

LETTERS OF A SOUTHERNER

TRUE WORTH TO HIS BROTHER.

Third of a Series in Reply to the "Autobiography of a Southerner" - Colonel Stoner, the Typical Demagogue is Unreasonably Condemned - He is Representative of Southern Sentiment - The "Elemental Forces" are Fully Discussed - Religious and Social Prejudice and the "Hands of Dead Men" are Presented from the Southern Point of View.

Dear Nicholas: August 27, 1906.

According to my promise, I will devote this letter to consideration of that prince of demagogues, Colonel Stoner, and to the "elemental forces" (all prejudices) which he in his deep-seated malice brought to bear against you in your innocence. This is not sarcasm. You drew a true character in Col. Stoner, and you couldn't point him too black to suit me. A demagogue must be hated even in high heaven and is contemptible in the sight of any self-respecting person on earth. He has a mournful voice and a pious look and "alligator" tears, and inside he is "full of dead men's bones." He says "the of mint, and anise and cummin," and omits "the weightier matters of the law, judgment and mercy, I am heartily in accord with you. His bedeviled soul, warp of wolf, is steeped in the slime of hypocrisy.

You write that at the end of the first year of your school work, this colonel prevented your re-election by his appeal to the "elemental forces." For one year you were connected with the State Department of Education and took great interest in your work which had to deal with the ignorant, but well-meaning country teachers. Then one year you were professor of history at the university only to meet the colonel as a trustee again and with the same result as before, and you concluded, you would leave the State, though at as much your hand as it is Stoner's, and if it was not big enough for both, (you being the better man) ought to have forced him to emigrate. You did good work in school and did more than could have been expected. The people were satisfied and you thought everything was all right until along came this vile and oily blasphemer, and in the name of patriotism and all that was holy, he vented his spleen against you. The reason probably was that you had not licked his boots, and he as determined to show you his power even if he was thereby obliged to prostitute his intelligence and sacrifice the interests of hundreds of innocent defenceless children. No, he could not be painted too black.

He expressed great personal regard for me, the shy and eloquent old colonel - the profoundest admiration for my learning and seal. But our sacred duty to our freemen - ay, to our very religion - the sanctity of our homes and the purity of our faith, and our reverence for our brave and noble heroes - were to be unmindful of these? He was loth to criticize a young man of learning and ideals - and of a good family too, and he had hoped that his motion would prevail without discussion. Some of the gentlemen sorely knew the grave reasons for his action. He disliked to make public "charges," and he insisted that what he said should not be repeated. Then he arraigned me "not in anger but in deep sorrow."

I hope I may be pardoned for giving this much attention to such an unwholy thing as a demagogue in an ancient nation there was a law that the corpse of a murdered person should be chained to the murderer and left there, but more awful than

this is the punishment of a people who by their indifference or lack of courage had themselves to a living death in the shape of a man like Col. Stoner. His counterparts are with us yet and perhaps, and to relate, always will be until we get to Heaven. There was one in the Garden of Eden and there has never been any limit to the bounds of their habitations. You gave Col. Stoner as the focus of your dissatisfaction of the Provincial South, and here you erred. These lecherous parasites are far too numerous in the South but they are more numerous around you in your present abiding place and they with you are more quiet and seductive in their nefarious influence.

Let us suppose two parallel cases. "A" in public sentiment on a financial question and the Stoners up there arraign him in the name of "sound currency and the honest dollar," etc. in the South evokes the denunciation of the Stoners because of some whim or foolish utterance that strikes too near to the danger line of "social equality." These lecherous parasites both of them to reign and the public becomes greatly agitated. Can you guess the result? My prognostication is that "A" would "wreak the plank" and that "B" would be promoted in his unalienable right to the freedom of mind and conscience. This shows the difference between our standards and demonstrates that from mine the South is a free colony, that Stoner is a typical demagogue, but that you are wrong in working him a representative of Southern sentiment. The "elemental forces" that you connect with him have no connection whatever with him except that as the denial can quote Scripture, so the demagogue can use noble sentiments as tools for the accomplishment of unworthy aims. These "elemental forces" will now discuss as being your own reason for leaving the South.

"In the name of our holy religion," was not a communicant of any Church, and I had on one occasion expressed, in the presence of a pious lady, doubt about the divinity of our Blessed Lord." I admit that here in an elemental force in Southern life, our State Constitution declares that no person can hold office in the State who denies the Being of Almighty God. This is prejudice in the same sense that the Rock of Gibraltar is prejudiced; it is stubborn and unyielding and it keeps back the wild waves. I confess to you that I would not cast my vote for a superintendent of education who was not a communicant of any Church and who sinned at the fundamental Christian beliefs. The South is the most rigorous section on this point, and you may call it narrowness if you will. We do hold unreservedly to Christ as the great ideal, and if we are wrong, "let him who is without sin among you cast the first stone." The South had no right nor inclination to transmute your beliefs, but it did have the right to say that such influence should not be brought to bear on the minds of the children.

In this same nation State of yours was made the first declaration of the freedom of mind and conscience in the history of the world. All the colonists come seeking freedom for themselves and denying it to others, until in the year 1863 a lit of persecuted pioneers come South and settled along Alabama sound and in their first laws freedom was granted to all for the first time, and the word was kept. They cultivated with care and with prayer and with unalterable faith in God and Christ and the Holy Word. Can you conceive anything more logical than for their children reared in "the nature and admonition of the Lord" to hearken well to an appeal "in the name of our holy religion?" It will be sad for

us - if the time shall ever come when we do not have such "prejudices" to keep us in the straight and narrow way. Were you not under at least as much obligation to respect these people's deep beliefs as they were to respect your lack of it? "We are one." For ye neither go in yourselves, neither suffer ye them that are entering to go in.

"In the name of the Anglo-Saxon civilization," I would teach the nigger, just as well as I would teach the white child. I had held public meetings of negroes, and promised as much. I had been taught in a Northern college where (if he was rightly informed) negro students and white students were on an equality; and I had imbibed ideas subversive of our civilization.

We should recollect that these events were transpiring in various times. The negro race only a few years out of bondage and only a hundred years out of savagery and cannibalism, had been put on an equal basis with the Anglo-Saxons who had never been slaves and had been the monarchs of all they surveyed" for a thousand years. You do not tell of this other side of the picture, so I have it to do. History does not regard a mere shameless nock that the ten years of destructive reconstruction in the South. There was no cause for levity in the claim that Anglo-Saxons must stand aside to grant the subversion of their civilization. And yet you would make these people appear prejudiced without any cause, excuse or palliation. The Anglo-Saxon needs no apology, but I must refer to the education of the negro. The inference from your argument is that we were and have been unjust to the negro with regard to public education. This "in the most unkindest cut of all." The Southern white people since the war have not been able to educate their own children properly but they have done as much for the negroes as for their own. Two hundred millions of dollars is a conservative estimate of the amount the Southern white people, since 1863, have paid for negro education, and yet they are condemned as the negro's enemies while the colored man's friends of the North are praised to the skies for the few hundred thousands of dollars they have given, and this "in the most unkindest spirit of your philanthropic brethren is responsible in no small degree for the negro's ungraciousness and unappreciation of the opportunities offered him. We support and educate and help the race but you want to direct the management of the problem without incurring any expense, and that day will mark a great step in the negro's progress wherein the North which is not sharing the burden will turn to its own affairs and kindly let the colored man and his true friends work out their own solution.

"In the name of our history and our honored dead. I had written in a book, which was put into the hands of our children, sentiments disrespectful to the Confederacy, for which so many gave their lives. (The sentence to which he referred was one that explained the threat of the Governor of the State to secede from the Confederacy - a plain historical fact.) This is your stock argument - "the hands of dead men." You were always good at phrase making and this is equal to your best. Many people receive striking phrases and glittering epigrams as the fish in his innocence swallows the worm-covered hook. If you decide to publish this work of yours, it would be well to christen it "Hands of Dead Men." It is apparent throughout that your invention is to demonstrate that the South no longer thinks, but meekly and slyly acts along the lines

laid down by the previous generations. The Daughters of the Confederacy to you are "The Gentle Daughters of the Dead." The whole South was dead and you could find no congenial life; therefore you left. Let us quote further:

"Thus I made my acquaintance real with three elemental forces about me, the existence of which I had hardly known till now. They were the Church, the race question, and the hands of dead men; and they together made the ghost called Public Opinion. Any colonel, by skillfully invoking these, could then stop any man in a normal, independent career. May a Southern man have been banished from the land that he loved and would probably have served by this simple process of invoking these forces against him. You will find such men in almost every State in the Union, men with the same burning patriotism that we dedicated ourselves to at college, winning success at every calling, and hoping in quiet hours of your homes and you found too much bigotry and self-superiority, and went to work at home because nothing better was offered you. You said yourself that teaching bored you, and you were entirely out of tone with your environment. Would a politician be justified in charging Vermont with porrognous just because he could not be elected Governor on the Democratic ticket? Is it then just to accuse the South of provincialism because it does not welcome and encourage one who speaks mockingly of everything they hold dear? Incidentally, it would be interesting to know how many times you have voted the winning ticket in your local elections since you have been in the North. If some of you were more reverent to the dead, perhaps the present moment would not be so powerful an influence to sell the birthright for a mess of pottage.

Shakespeare says: "That nature, which condemns its origin, cannot be bordered certain in itself." A boy's father or grandfather may be unworthy, but this does not justify the boy's disrespectful conduct toward him, and any nation is in a bad way that does not bear a tender reverence for "the touch of a vanished hand and the sound of a voice that is still." Here was your grave mistake. You could have held opinions without hindrance, but you demanded respect for your disrespect, and when it was denied you found the public opinion too narrow. But what of the ones who stayed at home? Did they smother their honest convictions and pander to prejudice? They may have accepted victory or defeat without falling and they spoke and acted with the true courage of deep conviction. I have seen a Southern leader face a convention of 5,000 representatives of the dominant party, (many of whom had cried out against taking the money out of their pockets to educate the negroes) and tell them that by the grace of God and the examples of his people of the past, he would stake his public standing on his firm deter-

mination that the negro shall be educated. Here are all three of the elemental forces rolled together, and the man who used them is more popular to-day than ever before, and the "forces" won a battle for the opposite of the way in which you have condemned them. Prejudices are not always used for wrong purposes. The hands of the dead prophesied prepared the way for the life of Christ, and the hands of the broad-minded living Pharisees (who allowed commerce in the Temple) sent him to his death on the cross.

Yours, TRUE WORTH.

DEVELOPING MONROE REALTY.

Recently Organized Concern Already Accomplishing Much - Mr. Sahaadi and the Whole - Darkey's Costly Economy.

Monroe, Aug. 31. - The Monroe Realty Company, which was organized but a few months ago, has already accomplished much toward the improvement of real estate in this town and its environs. The company has seven acres in the western part of town, the section known as Railroad Heights and is now selling off building lots there. They have 30 acres in the eastern section adjoining the railroad extension, formerly known as the Vann property. Options have been secured on quite a number of houses and lots and try or three farms. They expect to deal extensively in farm lands, and some parties from the western part of the State, who are desirous of securing better cotton lands there. They have 30 acres in the eastern section adjoining the railroad extension, formerly known as the Vann property. Options have been secured on quite a number of houses and lots and try or three farms. They expect to deal extensively in farm lands, and some parties from the western part of the State, who are desirous of securing better cotton lands there. They have 30 acres in the eastern section adjoining the railroad extension, formerly known as the Vann property. Options have been secured on quite a number of houses and lots and try or three farms. They expect to deal extensively in farm lands, and some parties from the western part of the State, who are desirous of securing better cotton lands there.

The officers of the company are B. Clegg Ashcraft, president; H. B. Adams, secretary and treasurer; Frank Armfield and Eugene Ashcraft, managers. The company is, of course, a business proposition, but the well-known public spirit of the gentlemen who conduct its affairs will, no doubt, make it a strong force in the upbuilding of Monroe.

Little Charlie Askew, aged about five years, was told by a resident of this town that if he would catch a lot of June bugs and bring them to him, it meant a cent in Charlie's pocket for each of those insects. The little fellow went away, joyously anticipating the wealth to be derived from cornering the June bug market. But the next day he came back and told the gentleman that it was impossible for him to gather June bugs in August, and offered to furnish June bugs at five cents a dozen. Though the offer had to be refused, because of the large supply of tater bugs and the total lack of demand for them, it shows that Charlie gives great promise of becoming a captain of industry at some future day.

Mr. Sahaadi stopped The Observer's correspondent on the court house square Thursday morning, and said he had a great piece of news to impart. He had just received a letter from his home in the Holy Land telling him that a whale 90 feet long and nine feet wide, through its thickest part, had been hauled on shore from the Mediterranean sea. The writer imagined from the expression of awe in Mr. Sahaadi's eyes that that gentleman was about to inform him that the whale was the one that swallowed Jonah. But no; Mr. Sahaadi was awe-struck at the tremendous size of the whale and acted as if his informant ought to faint away, at least, when its awful dimensions were recounted. When told that several whales of perhaps larger dimensions had been actually beheld by the very

person he was addressing a look of disappointment passed over his countenance, and he turned and walked dejectedly away. There is no doubt in the writer's mind that Mr. Sahaadi thinks him the biggest liar in Union county and a man to be rigorously shunned, but the statement was, nevertheless, true, though I haven't the whales with me at present to prove it.

Will Pethel is an economical darkey who thought he could go one better than the man who tried to cut down his feed bill by putting green spectacles on his horse to make the animal think sawdust was oats. Pethel cut out the feed entirely and gave his horse only water for about a week. The authorities learned of it, and Pethel was tried before Magistrate. Flow for cruelty to animals. He was fined \$10 and costs, so the scheme did not prove as economical as he thought it would. Hereafter he will be likely to draw the customary distinction between appetite and thirst.

BLAINE'S GRANDSON A CLEVER Drawn Salary of \$10 a Week from Wolf in Love With His Son. New York Special, 30th. - William Blaine's famous grandson, who made his debut in the business world as a clerk in the Day and Night Bank on Fifth avenue. He has been employed in that capacity for a month, but the fact that he was there was made public only to-day. It is said that young Blaine only receives \$4 a week and is not at all in love with his job. The bank officials are by no means certain that young Blaine will stay with them. As one of them put it: "He would rather be a United States Senator than corner the markets of the world."

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REDUCED RATES ON ALL RAILROADS