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THE DAILY REPUBLICAN

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PROTECTION OF CITIZENS

WHERE TROOPS ARE REQUIRED

AN INCIDENT OF THE TEXAS DEBATE

Texas border troubles had been discussed in the House of Representatives for several days. The needs of the border for protection were ably presented by the Texas members. The question of increasing the military force was the special matter considered on the fifteenth instant, when, according to the *Record*, the following proceedings were had:

Mr. Smalls—I offer the amendment which I send to the desk.

The Clerk read as follows:

"Add to the first section as follows: Provided, that no troops for the purposes named in this section shall be drawn from the State of South Carolina so long as the militia of that State peaceably assembled are assaulted, disarmed and taken prisoners, and then massacred in cold blood by lawless bands of men invading that State from the State of Georgia."

Mr. Smalls—I hope the House will adopt that proviso as an amendment to the bill. As I have only five minutes I send to the desk a letter published in one of the newspapers here from an eye witness of the massacre at Hamburg, and I ask the Clerk to read it.

The Clerk read as follows:

"The origin of the difficulty, as I learn from the best and most reliable authority, is as follows: On the fourth of July the colored people of the town were engaged in celebrating the day, and part of the celebration consisted in the parade of the colored militia company. After marching through the principal streets of the town the company came to a halt across one of the roads leading out of the town. While resting there two white men drove up in a buggy, and with curses ordered the company to break ranks and let them pass through. The captain of the company replied that there was plenty of room on either side of the company, and they could pass that way. The white men continued cursing and refused to turn out. So the captain of the militia, to avoid difficulty, ordered his men to break ranks and permit the buggy to pass through."

Mr. Schleicher—I rise to a point of order. I wish to know if the proposition is germane to the bill.

Several members—Too late.

The Chairman—The Chair desires to say that it strikes him as being as germane as other propositions which have been generally entertained to make it allowable.

The Clerk continued the reading of the letter, as follows:

"The order was obeyed, and the white men went on their way uttering threats. The next day a colored trial justice issued processes against the officers of the company, based on the complaint of the two white men, citing the officers to appear and answer to a charge of obstructing the public highway. They obeyed the writs, and after a slight examination the justice adjourned the trial until Saturday, the eighth instant. On that day, at an early hour, the town commenced to fill up with white men, armed to the teeth with repeating rifles and revolvers. The colored people had no idea of the bloody tragedy which was soon to take place, and consequently made no preparations to resist an attack, and were almost defenseless.

"Late in the afternoon General M. C. Butler, one of the most malignant of the unreconstructed rebels, rode into the town, accompanied by a score of well-armed white men, and stated to the leading colored men that he came for the purpose of prosecuting the case on the part of the two white men, and he demanded that the militia company should give up their arms and also surrender their officers. This demand the militia was ready to comply with for the purpose of avoiding a difficulty if General Butler would guarantee them entire safety from molestation by the crowd of white desperadoes. This Butler refused to do, and persisted in his demand for the surrender of the guns and the officers, and threatened that if the surrender was not immediately made he would take the guns and officers by force of arms. This threat aroused the militia company to a realizing sense of their impending danger, and they at once repaired to a large brick building, some two hundred yards from the river, used by them as an armory, and there took refuge. They numbered in all about forty men and had a very small quantity of ammunition. During this time, while the militia were taking refuge in their armory the white desperadoes were coming into the town in large numbers, not only from the adjacent county of Edgefield, but also from the city of Augusta, Georgia, until they numbered over 1500 well-armed and ruffianly men, who were under the immediate command and direction of the ex-rebel chief, M. C. Butler. After the entire force had arrived, the building where the militia had taken refuge was entirely surrounded and a brisk fire opened upon it. This fire was kept up for some two hours, when, finding that the militia could not be dislodged by small arms, a messenger was sent to Augusta for artillery. During all this time not a shot had been fired by the militiamen. The artillery arrived and was posted on the bank of the river and opened fire on the building with grape and canister.

* * * * * *

The Clerk resumed the reading of the paper, as follows:

"The militia now realized that it was necessary to evacuate the armory at once. They proceeded to do so, getting out of a back window into a corn field. They were soon discovered by the ruffians, and a rush was made for them. Fortunately, by hiding and hard fighting, a portion of the command escaped, but twenty-one were captured by the bushwhackers and taken immediately to a place near the railroad station." * * * * *

The Clerk continued the reading as follows:

"Here a quasi-drumhead court-martial was organized by the blood hunters, and the last scene of the horrible drama began. It must now be remembered that not one of the twenty-one colored men had a pistol or gun about them. The moment they were captured their arms were taken from them, and they were absolutely defenseless. The orderly sergeant of the militia company was ordered to call the roll, and the first name called out to be shot in cold blood was Allan T. Attaway, the first lieutenant of the company, and holding the position of county commissioner of Aiken county, in which county Hamburg is situated. He pleaded for his life as only one in his position could plead, but his pleadings were met with curses and blows, and he was taken from the sight of his comrades and a file of twelve men fired upon him. He was penetrated by four balls, one entering his brain and the other three the lower portion of his body. He was instantly killed and after he was dead the brutes in human shape struck him over the head with their guns and stabbed him in the face with their bayonets. Three other men were treated in the same brutal manner. The fifth man when taken out made a dash for his life, and luckily escaped with only a slight wound in his leg."

"In another portion of the town the chief of police, a colored man named James Cook, was taken from his house and while begging for his life brutally murdered. Not satisfied with this, the inhuman fiends beat him over the head with their muskets and cut out his tongue.

"Another colored man, one of the marshals of the town, surrendered and was immediately shot through the body and mortally wounded. He has since died. So far as I have been able to learn only one white man was killed. It will thus be seen that six colored men were brutally murdered and one wounded, while on the side of the whites only one man was killed. After this holocaust of blood was over the desperadoes in large bodies entered the houses of most of the prominent colored men of the town and completely gutted them. They stole all they possibly could, and what they could not steal they destroyed. Furniture was smashed, books torn to pieces, pictures cut from their frames, and everything that could be destroyed was given up to the demon of destruction. Such scenes my eyes have never before witnessed, and the distress and suffering among the poor colored people was heart-rending to behold. The town is desolate and the inhabitants have taken refuge in Aiken, Columbia, and other points. The civil authorities are powerless or too negligent to do anything and peace and order can not be preserved unless United States troops are sent to this point at once.

"The scenes during the massacre were fearful to behold—the moon shining down upon the horrid scene lighting up the whole with a ghastly light; the popping of the small arms; the screams of frightened women and children; the loud reports from the artillery, all tended to make a scene terrible and more fearful to behold. And now what was the provocation given for the hellish slaughter? The answer is, nothing. Legally the militia had the right of way over the public road. The day was the nation's holiday. The militia had a perfect right to parade, and vehicles of all kinds were required to keep out of their way, and not interfere with their marching. Again, General Butler had not the shadow of a right to demand the arms of the militia. They were organized under the constitution and laws of the State, and were part and parcel of the armed force of the commonwealth. No private citizen had the slightest right to molest them. Such molestation was a direct blow at the power and authority of the State. It was a revolutionary step, and should be thus punished.

[Here the hammer fell]

* * * * *

The Clerk resumed, and concluded the reading of the letter, as follows:

"Are the Southern colored citizens to be protected or are they to be left at the mercy of such ruffians as massacred the poor men of Hamburg? The murdered Attaway was a man of considerable prominence in the Republican party of the county. He was a law abiding citizen, held a responsible office, and was well thought of by very many people. The other murdered men were good citizens and have never been known to infringe the law. The whole affair was a well and secretly planned scheme to destroy all of the leading Republicans of the county of Aiken living in Hamburg. M. C. Butler, who lost a leg while fighting in the ranks of the rebels, and who is to day the bitterest of Ku-Klux Democrats, was the instigator of the whole affair and the blood-thirsty leader of the massacre. He boasted in Hamburg during the fight that that was only the beginning; that the end would not be until after the elections in November. Such a man should be dealt with without pity or without hesitation. The United States government is not powerless, and surely she will not be silent in an emergency like this, the parallel of which pen can not describe. In this centennial year will she stand idly by and see her soil stained with the blood of the defenseless citizens, and witness the bitter tears of women and children falling upon the murdered bodies of their loved ones? God forbid that such an attitude will be assumed toward the colored people of the South by the "best government the world ever saw." Something must be done, and that quickly, or South Carolina will shed tears of blood and her limbs be shackeled by Democratic claims.

"What I have written in this letter are facts which I vouch for entirely, and are not distorted in any degree. It's a plain, unvarnished" narration of painful and horrible truths."

Mr. Hill—Read the name attached to the letter.

The Chairman—The Chair understands there is no name given.

Mr. Hill—Who is the author of the letter?

Mr. Gunter—I call for the date of that paper and the name attached to it.

Mr. Conger—I believe my time has not expired.

Mr. Douglas—I call for the reading of the name of the author of the letter.

Mr. Conger—I claim the floor for the balance of my time.

Mr. Cochrane—Before this matter is concluded, I desire to know whether there is any name attached to that communication.

The Chairman—The Clerk informs the Chair that there is only a *non de plume* attached.

Mr. Cochrane—I understand that the name attached to that communication is erased. I ask the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. Smalls) whether he erased the name?

Mr. Conger—I hope that all this will not be taken out of my time.

The Chairman—The gentleman from Michigan (Mr. Conger) has five full minutes of sixty seconds each.

Mr. Conger—Then I yield five minutes to the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. Smalls).

Mr. Smalls—This is a letter written by a gentleman who was an eye-witness of this transaction to me, and I, sir, had that letter published in the paper. I am responsible for the name.

Mr. Cochrane—Whose name is it? Who wrote that letter?

Mr. Smalls—I will say to the gentleman if he is desirous that the name shall be given in order to have another negro killed he will not get it from me. [Applause]

Mr. Jones, of Kentucky—I ask the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. Conger) to yield me two minutes.

Mr. Conger—I have already yielded five to the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. Smalls).

The Chairman—Does the gentleman from South Carolina wish to occupy the rest of the five minutes?

Mr. Smalls—I do not.

Mr. Conger—Then I resume the floor.

The Chairman—The gentleman from Michigan has three and a half minutes of his time remaining.

Mr. Conger—When an amendment was before the committee to increase the regiments without any reference to the action of the House in reducing the army, I made a suggestion to the House that that proposition would draw from other cavalry regiments a large portion of their quotas and leave them with a very diminished number of men. The amendment that is offered here is a very simple and a very proper one, and in accordance with the amendment which was last under consideration. It is that, in portions of the United States where the lives and property of the citizens are alleged to be invaded, where it is alleged that property is taken and life taken by riotous men, in regions of country where troops are as necessary to protect them as they are necessary to protect our citizens on the borders of Texas, notwithstanding this resolution which we propose to pass, troops shall not be taken from those regions where their presence is equally necessary for the protection of the life of the citizen and the protection of his property.

I venture to say there is no man on this floor that dare rise in the presence of the American people to oppose this amendment, and I challenge any man to it; not alone on account of the statements in that communication, of the truth or falsity of which I do not now speak, but from the common knowledge which every one has of the events in the State of South Carolina. From facts universally acknowledged I venture to say that the same spirit which will induce every member of this committee and every member of this Congress to raise his voice and his hand in defense and protection of the citizens of the country would palsy the hand that would be raised to oppose the extension of that protection to one portion of the United States where the same necessity for protection exists.

Sir, I believe that the cutting down of the army was the result of a determination on the part of some men somewhere to prevent troops being sent into States where lawless men take the lives of peaceable citizens. I just charge that as the attempt inaugurated in this House and carried out, I regret to say, with the assent of men who never ought to have given it their assent.

Mr. Milliken—I would ask the gentleman if he has any member in his eye or in his mind whom he pictures as that man?

Mr. Conger—I charge that the natural and inevitable result of that reduction must be to leave the army so small that the Indian war upon our hands and the necessity of protecting the Texas border there would be no forces to be sent into other portions of our country where the presence of an army is eminently desirable and necessary.

[Here the hammer fell]

Mr. Cox—Mr. Chairman, I understand that this town of Hamburg is immediately opposite Augusta, in the State of Georgia, across the river. The town of Hamburg is mostly made up of a colored population. It has a colored magistrate or intendant. It has, moreover, a colored militia company. This trouble occurred in the first place, as I understand authentically, by the killing of a white man. That was the beginning of it. Afterward the negroes intrenched themselves in a house and they were driven out from it. The gentleman from Georgia [Mr. Hartridge] has a letter, which he will read here, and which will explain the whole matter. It is from a gentleman who has been inculpated on the other side. I do not take the statement which has been read as absolute verity. It has no name attached to it. It is indorsed, indeed, by the member from South Carolina opposite as being authentic, but who indorses the gentleman? [Cries of "O! ah!" from the Republican side of the House.]

Mr. Rainey—A large constituency do.

Mr. Smalls—A majority of 13,000.

Mr. Cox—Thirteen thousand people may indorse the gentleman, yet he comes here with all the prejudice belonging to his race, and he will admit that much himself.

Mr. Smalls—No, sir; I will not admit it.

Mr. Cox—Now wait until I get through. These gentlemen from South Carolina have had read a statement which is anonymous, and they ask legislation based upon it. And then the gentleman from Michigan rises here and challenges every member in this House to vote against that proposition if he dare, because of the condition of the army. Sir, it becomes us not only to inquire into the basis of the letter which has been read here, but into the basis of the statement of the gentleman who indorsed it. Now I do not impugn the gentleman's veracity at all when I say that he may speak from hearsay, and that, not having been on the ground himself, he may have had partial accounts of the subject. Does he understand me? And, if so, why this unnecessary clap-trap on the other side of the House?

Now the gentleman from Michigan has another motive. This letter was intended to be shaken into the face of the House for political and bad party purposes, for the gentleman knows that in the distribution of the army there is strength enough in the South to protect every one to whom protection in the South is due.

Mr. Hill—The Hamburg riot was got up for that express purpose.

Mr. Cox—I have no doubt of it. The State of Georgia is not touched by this matter, but is entirely innocent in regard to it.

Mr. Rainey rose.

Mr. Cox—The gentleman must wait until I get through. The State of South Carolina is to-day a Republican State, and the worst governed State in the Union; it is bad all around; bad at its borders; bad in its heart; bad on the seacoast; bad in Edgefield county; everywhere rotten to the core, as your own party papers have said. Give South Carolina a Democratic government and fair play as has been the case in Tennessee, Virginia, and other States which have been rescued from maladministration, and you will see that every man, black and white, will be cared for under the law.

Mr. Garfield (in his seat)—As they were at Hamburg.

Mr. Cox—Will the gentleman rise and repeat his remark? I could not hear it.

Mr. Garfield—I will do so presently.

Mr. Cox—It does not belong to the United States to look after every petty disturbance in a State and to put the military there. It is a new idea that you have to touch with a Federal bayonet every sore place in the country. How is the army distributed? The 26,979 men are distributed as follows: 4216 at West Point and in the ordnance corp and non-commissioned staff; 7930 in the Territories; 3778 in Texas; 3334 in other Southern States; 2913 operating against the Sioux under Generals Terry and Crook, and about 4500 in the Northern cities and forts.

This Texas border bill does not detract from the force of the army South, North, East or West to any considerable extent. This matter is brought up to divert us from the question of protecting the Texas frontier, as we should do by pertinent legislation; to get up a cry throughout the land for this fall's election and for sinister purposes; to stimulate malignancy and shake the bloody shirt in the face of the people. This is the only object. The people will understand it. Anonymous letters read here, apparently from the South, will not affect them. The device is thin. The gentleman from Georgia (Mr. Hartridge) has an authentic letter which explains this matter. He will give it to the House, and I now yield to him for the purpose of having it read.

Mr. Conger—I withdraw my formal amendment.

Mr. Hartridge—I renew it. The object of the introduction of this amendment is self-evident. The partisan purpose which it is intended to subserve is easily recognized by every intelligent mind. I should not rise to oppose it were it not for the fact that it does gross injustice to an honorable and gallant gentleman, and endeavors to cast an imputation upon a portion of the people of the State which I have the honor in part to represent.

The people of Augusta, Georgia, have no immediate representative upon this floor. The hand of Providence pressing heavily upon their gifted representative prevents him from raising his voice, as he would do if here, in defense of the honor of his constituents. But there is no Georgian upon this floor who will not feel it his duty, his pride, and his pleasure to enter his protest against any imputation such as that conveyed by this amendment against a community distinguished for its intelligence, for its integrity, for its virtue, and for its obedience to the laws and the constitution.

This anonymous communication so far as we know its nature, anonymous so far as this House is concerned, anonymous so for as this country is concerned, is read here to give to this House a partisan view of the unfortunate occurrance at Hamburg, South Carolina. No one regrets that occurrence more than I do, none regrets it more than the people of my State do. Even now all the papers of Georgia, Democratic as they are, are calling out for an investigation of this matter, and they stand ready, if there be any fault, if there be any crime, to stamp it with their condemnation and to aid in its punishment. An investigation is going on conducted by the Governor of South Carolina, through his official agents, his attorney general, his adjutant general, and his coroners holding inquests over the bodies of those unfortunate dead. It would have been well to have waited until that inquest had given to the world the result of its determination before casting this firebrand into this assembly.

But I do not propose to address this House longer upon this subject. I arose simply to give my reasons for asking that the letter be read which I send to the clerk's desk. It comes from General Butler himself; it is signed by him; there is no hiding of his signature. He desires that the world shall know what part he took in the matter.

Mr. Conger—Is he the same General Butler that is charged in the other letter with being engaged in this affair?

Mr. Hartridge—He is the same General Butler.

Mr. Douglas—And a gentleman, as I know.

Mr. Conger—He may be a gentleman, but I ask is he the person charged in the other letter?

Mr. Hartridge—He is the same General Butler who is slandered by that communication.

Mr. Cook—And he is the peer of any man on this floor.

Mr. Hartridge—I ask that the letter that I send to the clerk's desk be read as a portion of my remarks.

Mr. McDougal—Will the gentleman yield to me for a question?

Mr. Hartridge—Let the letter be first read.

Mr. McDougall—Is this General Butler an officer of the militia of South Carolina?

Mr. Hartridge—Let the letter be read.

The clerk read the following from the Augusta *Constitutionalist*, published in Augusta, Georgia, July 13, 1876:

"The following is General M. C. Butler's account of the Hamburg militia riot of Saturday night. The General begins by saying that—

"Certain newspapers, editors and reporters have done me so much injustice by false reports in reference to the recent disturbance in Hamburg, that it is due to myself to make to the public a statement of my connection with it:

"On Friday evening, July 7, Colonel Charles Shaw, with his brother, Rev. William Shaw, were at Edgefield Courthouse, to see Mr. H. W. Addison and Mr. A. J. Forris and myself on business. After transacting it, Colonel Shaw said to me that Mr. Robert J. Butler, who lives near Hamburg, in Aiken county, desired me to be at Hamburg on the following evening (Saturday) at four o'clock to represent professionally his son, Thomas Butler, and son-in-law, Henry Gelsen, in a trial to be held before Trial Justice Prince Rivers.

"Mr. Butler has been a lucrative client of mine for many years. I inquired of Colonel Shaw if he knew the nature of the case to be tried, and he said he knew nothing except what he had heard; that these two young men had had an altercation with a company of negro milita in the streets of Hamburg on the fourth of July, and that Mr. Robert Butler had complained to Rivers, the Major General of militia and trial justice, and he supposed the trial referred to that matter. I accordingly left Edgefield at nine o'clock the next morning in a buggy. When I had gone about seven miles on the old stage road I met Dr. John Wise, who inquired if I had heard the news from Hamburg. I replied that I had heard nothing special, but was on my way to Hamburg to attend a trial before Rivers. He said the information had reached his neighborhood that the the negro militia had threatened to lynch Thomas Butler and Henry Gelson if they were not convicted, and that several young men had gone in that direction.

"When nearing the town I sent word to Mr. Robert Butler to meet me in Hamburg and give me the facts of the case in which he wished me to appear. Mr. Butler did meet me in a short time; and I there, for the first time, ascertained the character of the trouble. I had nothing whatever to do with the matter up to that time. Knew nothing but what I have stated. My business there was simply professional. I had nothing about me but one law book, and no more idea of there being a collision than an utter stranger. I learned after reaching Hamburg that Mr. Henry Sparnick, of Aiken, was in town, as the attorney of the colored militia, and sent for him with a view of arranging for the trial or effecting some arrangement between the parties. Mr. Sparnick met me, and I think will do me the justice to say that my earnest effort was to prevent any further trouble, if possible, and he appeared equally anxious.

"Mr. Robert Butler then interposed and said to Mr. Sparnick that if these men would make acknowledgments for their abuse and maltreatment of his son and son-in-law he would be satisfied. I said nothing about any apology myself. It was then proposed that we hold a conference with the officers of the militia company and Prince Rivers and see if we could not adjust matters. I made this proposition to Mr. Sparnick and he assented, saying he had influence with the negroes and he thought we could arrange it. He went off, as I supposed, to bring his clients, and did not return. Sam Spencer, a negro man, came to Mr. Damm's store, where I was with Mr. Robeet Butler, his son and son-in-law, and said that he desired to see me privately.

"I at once went into Mr. Damm's back room. He said he was sorry to see so much excitement, and I expressed regrets at it. When he said that he thought inasmuch as Trial Justice Rivers was to hear the case he would prefer not to be in the conference. I agreed with the propriety of that position and he then said that the officers of Doc. Adams's militia company would meet me, but did not like to come to me at Damm's store, as there were armed men there, but would meet me at his (Spencer's) office if agreeable to me. I said certainly; I would meet them at his office, and alone, if they preferred. He then went off, and did not return. The time appointed for the trial having arrived, I proceeded with my clients to the trial justice's office. Rivers was not in, and after a time his clerk went for him, and he opened his court. I inquired, as a preliminary question, whether he was sitting as a civil or a military officer. He replied that that depended upon the facts as they would be developed; that he was then acting as a peace officer. I remarked that I was indifferent as to the character of the court, as we only desired to arrive at the facts, and inquired if the accused parties would be present. He said that he did not know, but would have them called, which his constable proceeded to do from the door.

"About this time Sam Spencer came in and said to me that he thought if the trial could be suspended the matter could be settled. I replied that he must see the trial justice, and if he would suspend I had no objections; whereupon Rivers announced the case suspended for ten minutes, and I was invited by the intendant of the town, a negro named Gardner, to the council chamber for the purpose of meeting the militia officers of Adams's company. I repaired at once to that place and remained there about a quarter of an hour, nobody appearing but Gardner, with whom I had some talk as to the necessity of something being speedily done, and that I thought the best solution of the matter was that these people should deliver up their arms as a means of settling the present difficulty, and a guarantee against a future recurrence. He said he knew nothing about it, and waiting, as I thought, long enough, I got in my buggy and went over to Augusta on business, having no relation to the Hamburg matter; and while there was questioned by a uumber of people as to the status of affairs in Hamburg, to whom I replied that I thought a collision between the whites and blacks imminent and likely to take place.

"After dispatching my business, I was returning through Hamburg on my way to spend the night at Mr. Robert Butler's, two miles in the country, and leave for home next morning. When about half way across the bridge I met a delegation of four negroes, Pixley, Edwards, Spencer, and Sims, who stopped me and said that if I would go to Spencer's office the officers of the militia would meet me and endeavor to stop the impending trouble. I agreed; went directly to the appointed place and waited there some twenty or thirty minutes, but one of the officers, Cartledge, appearing. He said he would do all in his power to induce the militia to disband and give up their guns, and I believe he did. While I was in Augusta a body of men rode into the town of Hamburg mounted. I went around the street to look for Butler, and had not been gone long before I received a message from Prince Rivers, asking me to meet him. I declined to do so, saying that we had made about four appointments which were observed by myself only, and that he must come to me. I did, however, go to meet him, and he asked me if the men would give up their arms would I guarantee the safety of the town. I said I had nothing whatever to do with the town and could give no guarantee of any sort, as I had no command or authority; but would say as a citizen that, in my judgment, if they would do that there would not be the slightest trouble, and he said that he thought that right, and would go and advise them to that course.

In about ten minutes the report was circulated that the negroes refused to give up their arms and intended to fight, and a few minutes thereafter the fight did ensue. The negroes were fortified in their drill-room in a brick building known as Sibley's corner, and they raised a yell and fired from the windows, which was responded to by the whites and a general firing took place. Not a very great while after the firing began Mr. McKie Merriwether, a most estimable young man, was shot through the head and killed.

"Not a negro had then been touched, and Merriwether's death naturally infuriated the already excited crowd, and they were under the leadership of no one. During the firing some parties unknown to me brought over a piece of artillery, and fired four or five times at the building and returned. The firing of the negroes from their position then ceased. I left the crowd arresting the negroes. How many were killed I do not know.

"This collision was the culmination of the system of insulting and outraging the white people which the negroes had adopted there for several years. Many things were done on this terrible night which, of course, can not be justified, but the negroes sowed the wind and reaped the whirlwind.

"I did not attempt to accomplish by force what I could accomplish by peaceful means. I was not the leader of this body of infuriated men. I was there in the line of my profession. The collision was a sort of spontaneous combustion. I thought I saw it approaching, and did all that any human being could to prevent it.

"I have no objection to being saddled with whatever responsibility fairly attaches to my conduct; but I have no idea of permitting newspaper reporters, for the sake of a sensation or any other purpose, presenting me as the leader of a mob, when I was no more the leader and no more responsible than any other person who might have been there in the line of his duty.

"M. C. BUTLER."

During the reading of the letter the chairman said:

The five minutes of the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. Hartridge) has expired.

Mr. Garfield, Mr. Kasson and others—Let the whole letter be read.

There was no objection, and the Clerk resumed and concluded the reading of the letter.

Mr. Jones, of Kentucky—I desire to say a word or two on this subject. I am very glad that letter has been read, for I know the man who wrote it, and have known him from infancy.

In regard to this trouble at Hamburg it is to be greatly deplored, and no one in this country deplores it more than I do. I have a love for the State of South Carolina. I was reared upon her soil and I venerate her ancient name and fame. Even now, when I believe she is under one of the most despicable governments the sun ever shone upon. I have a sympathy for every human being that inhabits that land. I am a friend of the colored man, and whenever the colored race in South Carolina desire anything for their civilization or elevation, I will be one of the first men to come to their rescue in a proper sense and spirit.

I have no doubt the exact truth of the unfortunate occurrence at Hamburg has been told in that letter. I vouch for every word of it. I read yesterday in the public journals the letter which was sent up here and very imprudently asked to be read to the House by the member from South Carolina (Mr. Smalls). I believe it to be a slander and a lie. Does he know it to be true? He does not. In my judgment, it is a mere fabrication for political effect.

But, sir, as far as M. C. Butler is concerned, to call him a Ku-Klux would be an insult to the most honorable blood in America. I have known his family all my life. They have been in every war of this country from the revolution down. They have been distinguished soldiers, heroes and statesmen, as he is one to-day. He was a gallant and brilliant officer in the Confederate army from the firing of the first gun of the war to the last: and when the war ended he surrendered like a soldier and a hero, and he behaved himself as a soldier and a hero ever since. He was one of six or seven brothers who went to the front, and I believe but three survived the conflict. In addition to the noble Butler blood which runs through his veins, he inherits through his venerated mother, whom I well knew, the blood of the gallant Commodore Perry, of Lake Erie fame. He has been eminently consesvative and loyal ever since he surrendered his sword.

Why, sir, the Conservative party in South Carolina five years ago sent here to have his disabilities removed. They were removed at my instance, and the ran him for Lieutenant Governor upon the Conservative ticket with R. B. Carpenter, who went from Kentucky into South Carolina, and who was always a most loyal Union man.

Mr. Buckner rose.

Mr. Jones, of Kentucky—I will not allow myself to be interrupted. Sir, if there be a man in the Union whom we can recognize as the proud chevalier—*sans peur et sans reproche*—it is M. C. Butler, of South Carolina.

I repeat that I have known him from boyhood. I knew his father and all his great uncles—all distinguished and honorable men. What is stated in that letter is literally true. I would vouch for M. C. Butler the world over.

Mr. Rainey—Mr. Chairman, no member on this floor can deprecate more heartily than myself the opening of this discussion. I had anticipated that when this Congress met its action would be such as to exercise a salutary effect upon the entire Democratic party of the country; that it would close its deliberations without agitating these questions affecting the lives and liberties of American citizens. But it appears to me that so long as the negro has a vote in this country, so long as he has a voice in this government, it is necessary that he should on every proper occasion appeal to the country in behalf of those rights.

Sir, I regret as much as any man here that outbreak at Hamburg. I regret that the proceeding was measurably countenanced by a cavalier who has descended from noble stock—the very best that peopled the soil of Carolina. When I make this assertion I am not influenced by any partision prejudice; I do not speak from hearsay or mere conjecture. I am sustained in what I say by the Democratic papers of South Carolina. I have in my hands the *News and Courier*, the leading Democratic paper of the State, which contains an article from the Augusta *Chronicle and Constitutionalist*, stating the very fact that General Butler went from Hamburg across the bridge into Augusta, saw young men over there, and said to them: "Things over in Hamburg look squally; young men, we may want you over there this evening; get yourselves in readiness." The editor of this Democratic paper, published in the city of Augusta, says that General Butler made use of that expression, and that those young men, fully armed and to the number of 200 or 300 went over there.

And, sir, what are we to say of brave white men who fought in the Confederate army coming out in armed force to capture and subjugate forty defenseless negroes collected in a building where they could not defend themselves? These men said that they were willing to surrender the few arms they had, but not until General Butler or some one else high in authority should give them assurance that their property, their liberty, and their lives would be secure. Did they exact from General Butler any more than is accorded to them by the constitution? I ask whether they had not as much right to bear arms as General Butler or anybody else? Had they menaced or threatened any one while engaged in that parade on the fourth of July? No, sir; the whole trouble arose because a few men, inflamed with whisky and with a determination to subdue the negro in the South, told them with threats that they must stand from across the road so that these men might be enabled to drive by unmolested.

Why, sir, just think of it! What would be thought if here in Washington City, when a military company was parading on the fourth of July, two men should come up in a buggy and demand of the officers that the company should get out of the way, and if they did not, should at once set to work and murder the men of that military company? I ask you, citizens of the United States, would you stand it? I ask you, brave men, who fought for your country's liberties, long before you took part in the war of the rebellion, would you stand it? I ask you, proud Southern men, who boast of your gallantry and your intelligence and your superiority to my race, would you stand it? I ask you, men of the North, who sacrificed your blood and treasure, who sacrificed the lives of your sons and your relatives, would you stand it? Do you, then, expect negroes to stand all this? Do you expect my race to submit meekly to continual persecution and massacre by these people of the South? Are you not going to allow us any right of self-defense? In the name of my race and my people, in the name of humanity, in the name of God, I ask you whether we are to be American citizens, with all the rights and immunities of citizens, or whether we are to be vassals and slaves again? I ask you to tell us whether these things are to go on, so that we may understand, now and henceforth, what we are to expect?

The Chairman—The gentleman's time has expired.

Mr. Rainey—One word more. I ask to have published as part of my remarks an editorial from the Charleston *News and Courier* and some other extracts which I have not had time to read.

Mr. Garfield—Let them be printed.

The Chairman—The chair hears no objection, and the gentleman has consent to print them.

Mr. Garfield—What is the date of the editorial of the *News and Courier*?

Mr. Rainey—July 10, 1876.

The papers ordered to be printed are as follows:

THE BLOODY WORK AT HAMBURG.

Assuming that the accounts of the Hamburg fight given by the Augusta newspapers are in the main correct, we find little, if any, excuse for the conflict itself and absolutely none for the cowardly killing of the seven negro prisoners who were shot down like rabbits long after they had surrendered.

The ignorance of the negro militiamen, out of which the trouble came, could easily have been punished without a resort to arms. General Butler, who appears to have been in command of the whites, admitted that an apology by the militiamen would satisfy his clients. The affront to Mr. Butler, therefore, was not the immediate cause of the fight that followed. This was brought on by the demand that the militiamen surrender their arms into the keeping of the whites. The presence of armed bodies of negroes is a menace to any community; but we do not understand that the danger was such as to justify the whites in demanding the surrender of the arms or in laying siege to the house in which the negroes took refuge and killing the negroes who attempted to escape. The killing of seven of the negroes was barbarous in the extreme. We have no words strong enough to express our condemnation of such a crime. They who do such deeds sow the wind. We pray that they and those who are innocent of the wrong may not reap the whirlwind.

It pains us to be forced to speak in this strain of any act done in South Carolina by white men; but the higher intelligence and culture of the whites impose on them the duty of self-reverence and self-control. When they give way to passion and revenge, when they kill unarmed prisoners, they do what, as soldiers, they would not have dreamed of doing; they wrong themselves, their State, and increase a hundred fold the difficulties and dangers of our political and social future.

What followed is given in the words of the Augusta *Chronicle and Sentinel* of to-day:

THIS THING HAD GONE ON LONG ENOUGH.

After waiting some time, General Butler told Rivers that he must proceed. The constable then went to the door and called Adams, who, however, failed to answer. It was then ascertained that Adams, with his company, was up the street in a defiant attitude. General Butler thereupon informed Rivers that this sort of thing had gone on long enough, and it was about time that it was put a stop to. The negroes must give up their arms at once, and he would give the names of twenty of the best citizens in Edgefield as security that they would be turned over to Governor Chamberlain. Rivers then asked if General Butler, in case the arms were given up, would see that the town was protected during the night. General Butler answered in the affirmative. Rivers assured him that he would go immediately to Adams and persuade him to give up the arms. He accordingly went to that worthy and talked with him for some time. Upon his return he told General Butler that the mayor, Gardner, and the officers of the company would confer with him at the council chamber. General Butler accordingly went thither and had a conference with the negro leaders. He told them that the arms must be given up; there was no necessity for them in that place, and they had no business with them. As for the Adams case, Mr. Butler would be satisfied if Adams would make an apology.

THEY INTEND TO FIGHT.

This conference accomplished nothing. The negroes still hesitated about giving up the arms. In the meantime, however, a number of white citizens had assembled in the town and matters began to look squally. General Butler rode over to Augusta and told several young men that he might need their services in Hamburg during the afternoon. He then returned to the town. Just after crossing the bridge he was met by Prince Rivers, who said he would make one more effort to induce the negroes to give up their guns, and if they would not yield they must take the consequences. Accordingly he conferred with the officers of the company, and shortly returned to General Butler with the anouecement that the negroes said they would not give up their guns; they intended to fight. In the meantime the news of the trouble had spread in Augusta and caused much excitement. A large number of young men hastily procured arms and ammunition and hastened to the scene. Many others waited at the foot of the bridge anxiously awaiting the result. By seven o'clock there was a large crowd at that point.

OPENING FIRE.

Upon learning the result of Rivers' efforts, General Butler determined to effect by force that which could not be done by peaceable means. The negroes had entrenched themselves in a large brick structure, known as Sibley's building, on a corner, and defied the whites. The latter surrounded the house, and at half-past seven o'clock opened fire upon it. This was returned by the negroes, and a constant fusilade was kept up for over two hours.

THE FIRST MAN KILLED.

About eight o'clock a young man named T. McKie Merriwether, who was standing near the front of the Charlotte, Columbia and Augusta railroad bridge, was struck in the head by a minie ball fired from one of the windows of the Sibley building, and almost instantly killed. His body was placed on a litter and brought to the city by a number of young men. Mr. Joseph Merriwether, father of the unfortunate young man, also accompanied the body to the city. * * * *

SENDING FOR ARTILLERY.

Soon after the death of Merriwether, several men were sent over to Augusta for a piece of artillery. This was procured and carried to Hamburg as soon as possible. The piece was stationed on the river bank, a short distance from the house where the negroes had taken up their position, and a fire opened with canister. Four rounds were fired. Little damage was done the building, but the fire had the effect of completely silencing the negroes. During the evening eight negroes were captured, two of them members of the company.

THREE NEGROES KILLED.

About half-past eight or nine o'clock a party of five escaped from the building and ran across an open field. They were fired upon by the white men, and two of them returned the fire, but without effect. About ten o'clock a negro jumped over the fence in rear of the house and attempted to escape, but he was instantly fired upon and fell dead, riddled by bullets. It was then ascertained that he was Jim Cook, the marshal of the town, who had been one of the chief promoters of the difficulty. His head was almost shot to pieces. Soon after this another negro, named John Thomas, first lieutenant of the company, was caught while attempting to escape. After he was arrested he was shot in the back by some unknown party and seriously, perhaps mortally, wounded. This action was condemned in the severest terms by every one, and especially by General Butler.

KILLING THE PRISONERS.

Early this morning seven of the prisoners were taken out and killed. The *Chronicle and Sentinel* says that about two o'clock, or a little before, the roll was called of the prisoners, and those who were considered ringleaders of the disturbing element in this county were carried to a cornfield near the river and turned loose. As they ran they were fired upon and killed. One of the men shot was named Attaway, a county commissioner and a member of the Legislature. The prisoners died almost without a groan. The remainder were then turned loose. Before the shooting took place a detail of twenty-five men was made and ordered to take the prisoners to Aiken to jail. On the way it was determined to kill the ringleaders, and the shooting was done as described. Some gentlemen from Augusta interfered and saved the lives of three by persuading the guards to let them bring the negroes to this city. They were taken to the city hall and discharged. The man who was shot after being captured, John Thomas, was also brought to the city hall. He can not possibly recover. The list now foots up ten negroes killed, one white man killed, another severely wounded. The wounded man is in the hospital. As the remainder of the prisoners were turned loose they were fired into, but it is not known whether any of them were killed or not.

THE FORCE OF WHITE MEN

In Hamburg during the evening numbered several hundred, a portion of whom were from South Carolina and a portion from Augusta. They were armed with revolvers, shotguns and rifles, and were under the leadership of General Butler.

At eight o'clock a force of Augusta city police, armed with police guns, was marched to the South Carolina end of the city bridge and drawn up in line across the structure in order to protect the latter, as it was understood that threats in regard to it had been made by the negroes. There was no demonstration in that direction, however. During the evening, while the firing was going on in Hamburg, intense excitement prevailed in Augusta, and everybody was anxious to learn the latest news from the front. It was a matter of no little danger to attempt to get near the scene while the battle was progressing, as the balls were flying in every direction. Several of the balls fell in Washington street.

TWENTY-NINE PRISONERS.

About twelve o'clock general search was made throughout the town and resulted in the finding of fifteen more negroes, making twenty-nine in all. A negro who attempted to escape was shot in several places and badly wounded. The negro lieutenant, John Thomas, who as stated above, was shot in the back, was expected to die from the wound. A young man named Morgan was accidentally shot in the leg by one of his comrades while pursuing a fleeing negro. He was firing at the negro, together with others, at the time. His wound, while painful, is not considered dangerous. The negroes who were last captured were discovered hid away in cellars and under floors.

TRYING THE TORCH.

When the negroes fired from the windows of the Sibley building they set up a loud yell. The fire and the yell were both answered at once by the whites. A number of the latter were stationed on the river bank and kept up a rapid fire at the building. Just after the firing began kerosene oil was poured on a small wooden structure next to the Sibley building and the torch applied to it. Information of the fact was conveyed to General Butler, who immediately rode to the spot and ordered the fire extinguished, peremptorily forbidding any such attempt in the future. * * *

SIOUX CIVILIZATION.

Sitting Bull is said to be proudly gratified with the reports of the Hamburg riot. It shows that Sioux civilization and Sioux tactics are spreading. Sitting Bull thinks all the prisoners, and not only four, should have been shot; but still he is not exacting. He knows it requires time to educate a community up to the Sioux standard.—*New York Herald.*

TERRIFIED SUBMISSION.

The Charleston *News and Courier* reports that since the riot at Hamburg the condition of the negroes is that of "terrified submission." The recent achievements of that great chief, Sitting Bull, seem to have made an impression upon the Confederate Major General Butler, who commanded "the attacking column," for, according to the same journal, "two of the bodies were mutilated with hatchets or bayonets." As a further bit of information, we are informed that "all the killed had families with one exception, and the grief and distress of the women and children were violent and heart-rending." We hope our readers will bear in mind that these extracts are not from a speech of Senator Morton, intended to inflame the North, but from the Charleston *News and Courier*, one of the ablest journals in the South, and leading the campaign in South Carolina for Tilden and Hendricks.—*New York Herald.*

Rules of Health for the Heated Term.

Rise early—the morning air is pure and cool. Take a hand bath, going over the whole person with water at its natural temperature; any one can do this who can command the use of a basin and one or two quarts of water. Use nothing but the hand; once or twice a week put a few drops of ammonia in the water to cleanse the skin, or use white castile soap—avoid all others. Do this all the year round, no matter what the temperature of the weather is; beginning now, the skin will become accustomed to it, and cold will not effect but tone up the system, bringing the blood to the surface and preventing colds from sudden changes, besides not half the clothing will be needed. At this season do not discard flannels altogether, but wear thin ones without sleeves; the best are made from white bunting, which is not heating, and yet absorbs the perspiration, and will last forever if properly shrunk before being made up. On rising, if faint feeling and loss of appetite, take a teaspoonful of charcoal stirred in a little water, and repeat the same at bedtime; it must be the fine willow charcoal, prepared by Ellees & Sons, and to be found (with twenty-five cents) at the apothecaries. This absorbs the gas from undigested food, sweetens the stomach and prepares it for food, and should be taken at any time when there is any unpleasant fullness in the stomach before eating. Avoid ice water, except one or two swallows; the habitual use lowers the temperature of the stomach and prevents digestion. Sodawater in immoderate quantities should also be avoided, certainly not more than a single glass per day. Let the diet be a generous one, but to avoid mixtures; never more than two or three dishes at each meal. Pastry of all kinds should be especially avoided in hot weather. Plain yeast bread a day old, with good butter, sparingly, and in hot weather with milk—when fresh—well salted; all kinds of fruits and vegetables, in their season, well cooked and salted. Salt allays thirst when taken fresh upon food. Go slow about your business or work. Never try to do two men's work in one day. There is nothing gained by it. Keep on the shady side of the street, if there is one; if not, carry an umbrella, if you can; if not, your handkerchief in the top of your hat; if in the country, green leaves. Never get in a passion, as it shortens life. Finally, make haste slowly to get rich, remembering that without health riches are of no account.

Two Questions.

Is our present system of national currency worth sustaining? If it is, then the party that created it and protects it must be sustained by the people in November next.

Are our national bonds worth protecting and the credit of the nation worth sustaining in the markets of the world? If so, there can be but one answer to the question, "Which party can best protect our bonds and interest?" Common sense ought to dictate that the party which guarded both during the rebellion and since its close, is the only party that can be trusted to protect them at the present time.—*The Graphic.*