

The French Broad Hustler

M. L. SHIPMAN, Editor
T. R. BARROWS, Associate Editor & Manager

HENDERSONVILLE, N. C.

Entered at the Postoffice at Hendersonville, N. C., as mail matter of the second class.

J. WILLIAMS TO CHARLEY'S DEFENSE.

The disquieting news sent out from Hendersonville, or some other place, not long ago, to the effect that Charles French Toms would be read out of the radical party for breach of faith or something of the kind, is strenuously denied by his office associate and boss-ringster J. Williams. In a letter to the Charlotte Observer, of July 16, Mr. Williams says among other things:

"In a recent issue of your paper I see a very misleading article to the effect that, in the convention which was held here last Saturday, Hon. Charles French Toms was to be 'read out of the party.' Now the facts are these: The convention (not the county convention) was held and, instead of Mr. Toms being 'read out of the party,' the man who wrote the article in The Asheville Gazette-News, from which your article possibly emanated, was himself considerably 'red out' for perverting the facts. The fact is Mr. Toms is one of our leading citizens and, outside of the wonderful news which has come into the county from other places, the citizens here have never heard of it."

That settles it. But it would be interesting to know how many of the "rank and file" attended the convention which "read out" the Gazette-News story writer, who is accused of having put up a job on the dearly beloved new convert. "Dollars to doughnuts" that it was only a caucus attended by members of the ring-cousin crowd. Mr. Williams says "it was not the county convention." Then it must have been a district gathering. The people would like to know something of such a meeting.

This statement of Mr. Williams is amusing to the many republicans who were heard commenting upon the action of little Charley at Greensboro:

"Outside of the wonderful news which has come to the county from other places, the citizens here have never heard of it."

This is a rather broad statement for a truthful man to send out, but perhaps Mr. Williams thinks he has stated the case correctly and we shall not become involved in a contention between republicans over a matter quite so trivial as this. It is safe to reiterate the suggestion, appearing in these columns last week, that Charley is in no danger of being read out of the party. It requires backbone to execute such a proceeding, as that. The new convert is too closely allied with members of the ring-cousin official family in Henderson county to be given "the cold shoulder" by any part of the crowd. He is believed to have taken orders from them (favors certainly) for the past several years and the bosses know the child full well so it is all over. Let's join in the shouting. He is to remain with them.

JUDGE ADAMS KNOWS.

The Salisbury Post, commenting upon recent happenings, says: "Judge Adams is a representative of the best element of the republican party as it is constituted in North Carolina, but he cannot hope to ever come the influence of the foxy Butler, to whom he owes his election. The creature is never superior to the creator and Chairman Adams will be no exception. He may believe that he is free from Butler; but Butler has never yet helped a man to public place that he did not either control or destroy."

The Asheville Gazette-News copies the Post's comments and adds this:

"Judge Adams does not believe that he is 'free from Butler.' The ox knoweth his owner and the ass his master's crib. Intellectually, Judge Adams is not for a

moment to be compared with any ox or ass.

Judge Adams once swore, or said very loudly, that he would have nothing to do with the "organ" if Butler had anything to do with it. That was a different Adams from the present Chairman Adams. The transformation took place when Adams became vice-president of the Industrious News Publishing company, knowing full well that whenever Butler took snuff, granting that he would take snuff, every man in the Industrious office, including the devil, would sneeze."

This appears to be what THE HUSTLER would call putting the case against Adams pretty strongly. "The ox knoweth his owner and the ass his master's crib." So Adams is to be the servile puppet of Marion Butler. How the republican party can make any pretension to respectability in the State under such conditions as this passeth our understanding. Verily Judge Bynum's strictures are still applicable to that boss-ridden aggregation of political vultures, acrobats and pie-hunters. The republican masses will have no show while such a gang is in the saddle.

Three republican presidential candidates loom up, of course, to be defeated by William Jennings Bryan. These are Taft, Fairbanks and Cannon, all of whom will be pushed by their respective friends who hope for reward. Cannon is too old, according to the republican estimate of H. G. Davis, run by the democrats last election; Taft is a small potato, although he weighs considerably, and Fairbanks is a rather cold number to rush on the warm members from the south especially. It is predicted that Roosevelt will run for a third term, but perhaps the people will not endorse the third term idea, although the officeholders might do so.

The view is said to obtain in Washington that Congressman Blackburn will be strengthened rather than weakened by his defeat for the state chairmanship of his party when the administration leaders are made to realize that most of the votes against him were cast by perniciously active federal office holders of the solidly democratic east. It is likewise believed Marion Butler's hold on Chairman Adams will be made fast, since Butler and Duncan's officeholders gave to Adams his majority. However Mr. Blackburn will not muster enough strength to save his scalp in the eighth district this year. Dick Hackett is after him.

Almost everybody in North Carolina was a personal friend of Major Ed. McKissick, who for a number of years was proprietor of the famous Battery Park Hotel at Asheville. He counted his friends by the thousand, from President McKinley down. Several years ago a distinguished member of the United States Senate got married and arranged to spend his honeymoon at the Battery Park and naturally Major McKissick and the citizens wanted to entertain him in royal style. McKissick took personal charge of the plans and he went down to the station in a carriage to meet the honored guest. He took the bride and groom to the carriage, rode with them to the hotel, and then escorted them to the finest apartments in the house. As he was turning to leave the Senator handed the hotel man a silver dollar, and McKissick pocketed it with a very graceful bow. That evening at the public reception the proprietor porter was presented. The Senator was rattled. "Damn you," he said, as he got beyond the ears of his new wife, "give me back that dollar," but he didn't get it. And that, perhaps, was the only member of the Senate who didn't know the Asheville man. —Ex.

REPUBLICAN CONVENTION.

Says the Windsor Ledger of the much discussed republican "love feast" at Greensboro:

The republicans boasted that their

State convention would be a gathering of which the State would be proud. What was the special attraction? Was it one of the following?

1. A drunken postmaster yelling at the top of his voice in the presence of ladies "Give 'em hell, Spence."

2. A delegate whose head was split open by a plate in the hands of a decent young woman waiter, at a hotel, whom he insulted.

3. Another delegate bound over to court for totting a pistol in the convention and trying to use it.

Really is there a decent republican in North Carolina, out of office, who would have been willing to carry his son and daughter there to study a lesson in government?

In his speech accepting the congressional nomination, before the convention at Asheville on June 30, Hon. W. T. Crawford is reported to have said:

"I do not believe that any man can say he is proud of the republican party. It would be an assertion that he endorses meanness." The three incidents recited above give added weight to the statement attributed to Mr. Crawford, yet there are some folks who feign unalloyed happiness in the republican party, even at the back door. But the people do not take them seriously, knowing their lack of independent manhood and free thought heretofore. The republican party of North Carolina offers no attractions to the better class of our citizenship at present, and the future of that crowd looks dark and dreary, indeed.

In an issue of July 5, the following item appeared:

"The republican state convention soon to be held in Greensboro will be a warm number. There is going to be a hot time in the old town, when that aggregation of pie hunters and flopdoodles get together."

Authentic reports of that convention verify the correctness of our prophecy. There was swearing, drinking, head-splitting, pistol toting (and presenting), offered insults to women and kindred offenses. And rumor has it that some people violated instructions. Verily the way of the transgressor is hard. The delegate whose head was split by a plate in the hands of the young woman he insulted has since died, the pistol toter was bound over to court and those who violated instructions are being roundly denounced by some of their associates. "The world do move."

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The London correspondent of the Philadelphia Press tells the following story of King Edward's recent visit to Andrew Carnegie at Skibo castle:

"The royal visit to the castle was a complete surprise to Mr. Carnegie, the king merely telegraphing him a few hours beforehand that he would arrive at a certain time. As luck would have it, Mr. Carnegie was asleep when the "wire" came, and, no one dreaming that its sender was Edward VII, the message was not handed to the laird of Skibo until he woke up.

"Then there was considerable excitement. The king was due in five minutes, and Mr. Carnegie was in despair at the thought that not a single arrangement for his reception had been made. Then he had an inspiration. At Skibo there is an immense pipe organ which Mr. Carnegie had put in some time ago for his own pleasure. An organist who performs upon it is a permanent member of the millionaire's household. Mr. Carnegie determined that the organ should thunder out "God Save the King" as his majesty entered the castle.

But when he sent for the organist the reply came back that the musician had gone down to the neighboring swimming pool.

"Have him out of the water, then" shouted Mr. Carnegie.

"And so they had him out. Actually dripping and clad only in a blanket, the wretched man was brought back to the castle on the run, borne into the concert room and plumped down on the organ stool. It was just in time, for the word passed that the king's carriage was coming up the driveway.

"An immense screen had been dragged in front of the organist, now innocent even of his blanket, so that he was shielded from view, and thus, the water dripping from his hair, his fingers and his shoulder blades, the shivering musician played "God Save the King" while one servant rubbed him with a coarse towel and another gave him brandy.

"As for the king, he was delighted with his musical reception, and when Mr. Carnegie told him the circumstances under which the national anthem had been performed his majesty laughed till his sides ached."

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