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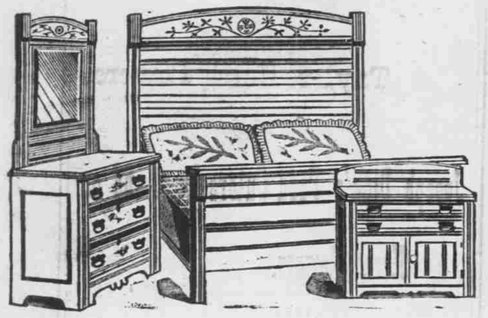

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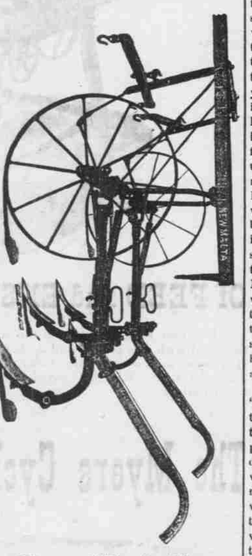

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KNOCKED OUT!

McDowell's "Vindication" Torn All to Pieces.

Denounced by a Mass Meeting in Arkansas.

His Recent Methods as Unscrupulous as His Past Record.

The American Sustains It's Charges by Proof Overwhelming.

The American of last Sunday devotes four pages to another chapter in the history of the now notorious John H McDowell. It is a rather long and cumbersome treatise for a newspaper's columns, but is certainly exhaustive of the subject. It goes back to the beginning of the discussion and restates it's charges, in the main, as follows:

1. That during the latter few years of his residence in Desha county, Ark., he was claimed by the negroes as a republican, and the claim was conceded by his white neighbors.

2. That his affiliations, as an office-seeking republican, were with the negroes, who constituted not only the republican party but the great body politic of the county.

3. That in pursuance of his policy to obtain office through the negroes, he attended many of their own meetings, and on one occasion sat at the table in the home of one of his colored followers, surrounded by others of that color, and ate supper.

4. That it was currently reported throughout the county, by white and colored people alike, and believed by all, that he was a member, in full fellowship, of the negro republican league.

5. That in the conduct of his office of Justice of the Peace, he had a large eye upon the revenue feature thereof.

It then tells of McDowell's trip to Desha county, Ark., followed by his brother W. W. McDowell, who, it is supposed, when John H., had furnished the "facts," prepared the "vindication." The paper calls attention to the fact how, "notwithstanding the appearance, as a basis for the accusations, of statements from nearly the entire white male population of Red Fork township, in which McDowell lived and practiced politics, establishing each and every one of them, his more rabid Alliance adherents pronounced him guiltless far in advance of any evidence tending to prove him so."

It then states when the proof came, what it was intended to show.

1. That John H. McDowell, with Macune, Livingston and Terrill, constitute the Alliance.

2. That John H. McDowell, as the biggest of them all, has been seized as a martyr, with purpose to destroy the order, by unscrupulous democratic politicians.

3. That he was the most consistent, zealous and liberal Christian who had ever been seen or dreamt of in Desha county.

4. That he was a most devout and persistent follower of the recognized founder of democracy during his entire stay in Desha county.

5. That he never allowed his eyes to rest upon a negro suspected of being a republican.

6. That his accusers were men utterly lost to the world of decency and known only in the criminal history of the county and State.

7. That his magisterial eye was always closed when revenue was even hinted at.

The American, through its special correspondent, then gives a statement of the case in a general way as he found it in Desha county while McDowell was working up his vindication and immediately thereafter. He states that McDowell's first move was to find his old political chums, the professional negro politicians of the county, and together they went to "working up the county" as of yore. People who remembered him in the long ago, remarked "it looks like old times, when Mac and his henchmen were trailing the woods for office." The correspondent states, upon the testimony of responsible men, how negroes, who before McDowell's arrival were notoriously without money or credit, suddenly became "flush," after their private interviews with McDowell. The statement of the case shows, by the testimony of white and black, how McDowell traveled the county armed with a Winchester rifle; how he threatened to kill some and intimated those he could; how he bribed others, and when these remedies failed, how he appealed in the name of his family and worked upon their sympathies.

In this way, it is alleged, he got his "vindication" and seemingly made the American's witnesses contradict themselves. But when McDowell's proof was all sifted down, and the dates were compared, it develops that what little of McDowell's proof there remains, that is unpurchased and worthy of credit, relates to the first two years of his life in Arkansas, while the American's charges relate to the latter years of his life there. It shows further that a number of McDowell's own witnesses charge that the statements they made were "doctored" by somebody and did not appear correctly stated. Besides this statement of the case by its correspondent, the American editorially says:

Oyez! Oyez!

One of the worst if not the very worst chapter in all the odious and odorous record of John Henry McDowell is the fraudulent defense of his reputation, which in the light of the American's investigation, stands exposed in all its rottenness. That defense was never intended for the general public. John Henry McDowell knew on the day on which he gave it to the press as well as he will know when he reads his American this morning that he could not maintain the base deception which he had practiced upon his readers with regard to the character of his witnesses. He knew that the American would soon strip the disguise from the faces of the negro scoundrels masquerading as reputable white men under the titles of "Reverend," "Professor," etc., etc., etc., with no hint or suggestion of their real character. Every man in Nashville who read McDowell's defense believed that George W. Bell, the "Senator," "the Professor," the man of "high moral character," was a cultured and honorable white man; every man in Nashville will know this morning that he is a graceless, godless and redemptionless negro scoundrel, one of McDowell's old confederates in the dark days of the Loyal League and the negro night meeting. Every man in Nashville believed that Isaac Sanford, who "knew McDowell in the Confederate army," was a brave old Confederate soldier, a comrade who shared with him the toils of march and the dangers of battle; every one will know this morning that Ike Sanford is merely an Arkansas negro. And so of the "Reverend" Norwood, S. T. Thompson, of Wm. Hicks et al.

They will know, too, of the desperate, unscrupulous and ruffianly methods used to browbeat the timid, move the weak and induce the corrupt. They will see exposed the weak and stupid lie concocted to excuse McDowell in swaggering over the county with a Winchester rifle threatening to shoot any man who testified against him and refused to retract. They will see how his old negro companions of the olden time became flush with boodle when McDowell struck the county; and they will learn how his old stand-by, Jackson Green, alarmed at the report that George Cole had given away the "secrets of the order," hastened, in his ignorant way, to telegraph his old chief that the enemy had got hold of the records of the league. They will learn how McDowell pleaded with some in the name of his wife and children; how he stormed and threatened in the case of others; how he confessed to the state of demoralization and corruption that existed in his office, but laid all the blame on his swift witness, Bunn. They will see the imposing array of testimony which he has paraded melt and dissolve in the light of truth. McDowell knew that all this would be made plain when he printed his defense as well as he knows it to-day.

But he was relying upon the inner circle of the select few who could be trusted to shut their eyes to all evidence and to *their* efforts to palm off and keep up the deceit upon those who never see or read anything but the Toiler. In pursuance of this policy McDowell, his understrapped Pierce and all his henchmen began a systematic effort as soon as his reply appeared in print to instruct the Alliance men that it was their duty not to read The American. It would be vastly disappointing to Mr. McDowell to learn that the net result of these desperate efforts has been less than nothing.

The record of the investigation to date is clearly summarized elsewhere. Forty-six witnesses are brought to the stand by McDowell. Eleven of these are negroes, whose testimony is thoroughly discredited by the proven facts. Ten of his white witnesses repudiate the statements which appear over their name and openly and publicly denounce McDowell as a slanderer, repeat the charge that he was a republican and a negro leader in Arkansas and defy him to put the fact in issue in the courts. Numbers of others are shown to have been open and unreserved in denouncing him in the same way. The whole imposing array is swept aside with a stroke. The attacks on The American's witnesses are denounced as slanderous by his own. Men whom he commends for their honor and integrity and high-standing in the community indorse The American's witnesses by name as men of honor and veracity and declare that McDowell himself was always regarded as a republican and member of the Loyal League in the State of Arkansas.

We present to the testimony of a score of additional witnesses, reputable white men, who sustain the charges we have made against McDowell. We present abundant additional testimony as to his membership in the League. We give his own confession made to Col. Varner. We give his confession to Judge Pindall that his "affiliation with negroes was the mistake of his life." We have put upon the witness stand already nearly every reputable white man who lives or did live in the same township and nine-tenths of them have pronounced every accusation to be the truth. We have shown that a public mass-meeting composed of the leading and representative men of two townships, in the same neighborhood where he lived and operated, men who own three-fourths of the landed property, men whose integrity and veracity are universally conceded, have openly and publicly denounced him in unmeasured terms.

We are willing to go before the public and before the courts. We defy McDowell to put his character in issue before a jury of his country. The American will make his cost bond, it will secure the fee of his attorneys to be paid on the day he gets his judgment. We will give assurances which will satisfy any reputable attorney he may select to make safe the collection of his judgment, if he still clings to his miserable and false subterfuge. We will do almost *anything* to get a chance at McDowell in the courts. If he will meet us there we will put upon his character the brand of infamy with the hand of law. There he must show his witnesses in their true light. He cannot mask a negro vagabond in honorable titles and fulsome eulogy before a jury. There, too, he must attack opposing witnesses with something better than the ebullient filth of a black and scurvy scoundrel.

Will Mr. McDowell decline the issue? If so he must face the inevitable judgment of every thinking man—and all men will think sooner or later—that he will not put his cause to a judicial trial because he dares not; because he cannot trust his reputation to the fierce light and merciless scruting of the courts of his country."

Then Follows the Proof.

The proof in the case is overwhelming. The first witness is introduced to show McDowell was not only a member of the Loyal League, but actually organized it, and that after his defeat and departure, the League disbanded. The witness presented is George Cole. He is a negro, otherwise he could not speak of his own knowledge. But he owns the farm he lives on, and is endorsed and vouched for by the best men of the community, and by some leading merchants of Memphis, who have had business transactions with him. This is what he says:

"Of course I knew Mr. John H. McDowell from the time he moved into Desha County, Ark. He came, I think, in 1870. He first located on the Ridley place, about one mile from Red Fork, with his brother, Mr. Sam McDowell. He lived about two years on the Ridley place, during which time he was regarded as a democrat, although I never heard of him taking much part in politics while he lived there. Then he moved over to what is known as Pea Ridge, near Medford, and bought the Martin place. About 1873 Judge Peterson resigned the office of Justice of the Peace for Red Fork Township, and Gov. Baxter appointed Mr. John McDowell to the office. After he got the office Mr. McDowell began to organize the colored people into secret political clubs, assisted by Judge Peterson. These two were the only white men who took an active part in the organization but Mr. Bunn was about them sometimes. I was living with Mr. McDowell at the time, and was one of the first members sworn into the club by Mr. McDowell. Mr. McDowell told us not to let any of the farmers know anything about the organization until he got it well under way as they would break it up. I attended about all the club meetings held after that, which were held at a number of places over the township, and Mr. McDowell and Judge Peterson,

NEARLY ALWAYS MET WITH US.

He seemed to have but one idea in his speeches at these meetings, which was to stand together and vote the straight Republican ticket. After a colored man named Smiley, who lived with Col. Williams, was sworn into membership, he let the secret out to Col. Williams. Mr. McDowell heard of it through Col. Williams and Dr. Peoples. Dr. Peoples called McDowell a d—d black republican at an election being held in Mr. Carter's house, at Red Fork, and McDowell said he wanted to fight about it, but he did not fight. Before that however, Mr. McDowell and Smiley came near having a fight because Smiley had told Col. Williams about the organization Mr. McDowell was working up among the colored people. We understood at first that the organization was for the purpose of electing Mr. McDowell Magistrate. Our pass word was "United we stand, divided we fall." Mr. McDowell gave us the pass word. We elected Mr. McDowell Magistrate, and then he kept us together to elect him County Clerk, but at the same time we had to vote for all the candidates on the ticket with him. After Mr. McDowell ran for County Clerk and was defeated, the club broke up.

Yes, I remember the supper at Jehazy Cole's, just before a political meeting at Oak Grove Church. Mr. McDowell was then a candidate for Magistrate, was at the supper and afterwards at the meeting. It was a little unusual for us to have a white man eat with us, and at first we did not sit down with Mr. McDowell. He told us to come on and eat with him, that there was no difference between us except a little color, but we all belonged to the same party. Then we all sat and ate supper together. I am sure Dave Cherry and Henry Jackson were there, and think Mose Lovelace, George Bell and Jackson Green were there also. At the meeting after supper we indorsed McDowell as our candidate for Magistrate and elected him. Mr. McDowell made a speech to us there, declaring he was as good a republican as anyone there and asked us to vote for him and the whole republican ticket.

I am in no way related to Jehazy Cole, and never belonged to the same master with him. I belonged to Col. Butler, while Jehazy and his wife belonged to Col. Jasper Gonder. I came to this part of the county in 1857, living in Desha County until 1881, when I moved to the place I now own and occupy, in Arkansas County. I do not owe one cent on the place. I am perfectly willing for you to ask Maj. Wynne, Mr. Burnett, or any of those old people about Red Fork about me."

His
GEORGE X COLE.
Mark.

This is a Clincher.

After the statement of George Cole had been given the American representative happened to meet with Jackson Green, whom he told that Cole "had given the whole snap away," and repeated to him the password of the league. The ignorant and superstitious negro seemed deeply concerned by the information and soon got away from the reporter. The next seen of him he turned up in Waterman's store, where he got Mr. L. S. Sayer, a clerk, to write out for him the following telegram, a copy of which was preserved by Mr. Sayer:

Dumas Ark., July 17.—John H. McDowell, Nashvill, Tenn.: George Cole has given away the pass-word of our order. The records has all been found and disposed. You had better let me know at once what steps to take. Telegraph me. United we stand divided we fall is correct. JACKSON GREEN.

Lewis Reeves, Rev. Calvin Bowman, a negro minister of good repute, and Isaac Kains, and other colored witnesses, testify substantially the same as Richard Cole, concerning McDowell being a member and the originator of the League. And upon this subject, Col. W. F. Varner, a thoroughly responsible white citizen of Varner, Ark., says that in 1876 or 1877 he was at McDowell's house on business, and that McDowell left him, saying he was going to attend a Union League meeting, and that his understanding at the time was that McDowell was a republican and a member of the league.

Jehazy Cole and his wife both reaffirm that McDowell invited himself to take supper with them, and voluntarily stated there was no difference between them except in color, and in this they are sustained by one Willis Martin, also colored.

His Own Witness.

Mr. Chas. H. Gifford is one of the witnesses used in the McDowell "vindication," and is referred to as one of the oldest citizens, a christian gentleman and life-long democrat. Mr. McDowell, in his defense, rests largely upon the testimony of Mr. Gifford. And this is what Mr. McDowell, in his "perfectly satisfactory vindication," makes Mr. Gifford say:

I am a member of the Methodist Church. I lived in Red Fork Township, Desha County, Ark., when J. H. McDowell moved here, and lived within two miles of him. I knew him well and intimately. His record as a moral, upright Christian gentleman was never impeached while he lived here that I heard of. He built, mostly at his own expense, a Baptist church in our neighborhood and worked to build up the morals of the community. As an official I considered him of the best we ever had. I never heard of his stirring up litigation and do not believe he did it. He claimed to be a democrat and I had no reason to doubt his sincerity. I have been a citizen of this county forty-seven years and a life-long Democrat. I am in my 60th year. C. H. GIFFORD.

Douglass, Ark., July 4, 1891.

Mr. Gifford, as appears in his statement, is an old man. He had not thought of McDowell for many years perhaps, and had heard nothing of the charges against him. He was not expecting to see McDowell, when suddenly he appeared before him and the old man says began to fire questions at him, such as, "Don't you remember I was an active christian down here?" etc., for none of which was the witness prepared, and he may, he says, have assented to the questions. But later he began to reflect and remembered otherwise than stated, and sent McDowell a note requesting him not to use his statement. Here is his statement of the case to the American's correspondent, made the day after the note was sent, and McDowell was yet in the neighborhood.

"I am now living at Douglass, Lincoln county, Ark., but my family still resides at Watson, in the Red Fork Township of Desha county. Prior to my removal to Lincoln county, on business four months ago, I had lived in Desha county, about forty-seven years, and from the time Mr. McDowell came here I resided about two miles from him. I went from Douglass to Watson last Sunday, July 5, and on my way, in passing the house of Mr Joe Jones, Mr. Jones came out and told me John H. McDowell was there and wanted to see me. McDowell himself then came out and began asking me questions about what I knew of and how I regarded him, I think, when he first came here. I did not know at the time anything was up, was in a hurry to get some, and did not remember very distinctly at the time anyhow—because of its suddenness and my age mainly—and I gave him a statement to the effect that my recollection was that when he first came here he was a gentleman and a democrat, and that I regarded him as a moral man. After I gave him this statement, in substance, in response to his questions, he stated that somebody had something up on Bunn, who was his constable. McDowell said that he and Bunn were different men, and he had nothing to do with him. I went on home after the conference with McDowell, and began reflecting upon his career down here, and also read the statement published in the American. This caused me to recall several things which I had heard at the time, and I recollected that after McDowell began mixing actively in politics he was regarded by everyone with whom I came in contact as a republican, and he ran with that party, according to my recollection. After thinking over the whole matter, I wrote Mr. McDowell a note this morning requesting him not to use the statement he wrote out and I signed. This note I gave to Col. Combs to send to McDowell as soon as possible. In this note I stated that on reflection I remembered some things myself, and that I did not want my name to figure in the affair.

CHAS. H. GIFFORD.

Medford, Ark., July 7, 1891.

Another Flat Contradiction.

There also appears in the McDowell "defense" the following:

RED FORK, ARK., July 8, 1891.—Hon. J. H. McDowell, Dear Sir: I met Mr. J. M. Chiles yesterday. He says I can say for him that "when McDowell took the office of Justice of the Peace this county was fearfully rough. There was no law nor order and murders were frequent; that McDowell believed in enforcing the law and maintaining order, and his efforts in this direction brought about the hard feelings that may here exist against him; that McDowell himself was a law-abiding citizen, an upright gentleman in his dealings and actions.

Yours truly, W. M. WATKINS.

The above is what Watkins, McDowell's witness says for Chiles. This is what Chiles says for himself:

WATSON, ARK.—To the public, or Whom This May Concern: I see in the Memphis Appeal-Avalanche an article written by Mr. W. M. Watkins, stating that I had told him to say to McDowell that he (McDowell) was a gentleman in every particular. I told Mr. Watkins to say to McDowell that I had nothing against him socially, as neighbor, but when it came to his politics he was a republican, and one of the very worst type; and further, I told Mr. Watkins to tell McDowell what I have said about him in the paper is true, and I would not take a word of it back. Mr. McDowell was to see me after this chat Mr. Watkins alluded to, and did all he could to make me retract what I said about him as a politician. I see a great deal in Mr. McDowell's statements trying to convince the public that he is a lamb, instead of a wolf in a lamb's clothing, but since this fight has started McDowell has more thoroughly convinced the people of this county that he is a bad man in every particular, and a meddlesome liar. J. M. CHILES.

The American continues this line of proof for four solid pages, introducing witness after witness to show that the first charges of the American were true, and McDowell's defense was a sharp, shrewd tissue of falsehoods, bought and begged from timid, sympathetic and purchasable parties. Bunn, one of McDowell's strongest witnesses, is shown to be a republican of the McDowell stripe, and a member of the same League as McDowell. Dr. Turner, upon whom he relied, is his brother-in-law. Jones, another of his strongest defenders, was frequently heard to denounce John for all that was mean and vile, until John's brother Wallace came upon the scene. Then Jones and his household were all converted and gave certificates. Jones is Wallace's agent, and runs the farm that Wallace took off John's hands as payment for security debts; and Jones saw he was about to lose his job; hence the conversion.

Col. D. A. Williams, County Attorney of Dallas County, Texas, who lived in Desha County when McDowell did, writes that "McDowell was regarded as a democrat when he announced for office, but soon after his announcement it cropped out that he was a republican and was organizing the negroes in secret clubs and was the grand mogul of the republican vote."

A Brief Summary of the Case.

The American summerizes as follows:

"At the very outset the reader should be made to know the false and fraudulent character of McDowell's defense and his attempt to impose upon the credulity of Tennessee readers. The father of falsehood himself never lied with such intrepid bravery nor concealed the truth under such fair and pleasing mask. "Reverends" and "Senators" and "professors" and "educated gentlemen," and "prominent citizens" and "life-long democrats" and "leading church members," all join the solemn masquerade and march in long and imposing procession before the public eye. When George W. Bell is introduced to you as "State Senator," and is called "the professor," and is spoken of as a "church member," and a man of "unquestioned morals," you take off your hat in the supposed presence of a Yale or Harvard graduate. That is what McDowell expects you to do. He never intended you to know that this Senator-professor and educated gentleman is as black as the ace of spades, the most notorious and most offensive negro politician in Arkansas, one of McDowell's old political cronies and a general all-around scoundrel.

"You touch your hat in the presence of the cloth when Revs. S. N. Norwood and S. T. Thompson come to testify. McDowell doesn't tell you, and doesn't intend for you to know, that they, also, are simply negro politicians. When Mr. Isaac Sanford is introduced and tells that he knew McDowell for four years in the Confederate Army, it was intended that you should consider Mr. Sanford as an old army comrade and a brave Confederate soldier, and not that the aforesaid Sanford is a splay-footed Arkansas negro of the ordinary type. Mr. William Hicks also is not known to you as he is to the people of Desha County, Ark., as Bill Hicks, a disreputable negro, who is ready to take in swearing for anybody, by the day or by the piece. In fact, the evident purpose of McDowell is to have his readers believe that all whom he does not specifically designate as negroes are reputable white men and democrats. It would also have been the honest thing when he introduces Dr. T. H. Turner, who makes a column statement in his behalf, to have told the public that Dr. Turner is his own brother-in-law, and therefore almost equally interested in preserving him from "social degradation," etc.

"It might have helped the truth also if Mr. McDowell had distinguished from the other witness the hirelings on his brother's plantation, and their wives, sisters, cousins and aunts, who all take the witness stand in his behalf. It would have helped the truth, but it would not have helped McDowell.

"It would also have helped the truth, but would not have helped McDowell, if he had distinguished from other witnesses those who lived in distant parts of the county and were never familiar with his operations in Red Fork township."

Roundly Denounced by a Mass-Meeting in Arkansas.

DUMAS, Ark., July 22.—In answer to a call for a mass-meeting of all good citizens of Red Fork and Silver Lake townships, this county, to publicly protest against certain scurrilous attacks made upon the good name of this county and its residents, a representative body of men met last night at Red Fork, in the open roadway. The meeting was called to order by Capt. G. H. Buck, who made a brief address outlining the necessity for decided action, and saying the time had come when good men must speak in no uncertain way. He invited nominations and, on motion, Dr. H. N. Austin, of Pendleton, was elected Chairman and R. M. Blakemore, of Medford, Secretary, the following gentlemen, Walter W. Quilling, Pendleton, J. T. Sledge, of Red Fork, and F. P. McFarland, of Medford, being appointed a committee on resolu-

Continued to fourth page.

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