

BLEASE MAKES DENIAL.

BRANDS RECENT STATEMENTS OF MAYOR GRACE AS FALSE.

Says Grace "Lied" in Railway Story. Tells of Political Relations with Grace and Possession of "T. B." Letters.

Columbia, August 1.—Denying the charges made by Mayor John P. Grace of Charleston, at the Glenn Springs hotel this week, branding them as "infamously false and contemptible," Governor Blease today gave out a statement for the press. The governor goes into the references made by Mayor Grace to the "T. B." letters; the mayor's political affiliations with the governor; the alleged "carous" at the Wrights hotel the night before the inauguration; the charge that the governor had "waternursed" McDuffie Hampton, candidate for railroad commissioner, into office in the election of 1910, and had doled out Southern railway money for Hampton's campaign, and other matters dealt with by the Charleston official in his recent story of the governor's conduct.

The governor said: "I have read the statement sent out by John P. Grace from Glenn Springs, S. C., which contains that foul and dirty lie, displayed in large headlines in 'The Columbia State'—'A Negro Story.'"

"It is so infamously false and contemptible that I do not desire to lower myself as a gentleman to further notice it, and am satisfied that all of the people of South Carolina will agree with me that nobody with any gentlemanly instinct whatever would make such a foul and filthy statement. I could not but wonder what the mothers of this State thought when they saw that the daily papers would publish such a thing, to be read by their sweet and innocent daughters, particularly those between the ages of 12 and 18. These same newspapers recently refused to publish some remarks of mine because they said they were not fit for publication, yet they were made from the stump. But, they now give space and herald to the world, in great headlines, the filthiest article that has appeared in the South Carolina papers in many years. This is but another evidence of their unfairness and meanness. Shame upon a press that would publish such a thing, even though it be true—but this is truly in keeping with the paper which the editor of The State recently read upon the 'Ethics of Journalism'—and it is a pity that a city, composed of such proud people, should have such a person for its Mayor.

As to his statement about the southern Railway—that is absolutely and maliciously false. I never made such a statement to him or anyone else in my life, and when he speaks of the son of South Carolina's grand old hero, Wade Hampton, as a common drunkard, he speaks falsely and places himself beneath the notice of any man with pure white blood in his veins. Mr. McDuffie Hampton and myself were on the campaign together two years ago; we were friends; I treated him kindly and politely, as I treat all gentlemen. The statement that I handled money for the Southern railway and took vouchers from Mr. Hampton for the same is as foul a lie as was ever spoken or written by a human being. I have never handled a dollar of Southern Railway money in my life, and I have never delivered a dollar or any other sum of money to Mr. Hampton during the entire campaign, and I have never so stated to any man—in fact, I did not even loan him any amount of money.

As to Grace's statement that he supported me; he told me himself that he did not support me in the first primary, and I was informed by those who had charge of affairs for me in Charleston that he was against me and for McLeod, but that he claimed to be for me in the second race. If he was for me and worked for me in the first primary, he must have had very little influence, for I only received 633 votes in the entire county of Charleston.

As to appointing him on my staff, I have already said that that was done at the request of Mr. Rosseler. I did not want Grace on the staff, but wanted Mr. Rosseler. Mr. Rosseler insisted that I appoint Grace, which I did.

As to showing him the "T. B." letter. When it was given to me, some weeks after my inauguration, along with the other letters, I immediately locked it up in my safe and soon thereafter transferred it to a strong box in the Palmetto National bank, where it is now, along with the others, and has been except when it was presented to the grand jury, and dispensary commission, and shown for publication. I never consulted Grace about it or mentioned it to him in my life, and this is but another one of the false fabrications of a diseased mind, malicious heart or a mind diseased from vindictiveness and a desire to do injury to those it hates. He has never

seen the "T. B." letter while it has been in my possession, and I do not believe he has ever seen the original at all.

"As to his charge that there was carousing at Wright's hotel the night before my inauguration, I herewith submit statements which I think will prove to the public conclusively that it is a deliberate and designing falsifier, and that the proof of this is additional evidence of his lies in the other instances.

"State of South Carolina—County of Richland.

"Personally came Robert Courtney Wright, who, being duly sworn, says that for ten years he was chief clerk and manager of Wright's hotel in the city of Columbia; that he remembers very well indeed the night before the inauguration of Governor Cole L. Blease; that the said Blease arrived at the hotel about 11 o'clock at night, accompanied by his physician, Dr. W. G. Houseal, and members of his family; that the said Blease was a desperately ill man and was taken immediately to his room in the hotel and put in bed, and that only a very few of his most intimate friends were allowed to enter his room; that everything was kept quiet and Dr. Houseal, being very apprehensive of said Blease's condition, remained in the room with him during the entire night; that he has noticed in this morning's State the following statement made by John P. Grace:

"I recall a scene at Wright's hotel the night before his inauguration. It was the first real insight I had ever had into Blease and the atmosphere in which he moved, and I think I can say that without exception it is about the nastiest recollection of my life. It was a grand carouse."

"The above statement is absolutely and infamously false. On the contrary, the room where the said Blease was, was guarded in order that no noise might be made, for we all feared that the result of his trip from his home in Newberry would prove fatal. There was no carouse in the hotel during that night; if there was it was not known to this deponent, and most assuredly there was none in Blease's room, or in any in which he took part or knew anything about. Deponent further says that Governor Blease, as a private citizen, stopped many times with him; that he boarded at the hotel during the four sessions of the legislature that he was State senator, and that he always behaved himself in a clean gentlemanly manner; that there was never any carousing or general drinking in his room at any time, and that he and the other members of the hotel family looked upon the governor as an esteemed guest.

"(Signed) R. C. Wright.
Sworn to before me this 31st day of July, A. D. 1912.

"(Signed) Fred H. Dominick (L. S.)
Notary Public for South Carolina.
State of South Carolina—County of Newberry.

"Personally came Dr. W. G. Houseal, who being duly sworn, says that during the fall of 1910 he attended Cole L. Blease for three or four weeks the said Blease being very ill with cholecystitis and jaundice; that in the latter part of December, 1910, the said Blease had a relapse and was desperately ill and that this deponent was very uneasy about him; that Blease was not allowed to leave his room, but was confined to his bed; that on the night before his inauguration as governor, this deponent, assisted by some others, carried the said Blease from his bed room to the depot, on a cot, at Newberry—a telegram having been sent in advance to the Pullman conductor to have a berth made down and ready when he reached Newberry; that the said Blease was immediately put to bed in said car; that we arrived in the city of Columbia about 11 o'clock; that Blease was taken from the car and carried to Wright's hotel where he was immediately put in bed and only a very few of the members of his family and his closest friends allowed to enter his room; that this deponent was so uneasy about Blease's condition that he persuaded Mrs. Blease to occupy an adjoining room with some of the other lady members of Blease's family, and this deponent remained in the room during the entire night, keeping watch over Blease, as he considered his condition very serious; that he has noticed a statement made by John P. Grace, published in The Columbia State of July 31, 1912, column 3, page 3, in which he says:

"I recall a scene at Wright's hotel the night before his inauguration. It was the first real insight I had ever had into Blease and the atmosphere in which he moved, and I think I can say that without exception it is about the nastiest recollection of my life. It was a grand carouse."

"The above statement is absolutely false. There was absolutely no whiskey drunk by Governor Blease for some weeks before his inauguration and certainly none the night before or the day of the inauguration. There was certainly no carouse in his room for those who entered the room were very quiet and walked on tiptoes and were very apprehensive about the

condition of Blease. If there was any carouse around the said Blease the night of the said Blease's inauguration, it was certainly not the one which I certainly knew nothing about, and on the next morning, the deponent went with the governor to the State House, assisting in the same, and stayed right by his side during the entire ceremonies of the inauguration, and that this deponent knows that the said Blease did not take a drink of whiskey, and had not taken one, as above stated, for several weeks before; that immediately after said ceremonies deponent accompanied the governor to Wright's hotel where he placed him in bed, and where he was when I left him, just in time to take the C. N. & L. 5 p. m. train, and I directed that he remain in bed until next morning and be then taken to the governor's mansion.

"(Signed) W. G. Houseal, M. D.
Sworn to before me this 31st day of July, 1912.

"(Signed) W. B. Wallace (L. S.)
(Seal) Notary Public for S. C."

"If Grace wrote any editorial in my behalf before the first primary, I have never seen them and I defy him to produce a single one from the files of his paper—the only ones ever having been brought to my attention being his articles in the two issues of his paper between the primaries.

"As to his support of me in the second primary and the condition thereof, his statements are wilful and malicious lies, which can be testified to by Mr. L. C. A. Rosseler, Grace's mayoralty campaign manager, and others, if necessary.

"As to the charge of his having had a certain conversation with me over the phone, in which he says he had his stenographer sitting by his side and taking it down, I desire to say that this is somewhat strange, for when he went to talk to me, if he was the friend he says he was, that he would have a stenographer to sit right at his end of the line ready to take down every word said. I remember of having no conversation with him over the telephone, but whether I did or not, he and his stenographer could fix up any kind of a lie and say that that was my statement. I presume he worked this up in his mind after he read of the dictagraph. Any one could sit down in his office, take a stenographer, pick up a phone, and say I am now talking to so and so and have the stenographer take down a supposed conversation, and, of course, Grace is low enough down to do that, and I have no doubt but that he could employ some stenographer who would be equally as low as himself.

"I am very sorry to have to pay any attention to this fellow's filthy insinuations, and would not do so, but for fear some might misconstrue my absolutely ignoring him.

"I am satisfied, from his recent conduct, that his mind is diseased, and I would not be surprised, at any time, to hear of him being committed to a sanitarium. It is strange, however, that when Grace was following R. G. Rhett all over this State hounding him down in the United States senate race, that he (Grace), in the eyes of the Columbia State and News and Courier editors, and many others of my enemies, was a liar, a blather-skite and a slanderer, but now, since he has begun to abuse me and belch forth his filthy lies, he becomes a great man and a high-toned gentleman in the eyes of Gonzales, Lathan and others. Why the change? The people are not fooled. They see through the plot. When Grace lied on Rhett, he was a terror and a bad man, but when he lies on Blease, he is a gentleman and a scholar. During his recent campaign for mayor, these two newspapers were very bitter in denouncing him and saying that his election would bring shame and disgrace to the proud old city of Charleston, but now as they can use him in their villainous fight on me, I presume that they have reached the conclusion that the city of Charleston is highly honored at having such a distinguished son at the head of her municipal affairs. If I were to bow to them, they would gladly take me up, but I began this fight for the laboring man and the plain people, against the privileged classes and corporate interests which are grinding down the masses of our people, and I shall keep it up to the finish, and I will win by the help of a fair and just-loving people and the help of an All-Wise and an All-Merciful God.

"I hope that I will not have to be bothered further with noticing anything that comes from this filthy source. I have called him a character thief and a liar to his face, when he was surrounded by his henchmen and in his own city, and he did not resent it, but sneaked off in the dark and began to pour forth his infamous lies in order to injure me.

"In making this campaign, being absent from the office so much, and at the same time having to attend to my official duties as governor, it is very hard for me to keep up with all the dirty falsehoods which are being circulated, and I desire here and now to warn all of my friends against

these campaign lies and others which may be started later, for the purpose of influencing the voters of my State against me. I am glad, however, that they are circulating them as early as they are, and I desire to call to the attention of my fellow citizens that no man has ever been fought as mean, as contemptible and as bitter as I am being fought—and, for what reason?—who is furnishing the money to pay for all of these matters? The newspaper columns are open to any negro preacher, any trifling or dishonorable white man, or any one else who will write a vile slander against the governor of the State—yet, when I want to get anything before the public, the newspapers charge me so much per line for inserting it. I believe in the integrity of the people of South Carolina; I know that they are honorable people, and I am fully satisfied that they will not allow me to be sacrificed by the crusade of falsehoods and slanderous insinuations and abuse which are now being heaped upon me by the organs and managers of Ira B. Jones' campaign, but that on the contrary they will rally to my support and put their mark of disapproval now and forever upon this kind of political campaigning in this State. It is hard now to get our best men to offer for office and if they are to be subjected to the kind of abuse which is being thrown at me, how soon will I be when not one will desire to enter the political arena? I have bitter political enemies in Newberry; they have circulated some very dirty reports in regard to me, but none yet have been so low and so mean as to insinuate such foul and infamous falsehoods as the newspapers carry in their columns of July 31st, 1912. I am standing for the rights of the people; for the laboring men and the masses against the classes and against the oppression of the newspapers, the corporations and political elite; therefore, these newspapers rejoice in giving circulation to the most base and dirty falsehoods that were ever spoken or written of any man—and why?

"My father's father, Thomas W., and his brother, Horatio, Blease, were in the Mexican war. My father and his three brothers and my mother's four brothers were all Confederate soldiers in the war of 1861-65, and all of them that were living were true to the cause of the white supremacy in 1876 and followers of Hampton, Butler and Gary. I am asking no favors on this account, but beg of my friends to go to the ballot boxes early on the morning of the 27th of August and remain there all day and watch closely the counting of the ballots, for it is being openly boasted that if they can not beat Blease, that they will count him out. Managers of South Carolina, are you thieves? I do not believe it, so give me a full count. Friends, see that it is done."

G. McD. HAMPTON'S STATEMENT.

Railroad Commissioner Denies Excerpting Money From Southern.

To the Editor of The State: I note in the issue of The State of July 31, 1912, an article with the following conspicuous headline: "Grace Repeats Tales He Says Blease Told—Charleston Mayor Relates Interesting Conversation With the Governor—Southern Railway Money Was Used in Campaign—says Blease Credited Southern With Practically Paying McDuffie Hampton's Campaign Expenses for Railroad Commissioner."

This article reports a purported statement from Gov. Blease to Mr. J. P. Grace, mayor of Charleston, and reflects upon my integrity and honor. My first impulse was to treat these base insinuations and this dastardly attack upon myself with the silent contempt which it deserves, but out of respect for myself and reverence for my name, and my appreciation of the trust imposed in me by those who honored me with their suffrage and elected me to a responsible State office, I feel it my duty to make a statement. In the article alluded to I find the following as quoted by Gov. Blease to Mr. Grace: "Why I practically paid the campaign expenses of McDuffie Hampton out of money furnished to me by the Southern railway and gave them vouchers signed by McDuffie Hampton for the amount."

These words convey in themselves a manifest falsehood with absolute absurdity on the face. As a matter of fact, I will state truthfully and positively that I never received any money from the Southern railroad or any other railroad through Gov. Blease or any representative of the Southern railroad, nor did I receive any financial assistance from the Southern or any other railroad directly or indirectly in any way for my campaign expenses of 1910. I never met Gov. Blease until a short while before the campaign in 1910 and he never tendered me any money in any shape or form for campaign expenses either before, during or since the campaign of 1910. However, I will frankly state that Gov. Blease was courteous and polite to me during the campaign, for which I thank him, and accepted it

in the manner in which it was intended. Any political assistance Gov. Blease may have rendered me in this campaign I certainly appreciate.

As to the untruth and unwarranted charges as to my habits, will say that this is better judged by personal observation than by originating and promulgating false charges and base insinuations.

Whatever money I borrowed for my campaign expenses was furnished me by the Palmetto National bank of Columbia, S. C., for which amount I gave my individual note with ample security. This amount has been repaid to the bank by myself and I hold their receipt for same. This statement can be verified by any one desiring to inform himself by inquiry at the bank.

I regret exceedingly that for some occult and political object my name has been dragged into the present political campaign. Although these pernicious reports from the fertile imagination of some diseased mind are unpleasant, they are nevertheless untrue and unjust and will not injure me as intended.

G. McD. Hampton.
Columbia, August 1, 1912.

COMBINE ALARMS REGULARS.

Democrats and Insurgents Join to Pass All Tariff Bills.

Washington, July 31.—As forecasted in this correspondence yesterday, the caucus of Democratic Senators today has confirmed an alliance between the Democrats and the Republican Insurgents to put through all of the pending measures on a compromise basis, and send them to the President.

This development is very alarming to the Republican standpaters. Their scheme now is believed to be to vote in conference committee for the Senate to recede from its amendments, thus making it possible for the House Democratic bills to be adopted. The bills in that shape would be much easier for the President to veto, but it is probable that if the regular Republicans attempt this trick the Democrats will stand by the compromise with the insurgents, even to the point of voting down the House bills, on

the ground that the patriotic course is to work for actual legislation rather than to play into the hands of those who are seeking the ultimate defeat of all tariff enactments.

The great majority of the Senate Democrats are in high feather over the outlook. The agreement with the insurgents will prolong the session to some extent, but it is worth the delay.

An Approaching Marriage.

Invitations have been issued by Mr. and Mrs. Leopold Strauss to the marriage of their daughter, Tillie, to Mr. Paul Garber, on Wednesday evening, August the fourteenth, at half after seven o'clock, Temple Sinai, Sumter, South Carolina.

Miss Tillie Morris, the bride-to-be, is one of Sumter's charming daughters and Mr. Garber is a young business man of Batesburg.

A reception will be tendered the bride and groom after the wedding.



A man's appearance

has more to do with his success today than it ever had. Anything that contributes to his look of well-to-do-ness is justified—yes, NECESSARY. Is there anything that you know of that advertises success more than A NICE RING? Certainly, nothing that a man wears is more in evidence. A few dollars spent on a ring, any good ring, will prove to be an investment to most men. Let us place our ring stock before you Mr. Man. Then ask all the questions you like. We replace all stones in rings we sell, free, except diamonds.

W. A. Thompson,
JEWELER AND OPTICIAN.

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The Atlantic Coast Line announces extremely low round trip rates for the above occasion to Washington, Norfolk, Richmond, Wilmington, Myrtle Beach and to the Mountain, Lake and Spring resorts of North and South Carolina.

Tickets will be on sale for all trains on Wednesday, August 14th, limited to return on or before August 31st, 1912.

Full information, reservations, etc., may be obtained from

O. V. PLAYER, Ticket Agent.
SUMTER, S. C.

Or by addressing T. C. White, General Passenger Agent; W. J. Craig, Passenger Traffic Manager, Atlantic Coast Line, Wilmington, N. C.

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Extremely low and attractive Round Trip Excursion fares from Sumter, S. C. to:

Asheville, N. C. \$6.80	Lake Toxaway, N. C. 8.05
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Flat Rock, N. C. 5.95	Tryon, N. C. 5.85
Greenville, S. C. 5.05	Walhalla, S. C. 5.30
Hendersonville, N. C. 6.05	Waynesville, N. C. 8.05
Hot Springs, N. C. 8.95	

Similarly reduced fares in effect to various other resorts in North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee and Virginia. Children between the ages of 5 and 12, Half Fare.

Tickets will be sold for all trains August 14th, 1912, good to reach original starting point on any regular train up to and including, but not later than midnight August 31st, 1912.

For detailed information, apply to Ticket Agent.

W. E. MCGEE,
Asst. General Pass. Agent.
Columbia, S. C.

W. H. CAFFEY,
Division Passenger Agent.
Charleston, S. C.