

Reply to "The Plan of Battle."

York News, July 23.)
The following correspondence has been sent us by Mr. L. D. Childs, of Chester, S. C., with request that we publish same. We give the correspondence and article to our readers, assuming no responsibility for the accuracy of any statement contained in this article:

Chester, S. C., July 22, 1914.
Editor The News:
I am enclosing herein a communication which I have submitted to The Yorkville Enquirer and which that paper declines to publish. Believing that it contains information pertinent to present conditions which should be given to the men of York county, I am submitting it to you for publication.
Respectfully,
L. D. Childs.
Chester, S. C.

Chester, S. C., July 13th, 1914.
Mr. W. D. Grist, Editor, Yorkville, S. C.

Dear Sir: I am enclosing herein a communication which I am going to ask you to publish, and I trust you will be able to give it space in the Friday edition of the Enquirer this week. If, for any reason, you should decline to publish it, I will ask that you return it to me as promptly as possible in the within enclosed stamped addressed envelope. However, I trust you will be able and glad to give the information it contains to your readers.

Yours very truly,
L. D. Childs.

Editor Yorkville Enquirer:

In your editorial of July 7th headed "The Plan of Battle," you question the motives of Messrs. Jennings and Pollock in their declared senatorial aspirations. They attack Governor Blease's record, and you ask what they are paid, or promised; standing sponsor for Governor Blease, it is presumed that you defend his record, and there are those who ask what you are paid, or promised. I am not one of them; I concede it your right to choose your ideals, neither am I defending these gentlemen, but in order to determine the justice of your charge or the question of your sincerity, at least, a portion of Governor Blease's record should be reviewed; that is fair to Messrs. Jennings and Pollock, it is justice to the governor and yourself. Let us take one small part of the governor's record and, to make it more pertinent to your case, let it be an instance of that record affecting a citizen of your own county—Dr. Eleanora B. Saunders. All of your readers know in a general way of the Asylum investigation brought about, chiefly, by certain charges and insinuations made by Gov. Blease against Dr. Saunders, but very few know the details of those charges. I have before me the official stenographic record of that investigation from which the following facts are taken. In showing his attitude toward this lady, I shall use only the governor's words, and, as the governor says he has uttered no word, penned no sentence nor committed any act within the past three and a half years which he regrets or for which he has apology to make, evidently this record fairly represents the governor's purpose and character and, since he is proud of his record, I trust you will willingly give it to your readers. I will ask you to emphasize where indicated and give page references.

In his letter to Dr. Babcock, in which he peremptorily demands that Dr. Saunders be discharged, Governor Blease says: "I do not intend by this letter to impugn the motive of Saunders for a moment. From what I can learn of her, there is no question that she is a good woman." (Page 30.) Thus acknowledging that he has no foundation in fact for his miserable insinuations but, as the record reveals, because he had heard that she "had no respect for the Bleasite members of that Board." (Page 62) he wrote in that same letter: "I had hoped that the Dr. Saunders-Cooper episode out there would pass over without my taking a hand, but from a conversation which I could not help overhearing in a room next to mine, in a house away from Columbia recently, engaged in by some ladies, I am forced to request you to see that Dr. Saunders quietly retires from the hospital for the insane at as early a date as you can make it convenient. My information is that Dr. Cooper is still there hanging around, and that he eats his meals there, and that he and Dr. Saunders are frequently seen together." (Page 29.) When Dr. Babcock declined to discharge Dr. Saunders, stating that such an action would result in the white nurses leaving the hospital, this man who proclaimed: "I have always been careful of the names and the handling of any suspicion in reference to any lady" (Page 57) replies: "as for the white women nurses withdrawing from the institution, that would be bad, but if they knew the talk that is going on now I think the decent women would

withdraw, anyhow, if conditions were not changed." (Page 31.) There is absolutely no evidence to support Gov. Blease in his attempt to hide his meaning in the physical actions of those poor demented inmates, nor his reported treatment of an individual patient; not a word of evidence sustains him that there was any "talk going on" about those conditions. The talk that Governor Blease says was going on and to which he referred was that "Dr. Cooper is still there hanging around," and that he and Dr. Saunders are frequently seen together, and the testimony is that Governor Blease was the only one who had heard this talk and he refused to give his author. There are those who believe that a man who will wilfully circulate a slander will create it.

Now, let us get a good perspective of that court of inquisition convened to try this young lady born and reared on York county soil; this young woman coming from her humble country home, who by force of intellect, virtue and generous impulses has risen to her high position as specialist in mind diseases, and who was devoting her knowledge and sympathies to the unfortunate insane of her own beloved State; this young woman of whom Dr. Babcock, after 27 years experience, testifies: "Dr. Saunders is the best officer that I have known in any asylum that I have been connected with or visited and that she does more for her patients." Yet, because of his insane egotism and because Dr. Saunders was trying to better equip herself for the State's service, Governor Blease imagined that this virtuous woman has done something in "defiance of Blease's administration." (Page 103) and she is dragged before that tribunal with a verdict of guilty typewritten before she is tried. Fix the picture of this court in your mind as the father, pleading his right to remain with his daughter, is driven from the room, while Governor Blease, her accuser, remains as her prosecutor. After ejecting Dr. Saunders' father, attorney and stenographer, the first act of Accuser-Prosecutor Blease was to demand her resignation without a trial. Knowing her integrity of character and being able to prove it, Dr. Saunders replied: "I am perfectly willing to resign, but I must have some knowledge of what has been said and who said it. I don't think that is anything but fair to myself." And what is this man's reply, who is so careful of a woman's good name? Governor Blease said: "Will you permit me to ask you why you kept Dr. Cooper here continually and continually went into the laboratory day after day with him?" (Page 103.) Governor Blease said "Nobody blames your name." (Page 106) but I ask you, as a sensible man, is there not the poisoned slanderous tongue of suspicion in that question? Since when has the English language changed its meaning if in the following questions and interferences of Gov. Blease there is not the essence of slander?

"Don't you say that Dr. Cooper was out there frequently after he was beat, and that you and he were frequently seen together?" (Page 106.) "The only thing I know is that they stated that you and Dr. Cooper were in this room together hours after hours, and that left people to draw conclusion? That is the worst part of it" (Page 107.) Although Dr. Saunders begged and demanded his author, he has never given it and the governor is totally unsupported by a single witness to this statement.

"...that Dr. Cooper was here, and that 'you were frequently seen with him.'" (Page 109.) Referring to his letter to Dr. Babcock the governor says: "It simply asks why Dr. Saunders continually stayed there, why he ate three meals a day there, and why you and he were often seen together." (Page 110.) A statement unsupported by even a single witness.

While Dr. Blackburn was testifying Governor Blease stopped him to ask: "Excuse me for interrupting you, but when you saw them who was with them." (Page 112.)

Dr. Fulmer was asked by the governor: "Tell how you saw him, and whom he was with and what he was doing." (Page 118.)

Governor Blease asked Dr. Griffin if he had seen Dr. Cooper at the hospital, to which he replied that he had. Continuing he asked: "How often?" "Who was with him?" "Is Dr. Cooper a married man?" "Is Dr. Saunders a married lady?" Answer: "I don't know that she is."

"Dr. Saunders is a single lady?" Answer: "I suppose that she is." "This is Dr. Saunders' home isn't it?" Answer: "Yes sir, I think she is supposed to have a room upstairs." (All on page 136.)

Dr. Griffin did have the decency to apologize for his answers but, I ask you, Mr. Editor, did he ever inspire more contemptible insinuations in a human breast than is contained in these questions? Was there ever

a more despicable design to despoil the reputation of a virtuous woman? If it was not for this purpose, what was the meaning of these questions? If the governor's only objection was the presence of Dr. Cooper at the hospital, why this persistent effort to continue his presence with Dr. Saunders in this offensive manner? Why even establish the location of this lady's sleeping apartment? I do not believe that civilization registers a more revolting record.

Now let us get the facts: Dr. Cooper, the only physician connected with the hospital who could do certain blood tests necessary for the intelligent treatment of patients had been defeated because he was not a "Bleasite." Knowing the necessity for these tests, Dr. Saunders determined to learn them and, in order to save from her meagre salary the expense of a trip to Baltimore, she arranged for Dr. Cooper to come to the hospital laboratory—a public room open at all times to the nurses, officers and employees—and give her instruction. At the risk of her own health, working night and day, she performed her duties while pursuing this special study for the relief of those unfortunates committed into her care. Objecting to this, as he says: "Because he (Dr. Cooper) was against me and (Dr. Saunders) are against me." (page 109) in his devious delirium of vanity, and while proclaiming his faith in her integrity, Coleman L. Blease proceeded to assassinate the character of Dr. Eleanora B. Saunders. This is the treatment he gave a high minded, virtuous woman, while he brazenly proclaimed before that committee, when there had been no reference to the subject, that he "Ain't opposed to bawdy houses" (page 62.) See the trend of the man's mind. Standing for rottenness, as proven by own his own mouth, but trying to destroy the most precious thing this side of heaven—a virtuous woman's character—this man now asks to be elected to the United States senate. With this record staring him in the face, he should account himself fortunate that his neck escaped the hangman's noose of a justly enraged citizenship.

Fortunately for Dr. Saunders there were men in the legislature who revered a woman's name in deed, and not only in word and this is the report of a committee from that body, signed by every member including some of Governor Blease's closest friends:

"Your committee went fully and minutely into the complaints, insinuations, innuendoes, inquiry and charges against Dr. Eleanora B. Saunders. We find no evidence to sustain any of them. She is not guilty of any wrong intent or wrong doing. There is no breath of even a suspicion as to her moral character. . . . We condemn the method of trial of Dr. Saunders adopted on December 12, 1913, and hope that the records of the State will never show a repetition of such procedure."

"I have no quarrel with you, Mr. Editor, for supporting Governor Blease—it is your right. Whether it is because you approve this particular record, or his whole record; whether it is the printing price of a hundred thousand Blease speeches containing proven misstatements of facts, or the promise of ambition recompensed, I am not concerned. I have no quarrel with the 'me too's' who are swinging on his coat tail—the Sims, the Richards, the Irbys, the Peoples, the Dominicks and the Nicholls—like you they have a right to choose their ideals, but I say this:

W. D. BLANDING.

Mr. Editor:
Permit me to say a few words in paying an humble tribute to the memory of my departed friend, W. D. Blanding. The other evening in reading the announcement of his death, a flood of recollections swept over me, picturing to my mind events connected with Sumter and some of its history. I knew him from early boyhood, I knew him intimately and in fact I knew him as a brother. Willie Blanding, as we all loved to call him, was gentle of spirit and kind in nature, and yet when the occasion demanded it he was brave.

Twenty-five years ago, on the 19th day of December, 1888, he left Sumter to seek his fortune elsewhere and, poor fellow, he never returned to his native hearth until on Sunday July 12th, he was brought back and gently laid to rest alongside of father, mother and sisters.

Dear old friend, sleep the sleep that knows no waking until the glorious Resurrection Morning, when we all shall gather around the throne of our God and our Maker. "Oh! why should the spirit of mortal be proud? Like a fast flying cloud, a swift fleeting meteor, Like a flash of lightning, a break of the wave, Man passes from life to his rest in the grave."

A FRIEND.
Memphis, Tenn., July 15, 1914.

God pity the women if the majority of the men of South Carolina are like minded.
L. D. Childs.
Chester, S. C.

SOLD MILLION POUNDS.

Columbia, July 23.—Reports reached Columbia today that indicate an aggregate sale of tobacco in South Carolina on Wednesday, the first day of State's tobacco market, of one million pounds, the price per pound ranging from 4 to 35 cents, an average price being 8 cents. Lake City reported the highest price received.

Candidates' Cards.

Announcements of candidates will be printed in this column until the close of the campaign for \$5. No cards accepted on credit.

For Congress.

I hereby announce myself as a candidate for the nomination as Congressman from the 7th Congressional District and pledge myself to abide the result of the Democratic primary.
A. F. LEVER.

The Senate.

I am a candidate for re-election to the State senate from Sumter County in accordance with, and subject to the rules of the Democratic party.
JOHN H. CLIFTON.

I hereby announce that I am a candidate for election to the State Senate from Sumter County, subject to the rules of the Democratic party.
R. D. EPPS.

House of Representatives.

I am a candidate for the house of representatives subject to the rules of the Democratic primary.
J. C. DUNBAR.

I hereby announce myself a candidate for the House of Representatives, subject to the rules of the Democratic party.
D. D. MOISE.

Believing that my four years experience and my study of the State's affairs have put me in a position for effective service, I am a candidate for re-election to the House of Representatives, subject to the rules of the Democratic primary.
R. B. BELSER.

I am a candidate for the House of Representatives from Sumter County subject to the rules governing the Democratic primary.
A. K. SANDERS.

For Auditor.

I hereby announce myself a candidate for re-election as Auditor of Sumter County, subject to the rules of the Democratic party.
R. E. WILDER.

For Treasurer.

I hereby announce myself a candidate for re-election as Treasurer of Sumter county, subject to the rules of the Democratic party.
B. C. WALLACE.

For Supervisor.

I hereby announce myself a candidate for the office of County Supervisor subject to the rules governing the Democratic primary.
W. S. THOMPSON.

I am a candidate for re-election to the office of County Supervisor, subject to the rules of the Democratic party.
P. M. PITTS, Supervisor.

I hereby announce myself a candidate for the office of Supervisor for Sumter County, subject to the rules of the Democratic party.
L. E. WHITE.

County Superintendent of Education. I hereby announce myself a candidate for re-election to the office of County Superintendent of Education of Sumter County and pledge myself to abide by the rules of the Democratic primary.
J. H. HAYNSWORTH.

I hereby announce myself a candidate for the office of County Superintendent of Education for Sumter County, subject to the rules of the Democratic party.
S. D. CAIN.

For Coroner.

I hereby announce myself a candidate for Coroner of Sumter county, subject to the rules of the Democratic primary.
S. W. RAFFIELD.

I hereby announce myself a candidate for the office of Coroner of Sumter County subject to the rules governing the Democratic primary.
WILLIAM J. SEALE.

For Magistrate.

I hereby announce myself a candidate for reelection to the magistrate's office, 4th district, Sumter county.
J. A. HODGE.

HARRISON DENIES CHARGES. UNITED STATES WILL TAKE NO ACTION WITH OTHER COUNTRIES.

President Southern Railway Contends That His System Has Not Been Manipulated.

Washington, July 27.—Testifying before the Tillman investigating committee in the senate today President Harrison of the Southern Railway denied the charges that the Southern railroad has been manipulated by Wall street financiers to prevent the coal fields of the Southeast to compete with the coal trust.

Washington, July 27.—The United States will maintain strict neutrality in the European crisis, and will enter no concert to maintain peace.

President Wilson today learned officially that the Russian minister at St. Petersburg has issued a statement that he considers war between Austria and Russia inevitable and the complete Russian army is being mobilized.



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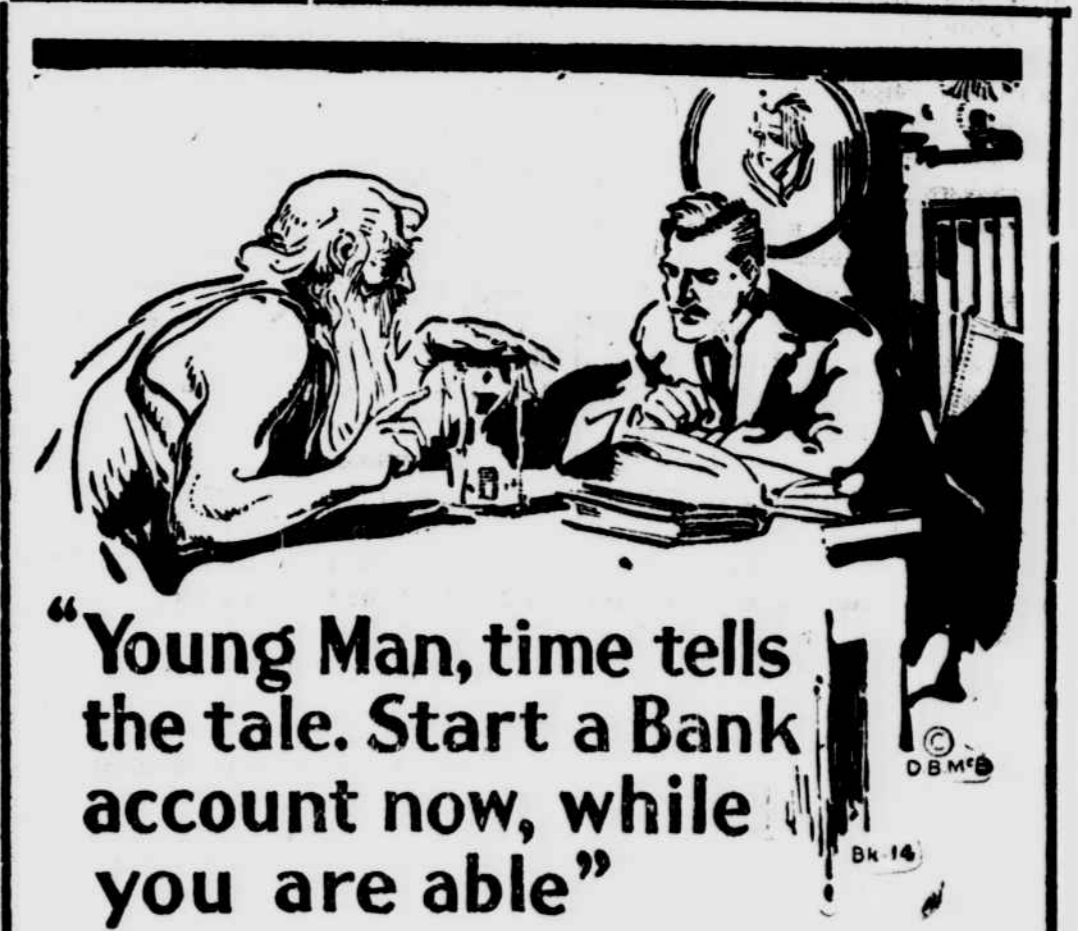
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