

THE PICKENS SENTINEL.

DEVOTED TO POLITICS, MORALITY, EDUCATION AND TO THE GENERAL INTEREST OF THE COUNTRY.

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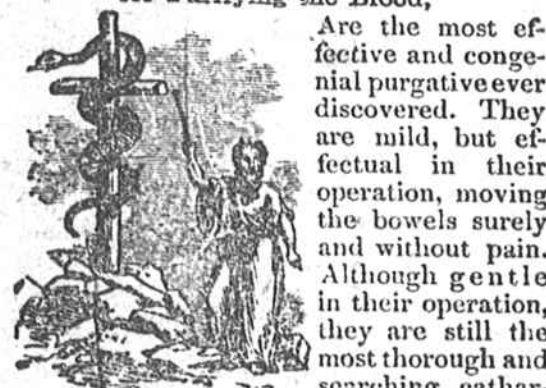
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Greenville Correspondence.

GREENVILLE, S. C., June 5, 1878.

MY DEAR SENTINEL—Since I read your comment on my communication in your issue of the 30th ult., I have had a first class barber to shingle my "head," and he says it is about as "level as he can make it; and not having given much attention lately to mechanics, I am at a loss to know how I am to "get my head a little more level;" but—and if there be any process by which, or through which I might carry this "self constituted" thinking apparatus of mine, and not destroy the moral gravity of the thing, I certainly would like to find them. Be that as it may, I am glad to know that I do disagree with you in some things. Now, of course, I must tolerate primary elections, nominating conventions, but can I tolerate cliques and rings? But you do, and this is just where we differ, and will ever differ, unless you become "a little more level." Now, I took these four words, primary elections, nominating convention, cliques and rings, together, and in the main would allow, for the present, the first two, but never the two latter. You, in acknowledging your disagreement, virtually tolerate and would foster the whole, while I would eject—erase—the two latter from all our political lexicographies. I would have them expunged from all other dictionaries, except in the sense of the clicking of a clock, or in that of all other useful machinery, as for instance the clicking of a trigger just behind a ball that would wipe out all "my dear Josephuses" from the face of our noble old State. And except in the ringing of a bell when we are hungry, and in the ringing of all other good rings—as the ring on the fore finger of a beautiful lady, however distasteful it might be to a few would-be lovers who are thus notified silently that "their cake is dough." Now, if you think I have leveled down any on this subject, I shall be content, and shall take much pleasure in assisting you and your many readers in making rough places smooth; and I know if you live long you will have to pass over many.

I was in attendance last night upon the city Democratic club, and must say we had a good time generally; everybody firing "a squib." You will find when you visit our club that it is "right side," and as ready to do battle in '78 as it was in '76. The negroes are cordially invited to join us or organize clubs (Democratic clubs of course) of their own.

Now, to be brief and to conclude, I would talk of something useful to us all. Everybody likes a genius, and we all like, above everything else, to have our clothes fit well, even in order that your readers may know where to get good fits for themselves and the boys, I would most earnestly recommend Mr. A. B. Morrison. He is an Englishman Americanized, and worked here four or five years ago, as many of the readers of THE SENTINEL will remember. He is a perfect adept in the cutting and in the fitting up of a job, has no equal here. So bring in your dry goods and see "Morrison," the door south of Court House. If I should not come over to Pickens soon, I will write in a week or two, and if I do come and should not see you, I will write any way.

Make your farms so valuable by constant improvement, skillful culture, good fruit, ornamental shrubbery and pleasant surroundings that no money would tempt you to leave it. We think it should be the settled purpose of every young man to put down his stakes for life; to make a permanent home which he will never wish to part with till he is called to the better land.

A Trip Down the Country.

DEAR SENTINEL—As you have requested dots from different parts, you will publish this scrip if you think it worthy of space in your columns.

The first place we will notice is Piercetown, which is located in Anderson Co., on the main road leading from Anderson, C. H., to Slabtown, another leading from there to Greenville. It consists of four families, two blacksmith shops, one wagon and buggy shop, one store. One mile below, we came to the dwelling of Mr. W., who we met last July at Grove Station, who was a strong advocate of fencing stock and turning out the farms, which he has got. Just before coming in front of his house, my attention was drawn to a calf tied around the neck with a rope 15 or 20 feet long to a stump in a grove of timber, and its grazing was a patch of dog fennel and pennyroyal, which it didn't devour very ravenous. One mile below Mr. W's we left the A. and G. road, turning eastward two miles to Orrville. Passing there, some 4 or 5 miles, I came to Mr. E's, who was taking his mules from the wagon. He spoke to me and I stopped. After the usual compliments, he asked me where I was from; I told him P. "Ah," says he, "you have not got the no fence law up there." I told him no, and we didn't want it. He remarked that he had been enlarging his pasture, that there was fifty acres in it and he feared his stock would perish—his last charge was, for God's sake never have the no fence law. I drove one mile and took lunch and fed my stock. We then crossed the G. and C. R., some fifteen miles from Anderson, C. H. and five or six from Williamston. The next place of note was Stantonville, situated on a high, dry ridge, where the road leading from Orrville to Cooley's Bridge and road from Honca Path to Williamston cross. It is in a dilapidated condition, the buildings are old and weather-beaten. From this place we turned down the H and W. road, three miles below we come the beautiful little place Calhoun, which is located in one of the prettiest, white, sandy country we have seen for a town. There is a nice Baptist church, school house, two shops (one iron, the other wood) and everything seemed to be alive to their several interests. From this point, four miles down in the direction of the Toogalo, I crossed the Anderson line into a small corner of Abbeville and down to the commodious mills of Mr. M. E. He has a brick house, 30x35, two stories, four sets of runners (two for wheat and two for corn) cotton gin, circular saw. His mills are on the Toogalo, twenty four miles from Anderson C. H. and twenty miles from Laurens C. H. His dwelling looks well constructed from the road; he is in Abbeville county, two miles from the line, four miles from where four counties corner, Anderson, Greenville, Laurens and Abbeville; he is full blooded Irish, and came here in '48, without anything except what clothes he had on his back. He says he would not take \$10,000 for his machinery. He has fine stock; I saw one of his cows and priced her; he said he might take \$500 for her, but no less. He said he wet to the Centennial to buy some fine stock, not satisfied with his, but did not see but one that he would exchange his for, she brought \$1,500, and he come back home satisfied that his was good. We then crossed the river just above the mills at an island, where the first bridge extends to the Island, then crossing the Island, some 20 to 30 paces, struck the other bridge; as soon as we crossed that we landed in Laurens county, driving eight miles, landed at our friend Mr. S's, where we lodged for the night; next day, Saturday, we went to church

and heard an able sermon by Rev. S. Sunday was raining and we did not go to church. We remained there until Wednesday, when we started en route for Lome, travelling over the same road. On our return we did not see anything further worthy of note.

We saw some fine fields of wheat while we saw some that was sorry. I saw one field belonging to Capt. W., one of the agricultural standard bearers of Laurens, that was very fine. Corn and cotton was looking well—rather small for the season—farmers seem to have it in good condition. I saw some that were in favor of the stock law and some who opposed it. Big Matt was the strongest for it. The majority that I heard speak of it were not in favor of it.

RUSTIC.

The Bayonet Era in the South Carolina State House.

In the course of his speech on the army bill delivered in the House of Representatives a few days ago, the Hon. Milton I. Southard, of Ohio, introduced some very interesting telegrams and testimony relating to the dark days of 1876, in Columbia. We copy this portion of his remarks from the official report in the Congressional Record:

On the 14th of October, 1876, this telegram was sent by Gen. Sherman to Gen. Ruger, who had previously been transferred to Columbia, South Carolina:

Headquarters of the Army, Washington, Oct. 14, 1876.
To Gen. Ruger, Columbia, S. C.:
We are all back from California. If you want anything, say so. I want all measures to originate with you. Get along with the minimum force necessary, but you shall have all we can give if you need them.

W. T. SHERMAN, Gen.
On the 16th of October, General Ruger answered that telegram, as follows:

Columbia, S. C., Oct. 16, 1876.
To Gen. W. T. Sherman, Washington, D. C.:

Think I have troops sufficient unless circumstances change. Have nineteen companies in State now in stations of one to four companies. Have some companies still in reserve. No special disorder has occurred since Ellenton riot last month. If I need more troops will ask for them. I shall be here to day.

RUGER.

Notwithstanding that telegram from Gen. Ruger, in which he said that all was peaceful and quiet here, and that if he needed more troops he would call for them, and without further information, the very next morning a proclamation was issued by President Grant, from Washington City, declaring South Carolina in insurrection, and there followed numerous telegrams from the General of the army, ordering all the troops from the Atlantic coast, from the extreme North to as far South as Fortress Monroe, into the State of South Carolina.

Here is a specimen of the telegram sent:

Headquarters of the Army, Washington, Oct. 17, 1876.
To Gen. W. T. Hancock, Commanding Military Division Atlantic, New York City:

It will be necessary to reinforce Gen. Ruger to the maximum possible, and we may have to order every available man from the North Atlantic posts.

Acknowledge receipt.

W. T. SHERMAN, General.

In obedience to these orders from Washington, all available forces were sent into South Carolina and other Southern States under pretences of preserving order, but with the purpose and effect of carrying the election. Actual military possession was

taken of those States, and the elections were controlled in violation of the constitution of your country, in violation of law, and in violation of every principle of justice and right.

Not only that, it did not stop there; military possession of those States was continued until long after the elections. The Legislature of South Carolina was organized, not by the members who were elected to it, but by the Administration here in Washington through the use of Federal troops. I hold here in my hands the official telegrams relating to that organization. There was a dispute about certain members from Edgefield and Laurens who held the certificates of the Supreme Court; they were to be ejected. Governor Chamberlain sent this telegram to Washington City.

Columbia, December 1, 1876.

Hon. J. D. Cameron, Secretary of War, Washington:

Cannot Edgefield and Laurens men be removed? They are now acting as members and have no credentials. If they are removed the House can act and order be restored. Cannot we be protected against unlawful intrusion, we have no power to enforce exclusion?

D. H. CHAMBERLAIN, Gov.

Then followed a telegram from Attorney General to Governor Chamberlain, and also to General Ruger from the Secretary of War. Here they are:

Washington, Dec. 2, 1876.
To Governor D. H. Chamberlain, Columbia, S. C.:

The President thinks that you should exercise your own resources as Governor in behalf of the Legislature which you have recognized by assisting it to purge itself of unauthorized person.

If you are resisted in this, General Ruger has been instructed to enforce your authority.

ALFONSO TART, Attorney General.

Washington, Dec. 2, 1876.

Gen. T. H. Ruger, Columbia, S. C.:

The Governor of the State of South Carolina should exercise his own resources to purge the Legislature which he has recognized of unauthorized persons. If he is resisted in this it will become your duty to enforce his authority.

J. D. CAMERON, Sec. of War.

Subsequently the following telegrams were sent in relation to the same subject.

Executive Mansion, Washington City, Dec. 3, 1876.

Gen. T. H. Ruger, Columbia, S. C.:

Fearing your instructions may be conflicting and leave you in doubt as to your duties in the present unhappy condition of affairs in South Carolina, I wish to say this: Governor Chamberlain is the legally constituted Governor of that State, and remains so until the Legislature canvasses the vote and installs his successor; and he is entitled as such to your support and protection. It is a civil duty to organize the Legislature devolving on State authorities. All you can do is to prevent unauthorized persons from forcibly interfering with the Governor and other authorized officers in the performance of their duties. To be plain, I want to avoid anything like an unlawful use of the military, but it will be entirely right to sustain the Governor, or any of his agents or officers, in the performance of any duty in connection with the Legislature if interfered with by outsiders while in the performance of that duty.

U. S. GRANT.

Columbia, December 5, 1876.

To Hon. J. D. Cameron, Secretary of War, Washington, D. C.:

General Ruger announces this morning that he will no longer guard doors of State House. The city is

filled with armed and violent men. There is greater need than ever before of protection of State House. Specific orders must be sent respecting this matter at once, in order to avert riot and bloodshed. Vacillation here now is most unfortunate.

Please answer. All I ask is that the State House be protected against violence.

D. H. CHAMBERLAIN, Governor.

War Department, Washington City, Dec. 5, 1876.

To Gov. D. H. Chamberlain, Columbia, S. C.:

General Ruger's instructions are to protect the Legislature from all outside interference, and those instructions will be repeated.

J. D. CAMERON, Secretary of War.

McLin of Florida stands by the statement made by him in his now historical confession. He testified on Saturday before the sub-committee of Congressional investigators that, two or three days after the Presidential election of 1876, telegraphic despatches began to arrive from such prominent Northern Republicans as Zachariah and William E. Chandler, the gist of which was that everything depended on Florida, and that an effort must be made—after the election, remember—to give the vote of the State to Hayes. Presently arrived William E. Chandler, General Noyes, Gen. Wallace, Gen. Barlow, Attorney-General Little of Ohio, and others. McLin was given to understand that two or three of these visitors represented Hayes, and in particular that whatever Gen. Noyes said or did, Hayes would ratify. Gen. Wallace told him several times that the members of the Returning Board—of whom McLin was one—would be "taken care of." On one occasion, William E. Chandler, professing to speak for Noyes and Wallace, as well as for himself, told him that if the State went for Hayes, he and Cowgill, another member of the Returning Board would be "well taken care of." When the Board met to canvass the vote, there were two or three returns from Baker County. If one (the bogus Driggers one) was counted, Hayes' majority in the State on the face of the returns would be about 40; if they counted the other or others, Tilden would have a majority in the State of about 95. McLin pigeonholed the other returns, laid the Driggers return before the board, and it was counted. He did this because it was the most formal—and "the most favorable to Hayes." He also joined in throwing out enough precincts to give Hayes an apparent majority of eight or nine hundred. After the Board completed this canvass, Gen. Noyes called on him, thanked him, and told him he had acted nobly. Subsequently, Noyes wrote him that he had written to the President, urging him to give Mr. McLin an appointment.

ATLANTA, June 4.—A special to the Constitution states that a man named Caldwell, near Americus, Ga., yesterday killed his wife and three children and his wife's sister with a smoothing iron. Two other children were at school and one in the field, and one little one ran under the house and escaped. The murderer jumped in a well, but failing to materially injure himself crawled out and got on the top of his dwelling house and jumped off. He was picked up insensible by two negroes, who were attracted by his cries and gesticulations while on the house. He recovered in a short while and sent the negroes off to some neighbors, and then went to the gin house and climbed to its loftiest point and threw himself headlong to the ground and expired almost instantly.

There are no cockcubs so troublesome as those that have some wit.