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AS TO THE BARKSDALE LAW.

The indictment of Mr. A. B. Williams, editor of the Richmond News Leader, on the charge of violating the Barksdale pure election law, is causing a widespread discussion of that law, and we again see marshaled forth all the arguments used for and against the measure at the time of its passage.

"No man who knows Mr. Williams believes he intentionally violated the letter or spirit of this section, and if there has been a technical violation, as would seem probable, in view of the breadth of the language used, we cannot see how, taking Mr. Williams' statement in connection with the unfortunate affair as strictly true, any moral obliquity can rest upon him therefrom.

Of course, no one believes that Mr. Williams intentionally violated the law. If he had done so he would have selected a less clumsy manner of doing so than through a check. Mr. Williams' misfortune, however, does not mean that the law is bad or that it should be amended by the insertion of the word "corruptly."

There is no way by which an exception can be made in behalf of the editor which would not let down the bars to every election crook in the State. Mr. Williams must recognize this fact, and we do not believe that he endorses the following sentiment expressed by the Charlottesville Progress:

"We remember that when the act was under discussion in the senate, one of the members, Mr. Wickham, we believe, endeavored to amend the bill by inserting the word 'corruptly,' so as to make it read 'corruptly expend, pay,' etc., but the amendment was rejected. It ought, we think, to have been adopted. Mr. Williams a day or two since signed his name to an editorial statement, giving the facts, and stating that he sent his check to the man for legitimate work done for Col. Anderson. It was done openly and above board, and Mr. Williams has frankly given to the public the transaction in its minutest details. The impression is that if he is indicted and tried, the minimum fine of \$100 will be imposed, as it is evident to everybody that Mr. Williams did not intend a willful violation of the law. We shall await the outcome of Editor Williams' situation with undissimulated interest, and we hope that as a result of the comment which

has arisen a sensible election law will be placed upon the statute books." We do not believe the hope expressed by the Progress will be realized if it considers the amendment set forth as necessary to the perfection of the Barksdale measure, for the people of the State realize that if the definition of the word "corruptly" were left to the practical politicians of the State, as it would be, they would consider nothing short of highway robbery and murder as "corrupt" if it tended to advance their factional interests.

The esteemed Portsmouth Star in a conservative statement of the subject expresses views concerning the matter which must appeal to all persons interested in the promotion of political purity in the State. Our contemporary says:

"We sympathize with Mr. Williams in his unfortunate predicament and we are ready to believe that he did not spend his \$25 'corruptly.' At the same time we cannot bring ourselves to believe that the people of Virginia are ready or anxious to make Mr. Williams' case the cause and ground for the enactment of so valuable a safeguard to decent elections as the Barksdale law has proven itself to be. But granting that there is indifference to this matter on the part of the voters, where, it is a fair question to ask, comes in the need for tinkering this excellent law. As one swallow cannot make a summer, so also the case of Editor Williams cannot be twisted or tortured into an excuse for knocking holes and leaks in this law. Mr. Williams shows no disposition to be made the subject of special legislation—not any more than if he rejoiced in the name of Smith, or Jones, or Mudd, or if he were just a mere man and not an editor. Moreover, Mr. Williams is bright enough to grasp the fact that 'corruptly expend, pay,' etc., are terms no less difficult to secure conviction on than is the operation of catching a bird by putting fresh salt on his tail. After its first spasm of indignation has passed, we are confident that our contemporary will come around to this view of the Barksdale law. There is nothing the matter with it. Let it alone."

And so say we all, including Editor Williams, who really has more at stake than the self-appointed champions who would strike down the law in his behalf.

WHAT MR. MARTIN SAID.

Senator Martin having been criticised for certain language used in a speech made here, has given a statement to the Norfolk Landmark in which he said: "The language attributed to me does not fairly represent any views expressed in my speech at Newport News," and then proceeds to tell what he did mean, winding up with this statement: "No one can attach more importance than I do to sentiment, to high ideals, to strict adherence to constitutional limitations, or to sound principles, and the context of every speech I have delivered has made this clear."

This provokes an intemperate and exciting outbreak from the Petersburg Index-Appel, which "butts" into the controversy by declaring that "there was no amendment about the matter, as the context and plain language of the Landmark's articles clearly shows. It was simply a correction of a misrepresentation of Senator Martin's language and sentiments which had been made the subject of adverse editorial comment that did him injustice, and which he had a right to have made for the information of the public. In no sense did he amend, but, on the contrary, absolutely denied the language imputed to him and repudiated the inference drawn from that language."

In his Newport News speech, as reported in the Daily Press of July 23, Mr. Martin said: "I believe that Southern statesmen have spent too much time talking about sentiment and the constitution. Sentiment is all right, but it will not provide food for your family or raiment for your wife and children."

This quotation was submitted to Senator Martin while he was in Hampton a few nights ago and he said that so far as he knew the Daily Press report had quoted him verbatim, but that it had not quoted all of his remarks and in their entirety a different construction might have been placed upon them by the editorial writers who had commented upon them. He did not complain of misrepresentation in the language attributed to him by the Daily Press, he did not repudiate this language, and the editor of the Index-Appel is the first person to intimate that the report was incorrect. We think if our contemporary will carefully read Mr. Martin's statement it will find that it has made the denial much stronger and more vigorous than the senator did himself.

Baron Komura is said to have expressed his regrets that he could not remain in Chicago and study municipal ownership. We have a double-lead suspicion that those "regrets" were concocted by some energetic correspondent over a stein of beer.

"We can pare expenditures a \$200 many millions a year and not stint the government, either," says Senator Cullom. We "can" but "will we?" Our Republican friends seem to think it is better politics to increase the taxes than to lop off extravagances which promise to catch votes.

A lady who has come from abroad to elevate our variety stage certifies that she is "the only person in vau-deville who wears real gold mittens in the winter." So long as the lady does not wear a "frosty mitt" the "Johnnies" won't care.

The Russian newspapers are highly pleased with the reception accorded M. Witte in America. Did our Russian friends expect us to line up on the New York dock and throw brickbats at the distinguished peace envoy?

The Republican spellbinders will hardly waste time on overworked remarks concerning the Democratic extravagance which made bond issues necessary during the Cleveland administration.

Colonel Gann, proprietor of Town Topics, announces that he will go to jail if necessary. We trust that the colonel does not consider that an over-powering concession.

Give Us a S. P. C. A.

The time has come to again bring before the public the subject mentioned above. The laws of the city are supposed to cover all cases of that sort, but probably not more than one case out of a dozen is brought to justice.

Policemen are very scarce in that part of the city located between Jefferson and Chestnut avenues, consequently, drivers of delivery wagons and carts of all descriptions carry things with a high hand and waste strength that should be put to a better use in heating and abusing teams that are not fit for use at all. Aside from the brutality it is a nuisance to observers.

Two cases have come under the notice of the writer within the past week. One was reported. Much of the torture is inflicted purposely out of "pure cussedness." But some through thoughtlessness, which does not speak well for the driver.

Last Sunday a nice driving team came into town, presumably from Hampton, two young men in a buggy, taking it easy, the horse wet with perspiration, but showing no marks of having been over-driven.

What was the matter? Simply this. The creature was checked up until its face was turned to the sky, and very likely had been in that position for hours. A short check-rein is an instrument of torture. God's creatures are calling in their dumb way for help.

If I remember rightly, a meeting was called some time ago to deal with this matter, but possibly a lack of means prevented the forming of a society. It should not be very expensive, one or two wide-awake officers who are really interested could do much to check this crime.

Again—Horses that are harnessed to delivery wagons at 7 o'clock on Saturday morning and worked incessantly for fifteen hours call for mercy. What can the owners be thinking of? Here's a case in point. Last Saturday night at 8 o'clock, several ladies sitting on their veranda, along comes a delivery wagon, belonging on Washington avenue, the horse staggered with fatigue. The driver applied the lash until one of the ladies protested and threatened to report him. But he was fighting mad and persisted until he passed from sight.

Brethren, think of these things and act accordingly. Our next effort may be successful. Give us a society for prevention of cruelty to animals.

H. B. W.

NO AUTO HEARSE YET.

But Motor Carriages May in Time Bring About Their Introduction.

"No," said the undertaker, "there is as yet no automobile hearse in Washington, nor so far as I know is there any in use anywhere in the country."

"Some time ago a Philadelphia undertaker put into use an automobile top undertaker's wagon—a wagon of the type that undertakers commonly use, but power driven; but nobody here has yet brought out even an automobile undertaker's wagon, to say nothing of automobile hearses."

"There are at least two New York casket manufacturing concerns that use power-driven vehicles in a business way, one of these concerns having, among other wagons and trucks, five electric delivery wagons which are charged at the factory from its own electric plant, and are used for delivery purposes between its factory and its warehouses and its customers; but these are all strictly business wagons."

"Of course, there are reasons for this. One reason is found in the fact that all automobiles are still, comparatively speaking, novel in appearance, and an automobile hearse would be a very striking novelty, and undertakers hesitate to introduce any innovation that might by conspicuously attracting attention in any way detract from the due solemnity of the funeral."

"Another reason has been the fear that an automobile hearse might break down; but now that automobiles have been so much improved I am not sure that there would be any greater danger of this than there is of mishaps to horses driven to hearses. Undertakers take every possible precaution as to their hearse horses, but as a matter of fact they are still liable to mishap or accident, as are all horses, and such mishaps do occur."

Ma—Willie, what's your little brother crying about? Willie—Jist 'cause he don't want to learn anything. I jist took his candy and showed him how to eat it.—Philadelphia Ledger.

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- Women's regular \$1.00 Oxfords, sale price 80c Women's regular \$1.25 Oxfords, sale price \$1.30 Women's regular \$1.50 Oxfords, sale price \$1.25 Women's regular \$2.00 Oxfords, sale price \$1.50 Women's regular \$2.50 Oxfords, sale price \$2.00 Infants' Strap Sandals, sizes 3 to 5; worth 50c to 60c, sale price 40c Children's Oxfords, sizes 5 to 8, worth 85c to \$1, sale price 65c Misses' Oxfords, sizes 8 1/2 to 11, worth \$1 to \$1.25, sale price 75c Misses' Oxfords, sizes 11 1/2 to 2, worth \$1.25, sale price 90c Misses' Oxfords, sizes 11 1/2 to 2, worth \$1.50, sale price \$1.00 Men's Oxfords, worth \$1.50, sale price \$1.00 Men's Oxfords, worth \$2.00, sale price \$1.50 Men's Oxfords, worth \$2.50 and \$2.75, sale price \$2.00

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