenoon, to show cause, if any they have, why the said Administration should not be granted.
Given under my hand, this 20th day of February, A. D., 1895.
T. V. WALSH,
Judge of Probate.

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Do you desire to pay off a mortgage and re-borrow the money at 5 per cent. interest annually?
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Would you like to buy your family a home? If so read the following:
I represent a Company that has embodied in its plan all the features enumerated above and many more. Can you see any reason why you should pay a large interest for money when you have good security? Can you present any good reason why it is not as well to receive profits yearly as to wait from 7 to 10 years as one does in many of the Associations? Is not the reduction of interest yearly better than waiting many years for profits? Borrowers under the plan represented by me assume absolutely no risk as every dollar paid on the loan is credited on the mortgage, thereby reducing it in proportion to the amount paid.
Building Associations have benefited hundreds of thousands, so did the old cars that were propelled by horses. Our plan is as far superior to Building Associations as the trolley cars are to the old antiquated horse car system. My time is too much occupied to answer questions for the curious, but those seeking information for the betterment of their condition will receive full information promptly. We offer an investment to those who have a small amount to save monthly that has no superior as to safety and seldom equalled for profits. Call or write.
HENRY L. B. WELLS,
Jan 30. Attorney, Sumter, C. H. S. C.

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