

HON. A. W. SKINNER

Replies to "Skinner Called Down" in Vindicator.

Says Recent Developments Show That If He Had Favored Negro Supremacy Ratliff Would Have Supported Him With More Fervor Now Than He Did.

EDITOR STAR:

The Vindicator of last week contains a characteristic personal onslaught for which its editor has become famous, and which I suppose he regards as necessary to bolster up his failing political fortunes. Under the caption, "Skinner Called Down," he proceeds in his usual style to criticize some recent letters to the STAR refuting the charges against the Democratic party which the Populites have all along been recklessly making.

Now, it is well known that Mr. Ratliff is nothing, if not personal in politics, and when cornered, always resorts to that kind of tactics. Personalities in politics are not only a confession of weakness and a conscious inability to meet the arguments of an opponent, but in this instance seems to be a futile attempt to sidetrack the issues involved in the present canvass on the eye of the election. Mr. Ratliff did not answer, nor can he answer a single argument contained in the article that he was pretending to criticize. His reckless assertions and more reckless historical statements cannot be tortured with or without figures into anything resembling an argument. Only one point in his tirade deserves notice, and that is in reference to the effect of the Act of 1873, the unconditional repeal of the purchasing clause of the Sherman law. He quotes me as saying that the repeal of that law was all right, and then quotes from Senator George to prove the dire consequences entailed upon the people by the repeal of that law, and then assumes that Mr. Skinner and Senator George does not agree.

The readers of THE STAR will remember that I said that the great wrong was the failure to follow up that repeal by legislation correcting the "greatest crime of the ages," that is, restoring silver to its original place in our monetary system as a standard money metal and giving it free coinage at the mints.

Senator George in his Winona speech did not condemn the repeal of the Sherman law, but showed most conclusively the disastrous results that have followed the failure to repeal the act of demonetization of 1873. Of course Senator George in common with the great mass of Southern democrats, opposed the unconditional repeal of the Sherman law; but favored the repeal of that law if followed by appropriate legislation respecting silver.

Your readers, Mr. Editor, will please pardon me for one or two personal allusions. Mr. Ratliff states that I am running a post office under Cleveland's appointment, and therefore sees things as Mr. Cleveland does. This statement is correct with this exception, I have never asked, expected, or received any appointment of any character from Mr. Cleveland or any one connected with his administration. And further, some time since Mr. Ratliff reproduced in the Vindicator a letter written by me and printed in the STAR criticising the financial policy of Cleveland's administration and highly commended it.

The insinuations, innuendoes, &c. contained in the Vindicator's article are of course, unworthy of notice, I shall not reply in kind but allow Mr. Ratliff to maintain a monopoly of that sort of discussion, I am truly sorry that Mr. Ratliff has gotten so desperate as to set up such a howl. He reminds me of an anecdote told of a man who was traveling in Texas in the early history of that State, and getting out of money concluded to turn preacher. He wandered into a colony of people and announced himself as a minister of the gospel. The people were delighted at the thought of a preacher in their midst, and turning out built a brush harbor and provided such

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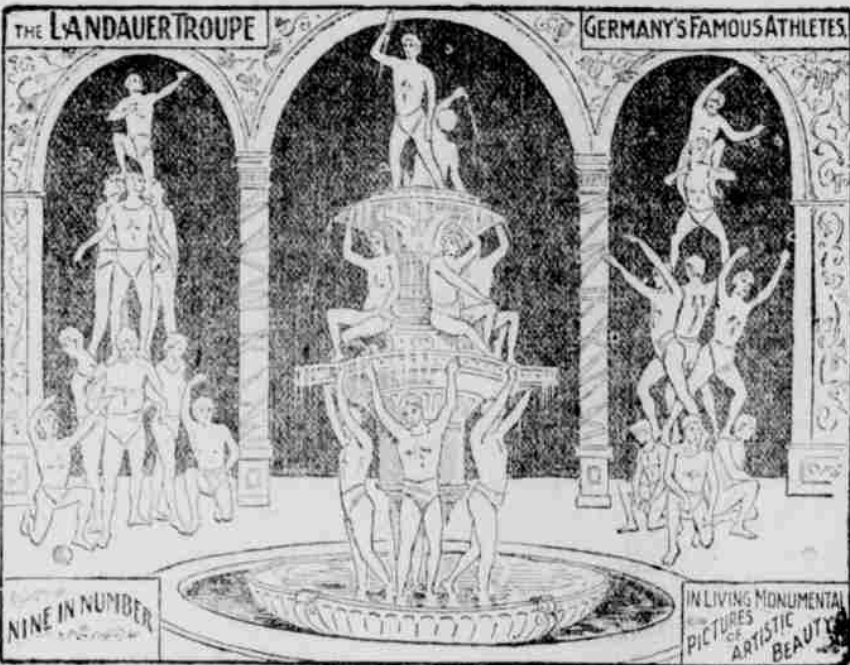
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accommodations as they could for preaching. At the appointed time the preacher mounted the stand and began: "My friends, had I the clouds for my pulpit, the sky for a book-board, and the stars for a text, I'd raise myself above the sky and I'd (here he got out of soap) but continued, and I'd, and I'd howl like a wolf.

Mr. Ratliff does not deny the charge that his party is fusing with the old time Radicals of nigger supremacy and mixed school fame, but attempts to justify such fusion by a reference to my Greenback record of 1879. What I did or did not do in 1879 has no relevancy to the issues confronting the people in 1895.

I will say, however, that there are a number of prominent Democrats in the county who remember the circumstances connected with the canvass of that year who know that I did not at any time fuse, or propose to fuse, or work in any way with the political contingent in the county at the time. I never asked any negro to register and vote for me, nor did I attack or condemn any law of the State tending to maintain white supremacy in the State. Had I done so, recent developments would indicate that Mr. Ratliff would have supported my candidacy at the time with a great deal more fervor than he did. Any man or party must surely be in desperate straits indeed when they resort to such things as these to bolster up a falling cause.

Now, I will say in conclusion, that perhaps another "bird" I wot of is roosting on a limb that is elevated somewhat too near the moon, from whose luminous orb he is seemingly drawing his inspiration for both logic and veracity. But, as Judge Campbell was wont to remark in reference to a certain gobbler, when discharging his grand jury, that "bird" will roost a little lower after the 5th of Nov., prox.

A. W. SKINNER.

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- Six balls thread 5 cents.
- A good all-wool flannel 12 2-2 a yard.
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