

THE TIMES

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THE CIRCULATION OF THE TIMES IS LARGER THAN EVER BEFORE IN ITS HISTORY, AND IS STABLY INCREASING.

EIGHT PAGES.

WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 20 1893.

THE INVESTIGATION.

The election yesterday of Mr. Thomas S. Martin to the United States Senate, for the term beginning March 4th, 1895, before the final report of the investigating committee, makes their finding a foregone conclusion.

To criticize the conduct of the committee in the examination, as we think the case deserves, would be now put down to the spleen of disappointment, rather than to calm and sound judgment; we shall, therefore, with confidence, rest the case upon the testimony alone, which we will give in full.

If any intelligent man—not bent on "concocting"—will say that the committee's rulings were uniform, and in favor of getting at facts which would likely lead to important and relevant developments, we will make a public acknowledgment of error. But we do not believe any such man can be found.

That Mr. Martin goes to the United States Senate with a cloud of suspicion upon the fairness of his title to the office, is due to the committee, which would not let the light in upon the dark places.

It has been suggested to us that the Times would injure Mr. Martin and impair his usefulness, and do no good by its demand for an investigation. We say that our demand for this investigation was absolutely impersonal; that so far from desiring to injure Mr. Martin, we would have rejoiced to have seen him come out of this fiery trial so that the "smell of fire" had not passed upon him, or any of his "indiscreet" friends, and the fair reputation of our State sustained.

So far from proposing to impair the usefulness of our probable senator, we would have been proud of every quality which Mr. Martin could have developed which could add to the influence and dignity of Virginia.

All these considerations have been frustrated by the action of the committee, and we are simply hopeful that our worst fears may not be realized. Certainly the outlook is very dark.

RAILROAD MEMBERS.

Part of the evidence given yesterday by C. V. Meredith ought to be read by every citizen of Virginia and pondered on deeply. He said that he was on the Democratic Executive Committee in 1891, and he there learned that the railroad raised a fund and spent it in the election of members of the Legislature outside of the Democratic party authorities.

The outrageous character of such a proceeding as establishing a claim by the railroads on the member who got the benefit of the fund was so apparent to him that, when Mr. Elyson asked him this fall to go on the Democratic Executive Committee, he made it a condition that this was not to occur again, that the subscriptions of the railroads must come into the general Democratic fund like all other subscriptions. He was promised this, but his expectations were not realized. Mr. Meredith's position was so plainly right that there can be no two opinions about the matter.

The railroads have influence enough without making members feel that they belong to a corporation. In some States it is an offence for State officers to receive even a pass from a railroad; what should be done with those who accept an election from them?

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Philadelphia Times: The noisy promoters calling themselves the Bi-Metallic League, are still bubbling at Washington. They should at least have the sense to know that there is no gold in any silver legislation at the present session, nor any bi-metallic nonsense at any time, while Cleveland is president.

This is the way the same paper pays its respect to the umbrella thief. The umbrella was taken from the Egyptian. At present it's taken indiscriminately.

Birmingham, Ala., News: Governor Lewelling, of Kansas, was once a tramp, it is said; hence his kindly feeling for the hobos. Had a rail on his clothes-line might curdle the milk of human kindness in his breast.

"Some Democratic journals and representatives," says the New York Sun, "seem to think that a caucus of the members of the House would have the power to make the Wilson bill a party measure. It is said that some members, whose constituents have fairly bled the falling out of protection by the Professor, are anxious to see the bill as a means of getting a clean political bill of health. They imagine that a caucus endorsement of the bill will hold them guiltless in the sight of their constituents even if the spoilation is thinner in their districts than elsewhere. They want the mild compulsion of a caucus as a pretext and excuse for voting for a bill which they know is not fair and uniform even as a protection bill, and that is unspicably dishonest as a tariff bill framed by a party committed by its own declaration to a tariff for revenue only."

"A caucus, or a thousand caucuses, cannot make the Wilson bill a Democratic measure, or put upon any Democratic Representative any obligation to support that bill. Instructions given by a Democratic caucus to pursue an un-Democratic policy do not count. The Democratic party gave its instructions at Chicago, in 1892. In the light of those instructions, the Wilson bill contemplates a robbery of the great majority of the American people for the benefit of a few."

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Atlanta Journal: A bill will be introduced in the New York Legislature at its next session, which provides that the different religious denominations. There is also a movement in this direction in Maryland.

The effort will fail, of course, as it ought to. It is the embodiment of an idea that is antagonistic to the interests of our government, which is for all the people, regardless of religious differences.

Mr. Kellum's Statement.

I beg to submit a brief statement in respect to my connection with the late senatorial contest.

On the 23d of September last, an article appeared in the Norfolk News and Courier advocating the instruction of the Democratic Legislature on the matter of the senatorship—the choice of the people to be ascertained by placing the names of the senatorial candidates on the tickets, along with the names of those gentlemen who would be candidates before the primary. I endorsed that article in a published card, and asked to be so instructed, but it was not so adopted at the primary which was held on September 28th.

The Virginia Legislature, at its primary session, on the 10th of October, Mr. Winslow, if nominated, would support General Lee, while I announced my own position in the following card, published in that morning's Standard:

"I have been repeatedly pressed for an answer as to how I would vote on various questions, should I be elected to the Legislature. Allow me most emphatically to state that I am chosen as one of the representatives for Norfolk, and I have there pledged on any issue, to represent to the best of my ability, the interests of the city of Norfolk in particular, and the State in general, as those interests may affect the responsibility of a public duty was thereby imposed, and I conscientiously performed it, as I at that time saw it."

This position was emphatically endorsed by my fellow citizens in their action in conferring the nomination upon me by over 600 majority. In casting my vote for Mr. Martin, I conscientiously endeavored to discharge my public duty, and nothing has occurred to shake my confidence in the belief that my action in that behalf was for the very best interests of my city in particular, and the State at large. Instructions were asked for that would divert the responsibility of a public duty was thereby imposed, and I conscientiously performed it, as I at that time saw it."

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Before, however, I was called upon by the committee from Norfolk, I had, as I told them then, drifted into a committee which had been organized to make a proceeding as establishing a claim by the railroads on the member who got the benefit of the fund was so apparent to him that, when Mr. Elyson asked him this fall to go on the Democratic Executive Committee, he made it a condition that this was not to occur again, that the subscriptions of the railroads must come into the general Democratic fund like all other subscriptions. He was promised this, but his expectations were not realized. Mr. Meredith's position was so plainly right that there can be no two opinions about the matter.

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FOR HONEST ELECTIONS.

OPEN LETTER FROM EX-MAYOR BARTON MEYERS, OF NORFOLK.

Hearty Concurrence in the Efforts of The Times—Will Not Hurt Democracy to Speak Openly of These Things.

The Norfolk Virginia of Sunday contained the following letter from Honorable Barton Meyers, ex-Mayor of that city; NORFOLK, Va., Dec. 16, 1893.

Editor Norfolk Virginia: Believing it to be the duty of every citizen to sustain with no uncertain sound, the effort of the Norfolk press, the Richmond Times and some other papers in the State, to obtain such legislation as will ensure honest elections, I write to express my hearty concurrence in the movement, as a Democrat who has always voted the straight ticket, and one who has no personal grievance; and I appreciate the efforts of the Times to unite in an effort to change election laws, which permit dishonest to the old Commonwealth, and threaten to disrupt the Democratic party.

I shall speak plainly, because the best chance is to make a thorough diagnosis. Nor should my fellow Democrats think it will injure the party to speak openly, for local Republican leaders some of whom were once in the Democratic fold, understand the situation fully, and no disclosure of present methods, can be so disastrous to the party as their continuance. Ostrich-hiding will do no good. Neither can Republicans with good grace reflect on them, when they recall scenes enacted here, in November, 1892; and the character of registrars, judges, and clerks of election appointed when they controlled the election machinery of this city. Unscrupulous Democrats have merited appearing and the methods of unscrupulous Republicans.

The Anderson-McCormick law was enacted in 1884, to wrest the machinery from the hands of the judges, who in many places were not to have prostituted it to partisan ends.

Without referring to other sections of the State, whose papers are speaking for them, but confining myself to the Second Congressional District, and especially to Norfolk, I think it is not improper to discuss whether or not present registrations and elections are honest; for many well-posted men believe that frequently they are not so. In fact, many men who are upright in their private affairs, would resent any imputation against their personal integrity, and claim to believe that in order to maintain Democratic, or the white man's supremacy, the methods should be improved by such a method, honest or not, as may be necessary thereto. The vital point, therefore, is to convince Democrats that they should desire and demand honest elections, from motives of expediency, as well as of morality, and show to the line, let the chips fall where they may."

The white man's supremacy is important, but moral supremacy is of even greater importance. The end does not justify the means. We should demand public morals, without in this debauching private morals and business methods. Our young men are being reared with an object lesson before them: those to whom they should look for guidance, and whose integrity they should emulate, are doing even less for the cause of honesty than they are for the cause of dishonesty. They are doing even less for the cause of honesty than they are for the cause of dishonesty. They are doing even less for the cause of honesty than they are for the cause of dishonesty.

We should demand an honest ballot even though it result, temporarily, in defeat. We may pursue the registration law, which is now in effect, and which is not unreasonably to the citizen who will not avail himself of the opportunity thus afforded to learn enough to read his ballot, shall not have a voice in legislation for those who have acquired education. But let us be honest in our methods, let us impartially and honestly administered; honorable defeat is better than dishonorable success. Whatever may once have been the danger of negro rule, the day has passed when it was an all-around evil. We are not unreasonably to the citizen who will not avail himself of the opportunity thus afforded to learn enough to read his ballot, shall not have a voice in legislation for those who have acquired education. But let us be honest in our methods, let us impartially and honestly administered; honorable defeat is better than dishonorable success. 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