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A LETTER TO OLD FRIENDS.

TO THE PROHIBITIONISTS OF NORTH CAROLINA.

The organization and attitude of the Third or Prohibition party in this State calls for serious consideration from those of us who have been identified with all the movements looking to the abolition of the liquor traffic that have taken place during the past several years. I have given no subject more thought than that of temperance and prohibition, and for the past several months I have been intensely concerned about the position which those desiring prohibition should take with regard to the Third party that I saw was coming South in its organization and work. Frequently have I talked with the late lamented John B. Finch, chairman of the National Prohibition Executive Committee, and with John N. Sears, Esq., secretary of the National Temperance Society, and many other leading men about what to me was the peculiar situation of the Prohibitionists of the South. With few exceptions the temperance men of the South that have fought its battles and built up the sentiment for Prohibition which we find to-day certain the same views that I do, and that is, the organization of the Third party in the South is unwise and dangerous—not only to the cause of Prohibition but to our civil and political institutions.

Local option is not all that we want. The laws as it now stands are crude and imperfect and therefore an option is difficult. But local option, with all its faults, has proven a blessing to those communities where it has been faithfully tested, and without population was our only hope. And the large sections of North Carolina under prohibition today are so because of local option and special legislative enactment for churches, &c.

If the question was prohibition or license the position of the temperance people would be clear, but there can be no doubt in the mind of any one as to the result of the present organization of the Third party in North Carolina. A large majority of the voters will come from the Democratic party, and just so far as the vote of the Third party increases the strength of the Democratic party decreases. So that the question for each prohibitionist to decide now is this:

Which political party do I prefer to have in power in North Carolina—the Democratic or Republican? With either as a political party we will have the saloons. We know that, and therefore it is a choice of which party, with the saloons, the prohibitionists prefer. There can be no hope of electing Mr. Walker or any of the Third party candidates. So that we are to have the saloons after the election as we have them now.

"But four years from now we will come into power," some of the Third party men tell us. Upon what ground this is believed I cannot possibly see. Whenever those opposed to prohibition find an organization of any magnitude against them they will come together in one effort, as they did in 1881, and the result is easily stated.

Our only hope, I repeat, is through local option in reaching those localities that we can control.

I commenced voting in State and national politics in 1870. My reason for voting the Democratic ticket at that time admitted of no question of doubt. The same conditions exist to-day, and aside from the national issues that divide the two great parties here in North Carolina, the question of race supremacy must be considered. By this, I do not mean social equality. This I do not greatly fear. But race supremacy is a fact of past history under Republican rule in the South, and therefore is not only possible but sure, if the Republican party succeed. I have no bitterness of feeling toward the minor. My record for the past twenty years in this city is the best proof I can offer of my desire to elevate and promote the moral and material good of the colored people, but I am not ready to commit to their hands the government of North Carolina—municipal, county and State. They are not equal to it, or prepared for it. I am opposed to their oppression in any way, and favor their education and treatment as other citizens, but I do not believe them capable of self-rule and properly managing our government.

It may be said that there are good men in the Republican party, and this I grant if you both with regard

to white and colored. But the best element of that party, so far as my observation has gone, have never been able to control it. There were as many good men in the Republican party in 1868-9 as there are to-day, but they were unable to prevent the expenses to which that party went at that time.

Mr. Dockery himself says that he came to Raleigh during the session of the legislature when the act authorizing the Special Tax Bonds was passed, and tried to prevent the same, but was unable to do so. As it was then so it is now, the majority of the voters of any party give character to the leaders and control their acts. It is true in this city and elsewhere, so far as I can see, that the best element of the colored people are not able to lead their race. Hence I am afraid for governmental affairs to fall into their hands. Not from any ill-will toward them, but from conscientious convictions.

For these reasons I do not favor the organization of the Third party, and would warm Democrats in North Carolina from participating in the same. We have made rapid strides in this State in educating our people for prohibition, and if we will stand by our party we can advance still farther. But if we go into the Third party, and in so doing weaken the Democratic party and cause its defeat, we shall do the cause of prohibition lasting harm and bring upon ourselves and posterity great shame, with the possibilities of burdening us with hardships grievous indeed.

I have been induced to say this because of my great concern for the cause of prohibition as well as my interest in the success of the Democratic party. Without regard to party I have stood side by side with those of my friends engaged in the Third party movement in former contests to suppress the evils of intemperance, and with all my heart and soul I am ready for service along the same line now and hereafter; but when I am called to go into a movement, the result of which can only be harm to our cause, and possibly place the State of North Carolina in the hands of men that I am unwilling should control it, and also place this action back in the power of the party that oppressed us for twenty years, and under whose reign so many trusts and combinations were formed to grind the poor and helpless, making the few richer and the many poorer—a party that had so little regard for the overburdened tax-payers of this country as to declare for free whiskey, instead of providing for hungry mouths, half-clothed bodies and shelterless families. When I am asked to turn my back on the Democratic party, that has stood as the great bulwark to the white people of the South, from the humiliation and degradation to which bitter hatred at the North would have subjected us. When I am asked to do this my answer for myself and all whom I can influence is, No.

I call upon my brethren of the Temperance cause in North Carolina who are considering this matter or who have thought of joining with the Third party to stop—look ahead—see the danger of such a course. And then let us determine to stand by the Democratic party and contend for prohibition as we have been doing.

N. B. BROUGHTON.

Alabama goes Democratic.

MONTGOMERY, Ala., Aug. 7.—There was so little opposition to the Democratic State and county tickets that there was little effort to secure a vote. The Republicans did not save the county tickets in half a dozen counties and there were very few independent tickets. Local contests were between Democrats. The legislature is overwhelmingly Democratic in both branches while Gov. Seay and the Democratic State ticket carry nearly every county by a considerable majority.

Mr. Sanderlin Ill.

Chairman Whitaker received intelligence yesterday that Mr. Sanderlin had been taken very ill and had been forced to discontinue the canvass and go home. His malady is of such a serious nature that it is feared he will not be able to resume his appointments for several days. The announcement is received that general regret everywhere, and there is great disappointment among numbers at various points who have been looking forward to hearing Mr. Sanderlin. By his total bearing and manner, he has captivated all wherever he has been

Plain Talk.

Calvin Edgerton, a life-time Republican and leader in California, wrote for Cleveland and reform. He has written a letter to the San Francisco Examiner, setting forth his views. We quote a suggestive paragraph or two:

"In Republican success I see only the triumph of the few rich, over the many poor, and a victory for monopoly in which labor will more and more be pressed down, until at last it will assert itself in a revolution that will not be tinged by but drenched in blood.

"It is wise statesmanship to face an evil and provide against it. Cleveland has done this. Democratic Congressmen are fighting for this relief against their Republican colleagues, who are arrayed in bitter opposition to reform, except through measures that would give intemperance an open and free field for its devil's work and by the continued increase of taxation that, in its own language, is an unnecessary burden upon the labor and industrial interests of the country.

"As an old Republican, I cannot and will not vote for this, and I am actively and earnestly in favor of the election of Cleveland and Thurman, because I believe it will be the salvation of labor and the great and universal good of the country."

War in the Camp.

There is war in the ranks of the local Republicans. The fight has been breeding for some time, and there have been rumors of a coming split, so at length the tug of war has come, and a war to the knife it will be. A prominent colored politician said to a Messenger reporter yesterday:

"Yes, sir, you can say the largely average element of the G. O. P. is in for taking control of affairs in New Hanover county in their own hands. There is a formidable organization among the colored citizens of this county whose purpose it is to throw off the political yoke under which their race has been held in a system of political slavery under the bossism of Russell, Manning & Co."

Mr. Sanderlin's Popularity.

Chairman Whitaker informs us that he is deluged with letters from all parts of the State earnestly soliciting him to send Mr. Sanderlin, our next Auditor, to speak. The people have heard of him all along the line, and all who have not yet heard him are eager to do so and those who have once had a taste of his genial humor and irrepressibility are still more eager to hear him again. The popularity which he has won during the short period he has been in the campaign is something phenomenal. He is truly North Carolina's second Vance and we predict that when the Democratic victories are counted up in November he will be found with a full share.

Extensive Telegraph Enterprise.

RICHMOND, Va., Aug. 7.—The Gray National Telegraph Company has been chartered by the Circuit Court, with capital not to exceed \$15,000,000. The principal office will be located in Richmond. The officers are President, Thos. M. Logan; vice-president, Charles E. Coon; of New York; secretary, David I. Carson, of New York; Among the incorporators are: United States Senators Plumb and Hale, John H. Inman, Geo. S. Scott, C. S. Bryce, J. B. Pace and Jas. H. Dooley. The company will engage in general telegraph and telephone business under the system invented by Prof. Elisha Gray.

A Good One for Richmond.

"Richmond" sends in this one: "A Richmond girl, whose father is an attorney, recently, at a friend's table, was asked whether she would have tea or coffee. She replied, 'Coffee of course,' she replied quickly. 'You don't suppose I'd refuse anything that had a few attached to it?'"

How to be Somebody.

Phylade's Girl—"Oh, dear! I'm so tired of this hum drum life. I do wish things would change so I'd be somebody. Can't you get nominated for Congress or get a place in the Cabinet or something like that?" Pa—"No hopes of that, but your vaulting ambition shall be gratified to the full, my dear. We'll go to a small summer resort where I know the editor."

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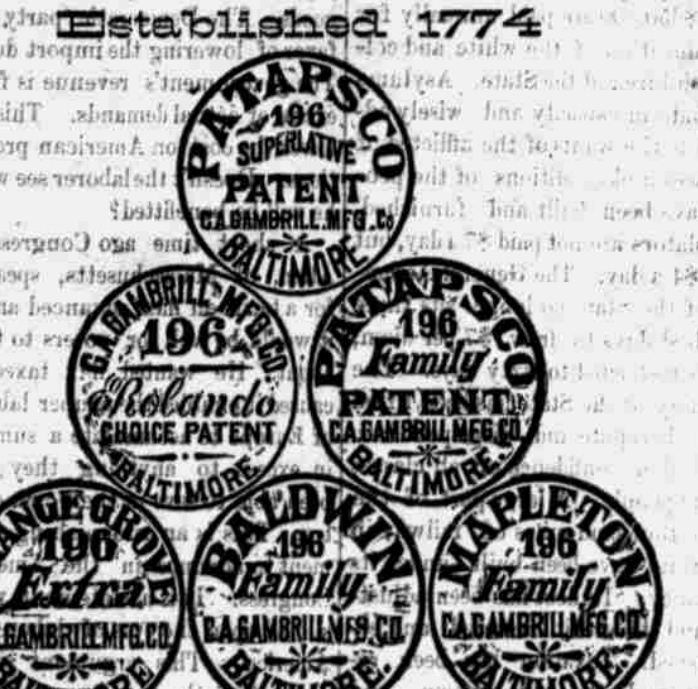
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