

OLDSDORO, N. C. MARCH 16, 1893

THE GOOD RESOLVE.

The people, without regard to party, will heartily approve two positions as to his future policy relative to office-holding recently enunciated by President Cleveland.

First: that he will not reappoint to office ex-officio holders, where there are new applicants for the positions who are worthy and capable and equal to fill the positions in all other respects.

He is in favor of rotation in office in a Democratic Government, and will not encourage in any way the growing, dangerous and undemocratic idea that in order to run the Government smoothly and satisfactorily there must be an office-holding class.

This has been the Republican idea and it has led to official corruption, to centralism, to favoritism, to nepotism and to a hundred other ills and evils that are inconsistent with Democratic Government. The people own this Government, and its emoluments, its honors, its obligations, its pleasures and its official benefits and burdens should be as equally as possible distributed.

The old office-holders, with nothing but "experience and party service," will have to give the fresh and vigorous blood an equal chance.

Another thing: The determination of the President not to appoint men to office who have other business. There is not an office, with hardly an exception, in the gift of the Government for which a worthy man will apply or accept if offered him, that will not command his whole time and faithful attention if he does his full duty to his official trust. There has been too much of entrusting the public business to men who are occupied and burdened with their own affairs to the neglect of the public's interests.

President Cleveland says he is going to remedy this as nearly as possible. This means that the people, and not the machine, will be in control during the next four years, and that there will be really places of business activity and not partisan snags.

In this declaration he will receive the hearty approval of all good citizens. He is correct.

The St. Louis Republic has discovered one material difference between the patriot and the spoilsman, viz: "the patriot has an office, while the spoilsman is hunting around for one." Pretty good!

SECRETARY HERBERT must see to it that the new and rehabilitated American Navy that is to be built and equipped at home. The United States has the material and the workmanship and wants no foreign built vessels. The South also wants two or three naval yards.

KENTUCKY office-seekers are hovering around Secretary Carlisle like bees around the honeycomb. The new Secretary says: "I feel that I have got more friends in Kentucky than I ever dreamed a man could have, and a queer thing about it is that a great many of them claim to have made me what I am."

The Press Unmuzzled. One feature of Mr. Cleveland's proclaimed policy regarding appointments to office will meet with universal approbation. He declares that he will appoint no editors or publishers of newspapers. The public press, he rightly says, should be free and untrammelled.

There would have been no special need to make this announcement had not adopted a contrary policy, to the scandal of the country, the discredit of the press and the impairment of his own dignity and influence. News-editor men had often before received appointments and filled them well; and indeed nearly all of the newspaper men appointed to office by Mr. Harrison were eminently fit and conferred more distinction upon

the service than they derived from it. But not before, in modern times, had a President undertaken systematically to bind a large number of leading journals in personal allegiance to his administration by means of public patronage, and the undertaking was not only resented by the independent press, but condemned by public sentiment.

The subject is really of general public concern. The influence of the press depends entirely upon its freedom and independence of thought. But a newspaper whose editor is bound to a responsible public office cannot, in the nature of things, exercise an independent judgment in public affairs, or if it does so, its readers will not believe it. And this loss of confidence extends to newspaper whose editors have not received appointments and whose criticisms of party policy are accordingly ascribed to disapproval.

In former years, when newspapers were party organs first and newspapers only incidentally, it was more appropriate for editors to accept office, just as the editors of small village organs may properly do now. Yet even then public men perceived the imprudence of such a policy, and it will be condemned by the people as a necessary and a just measure.

In modern times, when people expect independence and impartiality in a journalist's representation in all political matters, and Mr. Cleveland has simply recognized the dignity and the importance of the press in a democratic government to which he will appoint no newspaper men to office. - Philadelphia Times.

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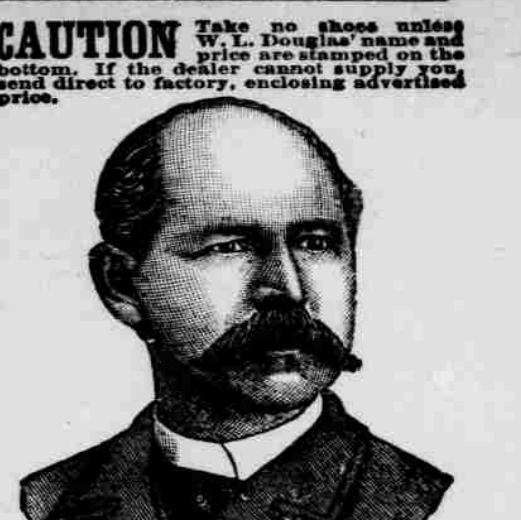
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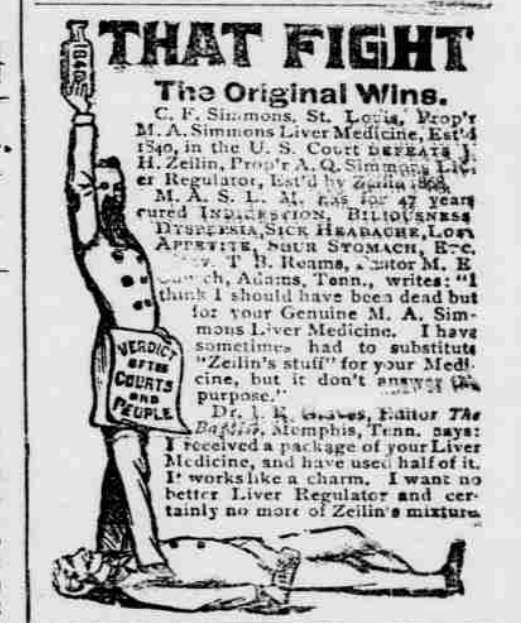
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