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**The Sentinel**  
WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 29.

**Letter from Bishop Hood.**

We print elsewhere in the Sentinel to-day a very important and significant letter from Bishop Hood, of the African Methodist Episcopal Church in North Carolina, which letter he informs us has the unanimous endorsement of the conference of his church, recently in session at Washington in this State. The letter is in response to an editorial in the Sentinel of the 9th instant, two days after the election, wherein we deemed it our duty to endeavor to quiet the apprehensions and alarm of the colored people at the result of the elections, by assuring them that it was no part of the purpose of the democratic party to harm or restrain them in their exercise of the rights and privileges of citizenship they had acquired under the constitution and laws of the state and the United States.

We are gratified at the response of Bishop Hood and the expression which comes from the conference over which he presided. It shows that the whites and colored people of the state are beginning to understand each other politically, and the understanding begets the mutual confidence necessary to the well being of a community of people so circumstanced materially that they cannot afford to be estranged politically.

The Sentinel has, in the name of the democratic party of North Carolina, promised the colored people equal and exact justice under a democratic administration of the affairs of the state, and the same protection under the laws that the white people claim and receive. Bishop Hood says, and he speaks for the great body of the colored people of the state, for he is their representative man in North Carolina, that if these pledges are carried out in good faith as he believes they will be we shall have no ground of complaint for the political affiliation of the colored people in the future.

These are words coming from such a source, of significant import at the present time. While a large portion of the people of the north are under the misapprehension that a colored man at the south, when left to his own free choice, cannot possibly vote the democratic ticket under any circumstances, and at a time when the result of the elections in three states is sought to be reversed on precisely that theory, and none other, one of the foremost colored men at the south proclaims that the exercise of good faith toward the colored people on the part of the whites of the south will abolish the lines of political distinction that have hitherto divided race against race.

The people of the extreme southern states began the cultivation of kinder and more confidential political relations with the colored people from the day that General Beauregard proclaimed in New Orleans for the political unification of the races in 1873, and the result has been that in Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, South Carolina and Florida, the overwhelming republican majority in each of the states has been destroyed by a large portion of the colored people, through the just action of the white people toward them voting the democratic ticket. This thing will go on, and hereafter we shall have two parties, each embracing the men of both races, and lines of color in politics will come to be forgotten and unknown.

This result was not possible at the outset. The great body of our white people could not bring themselves to concede suffrage to the colored men. A superior or privileged class of men do not voluntarily concede equal rights and privileges to those they esteem their inferiors. It has been so from the foundation of the world with all classes and conditions of men, and we of the south afforded no exception to a universal rule as long established as the world itself. But changes come in the process of time, and men are reconciled to accept, and are then prepared to assert and defend what they before vigorously and conscientiously opposed. Nor has the struggle of the two races with their political destiny been without a corresponding good as we begin to see now that the era of reconciliation dawns upon us. We have had a hard experience, but we have learned much. The colored people have passed through a political probation profitable to them, and they are now enabled to discern what political affiliation with us from

the first would never have taught them. They have learned that most unworthy men in the most precious elections present themselves for the suffrage of the American citizen, and if they have learned how to discriminate it will always stand them in very good need as well when they vote for men of one party as of another.

We are very glad that Bishop Hood has written this letter. His pronouncement among the men of his race gives to it a value which cannot fail to bring good results. Himself a northern born and educated man and occupying a prominent political position at one time in the republican party in this state, having presided at the convention which nominated Judge Settle for governor, his publication at the north at this time will open up a better understanding between the people of the two sections. While the attention which the letter will attract here at home will tend to bring the two races nearer together, and render impossible the enactment of any of those scenes of violence and disorders which less favored sections too frequently present to our view.

**The Exercise of Arbitrary Power**

This country, north and south, has suffered from the exercise of arbitrary power from the firing of the first gun on Sumpter.

The conquering north came out of the contest puffed up with the pride of victory, and the republican party assumed control of national affairs under the impulse that a nation's arms and a nation's gratitude gave it license for any extravagant political performance and every wild scheme of governmental experiment. Under a military president and a truculent congress we have had eight years of arbitrary government, its like existing nowhere else in the world.

We have it to perfection in elections under military surveillance. We witness its impudent beauty in the example of canvassing and returning boards protected in their rascality by the bayonets of the United States army; and the clank of the sword, the rattle of the spur, and the tread of the mailed heel in the corridors of state capitols afford the modern music of liberty to which the American citizen is now most accustomed and familiar with.

The organization of the South Carolina legislature yesterday under military direction is the latest scene of the tragedy of Grantland the country is called upon to contemplate in all the beauties of paternal government at Washington.

Yet, at the very same hour, and running back to night before last, the spirit of arbitrary power set enthroned in our own state capitol. Majorities have come to be regarded as a party's license to do whatever may strike the fancy of the leaders, and the larger the majority the further the removal from accountability. Legislators esteem themselves hereditary lords with indisputable titles to nobility. Public officials mistake themselves for the people's masters, and arbitrary power asserts herself under a fancied right older than the people's liberties.

Now this is all wrong, and somebody is on the road to grief. The democratic party—composed of nothing else in the main but the masses of the people in the background—is now in a condition to put an end to the foolishness which, under the reign of radicalism, has become fashionable. Some few representatives of the people will find out before they go much further that they are the servants of the people, and if they don't mind they will get their lesson at home instead of at the capitol of the state.

A deputation of respectable and accomplished workmen, representing the bone and sinew of the state, call on a committee and beg for the postponement of its action, about which there is no hurry, having full three weeks of time, for just twenty-four hours, and their request is peremptorily refused, and a matter involving thousands of dollars of the people's money is rushed through by the candle light of a cockle.

In all of monarchial Europe, no ruler reposes with such sense of security or his throne that he dare disregard a deputation of his humblest subjects. Neither the German emperor, nor the Russian Czar, in all the magnificence of their splendor, their military renown and the pomp of their power pass unheeded the petitions of those of their people who come with grievances, real or imaginary. Yesterday in the house of representatives, the denial of the right of petition was sought to be enforced, but there were fortunately some there who, feeling that they represent the people, have respect upon the people.

The democratic party is now too strong in this state, and Bishop Hood gives us to understand that it will grow permanently stronger, for the toleration of any of the extravagant fancies of young men who mistakenly imagine that they are of a superior article of clay to the common run of men. The times are propitious for remanding such fledglings back to the paternal nest until their pinfeathers of experience and common sense are ripe enough to shed. If we

shall not misjudge the temper of the time, the mad-dreams of private life threaten in divers directions to be more prevalent than this surface of the ocean has of late indicated.

**An Unprecedented Vote.**

In the electoral vote as reported by the governor and secretary of state from ninety-one counties, Judge Fowle's vote is returned at 122,448, exclusive of 200 omitted by mistake in the returns from Granville, which would give him 122,648, the highest vote ever polled in the state for the candidate of any party. Major Latham, elector for the first district, received 122,586 or 62 votes less than Judge Fowle.

**BISHOP HOOD.**

**HIS RESPONSE TO THE SENTINEL FOR THE COLORED PEOPLE.**

EXPRESSION FROM THE COLORED CONFERENCE OF THE NORTH CAROLINA.

The Sentinel Assurance in behalf of the Democracy accepted and if carried out we shall have no ground of complaint for the political affiliations of the colored people in the future. PLYMOUTH, N. C., Nov. 11th 1876.

To the Editors of the Raleigh Sentinel.

Nothing could have been more timely than the article in your issue of the 9th inst., addressed to the colored people. And under the circumstances, nothing could be more noble and magnanimous than the spirit manifested by the sentiments expressed. I hail this as a beam of light which betokens the dawn of a brighter day.

I am prepared to assert that had such sentiments emanated from the same source nine years ago, you would not have seen what you have witnessed during this unpleasant period of our history—unpleasant to you and certainly not less unpleasant to us. You would not have seen the colored man voting most solidly against the men for whom personally he had the highest possible respect, yet, a respect that amounted almost to reverence. You would never have seen colored men voting for men who cared nothing for them (except that by their suffrage they could hold office), and it was the only way in which they could maintain their own rights.

The situation of my people, as you frankly and generously admit, has been unpleasant in the extreme. I think you will agree with me that, as a rule, the black man has the organ of approbation large. He loves the approval of his fellow man, especially of the better and more favored class. It has therefore been what appeared to him the sternest necessity, amounting to a religious duty, that has induced him to sacrifice the good will of those, to have obtained which he would have been willing to make any reasonable sacrifice. As your article, in substance, admits all this, I will not follow this line of thought further. You are right, my people do feel alarmed.

But if you permit me, I will suggest a cause that may not have occurred to you. I think what has most alarmed my people is the tone of the democratic press. We receive so much abuse, so little praise, so little fairness. Our crimes are magnified, our virtues are overlooked. When appeals have been made to us, it has been done in a kind of half-threatening style which repulses, or a don't-care style that shows a want of heartiness. I am sure that from your own observation, a bare statement of the case is sufficient to enable you to take in the whole of my meaning.

The colored people are more discerning, more penetrating than they have the credit for. It is because of the heartiness, the evident sincerity, running through every line of your article, that, hailing you with joy, as well as on account of the reasons from which it comes. The sentiments expressed are such as naturally flow from the hearts of christian gentlemen. The sentiments of the Sentinel under its present management have been far above what we have been accustomed to.

You, gentlemen, are entitled to all you claim. You have a right to speak for the democratic party. You, I believe, would improve the administration of the affairs of the government. You represent the wealth, the intelligence, the refinement, yes, the religion of that party. The party could not afford to lose the influence of the class you represent. And now, speaking for at least (100,000) one hundred thousand of my people who attend upon the ministry in the church I represent, I assure you that we receive and accept your very generous address with hearts of gratitude.

And I will further assure you that if the affairs of this state are administered during the next four years as you assure us they will be you shall have no ground to complain of our conduct as to our political affiliations in future.

In this we sacrifice no principle. It is not men nor party interests that we have sought to promote, but our liberties we have sought to secure.

You assure us that you will maintain our rights, you use such language as cannot be mistaken. It comes from a source that we cannot distrust. You suggest a proposition that time will test. You say: "The colored people will now have the opportunity to learn that the democracy has no design against their liberties."

This is all we have ever asked for. Were we not satisfied with the fulfillment of those promises, we would deserve your scorn.

J. W. HOOD.  
Bishop A. M. E. Zion Church, America.

WASHINGTON, N. C., Nov. 23. P. S. I would have forwarded this sooner, but desired to submit it to the N. C. conference. This body is now in session. It numbers 212 ministers, besides a large number of lay delegates. I have submitted it, therefore, and it has received a unanimous endorsement. J. W. H.

The Grand Central Hotel, New York, has adopted the railroad plan of "cut rates," and announces a reduction from \$1.00 to \$2.50 and \$3.00 per day. Nov. 28.

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The law requires that I shall settle with the State Treasurer, on the first Monday of December. I therefore for the last time give notice that I am now ready to receive the taxes for the year 1876, and that unless all taxes are promptly paid the same will be collected by distress. S. M. DUNN, Sheriff.

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**THANKSGIVING PROCLAMATION.**

BY THE Governor of North Carolina.

**EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT.**  
RALEIGH, NOV. 25, 1876.

WHEREAS, The people of North Carolina have been abundantly blessed with the favor and protection of Divine Providence, which has crowned the past year with plenty and general prosperity, preserved to us the enjoyment of civil and religious liberty, exempted us from the ravages of war, pestilence, famine and other calamities which have scourged other peoples and States, permitting no evils to befall us but such as are incident to the common lot of men;

Now, THEREFORE, as it becomes us, a christian people, to render thanks to Almighty God for these and numberless other blessings showered upon us in His great mercy; that GURTS H. BROGREN, Governor of North Carolina, in obedience to law and in conformity with an honored precedent, do appoint and set apart

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 30th, 1876, as a day of public Thanksgiving throughout the State.

And I do earnestly invite the Clergy of every denomination to open their respective houses of worship, and the people to obtain on that day from all pursuits inconsistent with the sacred duties of the occasion, and with devout hearts to assemble in their respective assemblies, and offer the prayer of thanksgiving and praise to our Heavenly Father who has given us peace and plenty, and vouchsafed to the privileges and blessings we enjoy. Let gratitude inspire our hearts and enlarge our benevolence. And remembering the poor and unfortunate among us, let us add to our devotions duties of charity and works of love. And I especially recommend on that day of thanksgiving and rejoicing, that donations be solicited in all places of public worship in this State for the benefit of the needy children of the Orphan asylums at Oxford and Asheville.

With gratitude for the mercies of the past, let us seek wisdom from above to guide us in the future, that our feet may be kept in the paths of rectitude, and that our days may be a blessing to ourselves and those with whom we associate. Done at the City of Raleigh, on this the 25th day of November, A. D. 1876. GURTS H. BROGREN, Governor of North Carolina, in obedience to law and in conformity with an honored precedent, do appoint and set apart

By the Governor: J. B. NEATHWAY, Private Secretary.

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