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## The Hon. B. F. Perry and the Constitutional Amendment.

The Hon. Benjamin F. Perry, of South Carolina, has given his views in full in regard to the Constitutional Amendment, in a letter to Charles W. Woodward, Esq., of Philadelphia, which is published in the Columbia (S. C.) Phoenix, and from which we make the annexed copious extracts, believing that we could present nothing more interesting to our readers, in the present disturbed state of affairs. The Hon. gentleman says:

My DEAR SIR:—I had the pleasure of receiving your letter, a few days since, expressing a kind interest in the condition of the Southern States, and arguing that South Carolina should adopt the constitutional amendment proposed by Congress. You also expressed a wish to know my views in reference to this all-absorbing political question.

It has been said that a man never can be dishonored, except by himself. Others may injure him and oppress him; they may slander him and destroy him, but they can no more dishonor him and render him infamous, than they can defame virtue and truth and honor. The same may be said of a people or a nation. Whilst they pursue an honorable and patriotic course, they cannot be disgraced by the insults, wrongs and oppressions of a stronger power, however tyrannical and exacting that power may be.

The Southern States may be deprived of all political power in the Union, their property may be confiscated, and their most distinguished and virtuous citizens gibbeted on the gallows, but they cannot be rendered infamous in history by such barbarous and inhuman conduct. Such a course will only dishonor and render infamous their oppressors.

You state that you greatly fear worse terms will be imposed on the South, if the amendment be not adopted. What security has the South that worse terms may not be imposed, if the amendment is adopted? We have no guarantee whatever that the Southern members will be admitted to their seats in Congress, after the amendment is adopted. Nothing of the kind is intimated; and, while the test oath is exacted, it would be impossible for the Southern States to be represented in Congress, except by those who would dishonor and disgrace them. We have no guarantee that Congress may not still hold the Southern States as conquered provinces, and appoint Provisional Governors over them, with instructions to convene "loyal" conventions, elected by universal negro suffrage, and have formed State Constitutions, by which all shall be entitled to vote and hold office, without regard to color, to the exclusion of every one who has aided or countenanced rebellion.

The proposed amendment of the Federal Constitution forces the Southern State to choose between giving up their equal representation in Congress, or permitting their negroes to vote. Between the alternatives no Southern State could hesitate a moment to choose when the issue is forced on them. Equal representation in the national councils must be given up. You very properly say that already the Southern States are in a minority in both houses of Congress, and a full representation for their negroes would not give them a majority in the House of Representatives.

To suppose that any Southern State would voluntarily adopt such a provision in the National Constitution, is to presume that she is insensible to her own honor, and reckless of her own safety. It may be said that Tennessee has already done so; never was there a greater mistake. If the constitutional amendment had been submitted to the people of Tennessee, it would have been rejected by nine tenths of them. It was adopted only by a minority of the Legislature, unfairly and corruptly elected, and degraded by Northern influence. In all communities there are unprincipled and infamous men, who seek power and notoriety by sacrificing honor and the interests of their country. Unfortunately for Tennessee, the scum and dregs of society have

been thrown up by the horrible civil war through which she has passed. Men have got into power in that State, accidentally and fraudulently, who are a disgrace to human nature, and who will ever remain infamous in history. The same thing cannot again occur in any other Southern State.

The third section of the proposed constitutional amendment is more revolting to an honorable mind than either of the others. It is, in the true sense of the word, a bill of attainder, an ex post facto law, so repugnant to the sentiment and feelings of the framers of the Federal Constitution, that they declared that no such law should ever be passed. It punishes for past offences, by one fell swoop, tens of thousands of honorable men. The conception of such a bill was never before, probably, thought of by an Englishman, or the descendant of an Englishman. It certainly was not attempted by the English Parliament in the darkest and bloodiest days of English tyranny. The only incident in history analogous to it is the wish of Nero, that all men had but one neck so that he could cut it off in one blow. It proposes to ostracise and disgrace forever, not only all the leading men of the South, but all, however humble they may be, who have filled any civil office in any of the Southern States. This section declares that no one who has taken the oath to support the Constitution of the United States and was afterwards aiding and abetting in the war, shall hereafter hold any office under the State or United States. The Governors of the States, the Judges, members of the Legislature, magistrates, constables, State and District officers, and all, forever, excluded by this provision. To suppose that any Southern man would voluntarily adopt such a provision is indeed placing a very low estimate on Southern character. The soldiers who gallantly fought under the lead of his general, and would have sacrificed his own life at any time for the protection of his commander, is required to dishonor and disgrace him in peace. The son is required to vote the infamy of his father. The people are asked to repudiate and disgrace those whom they have, through life, honored, and gloried in honoring. Every Southern State is required to expel from her councils, her legislature, and from all public offices, her wisest, best and most experienced public servants. Was ever such a proposition before submitted to an intelligent, virtuous and christian people? How any honorable man, who reflects on this section of the proposed amendment, and sees its bearing and consequences, can expect or counsel its adoption is, in my mind, incomprehensible. That any Southern man should vote for it or favor its adoption is a confession of his own dishonor and infamy. Such a man would willingly betray his country, his own household and his God.

If the Southern States were so lost to all shame as to adopt this section, it is possible that young men might be found to fill all the State offices; but they could not represent their State in Congress, or hold any office under the United States, on account of their having aided or abetted in the war. The States would still be unrepresented in Congress so long as the test oath is continued.

But I feel assured that Congress did not expect or wish the ratification of this amendment by the States. The people were to be made to believe that Congress intended to reconstruct the Union. This was "a tub thrown out to the whale," to amuse them till the fall elections were over. Congress does not intend to have the States reconstructed till after the Presidential election in 1868. The Southern States are to be kept out of the Union till after that period, in order to insure the radical triumph.

Brownlow's message was read in the Tennessee House on Tuesday. It discusses the question of negro suffrage, and thinks certain designing men, with the connivance of the President, are endeavoring to overturn the State government. He invites the prompt action of the Legislature in regard to this matter.

## THE MIRACLE OF THE RESURRECTION.

The following is an extract from a sermon by the Rev. Dr. Robinson, of Christian University:

"In the defense of Miracles it is idle to parley—impossible to distinguish between the probable and improbable. All stand or fall together. But select, if you will, that which in itself considered, is the most improbable among them—the greatest and most wonderful of their number—the resurrection of Christ from the dead. Inasmuch as the greater always includes the less, if the fact of the resurrection can be established, the credibility of the whole series must follow.

But of the fact of the resurrection the very existence of the Christian Church is incontestible evidence. Without that fact, the origin of the Church is not only unaccountable, but contrary to all laws of cause and effect.

Picture to yourselves the Apostles and Disciples when the sad truth first came home to them that their Master was dead and buried. They had trusted in Him as the One which should have redeemed Israel. They were sure they had seen in Him the evidence of the great Messiah. All manner of disease had been healed at his word; demons had fled at his presence; the winds and waves had obeyed Him; universal Nature had recognized Him as her Lord; from the heavens legions of angels had only wanted His bidding to sweep down to his aid. And yet this Lord of all had been arrested, tried, condemned, and like any helpless criminal, had been publicly executed.

As if in an instant the whole fabric of their day dreams had vanished. The extinction of their hopes was complete, their disappointment overwhelming. Their Master dead and buried, they were themselves marked men.

They fled in dismay, each to his own home. On the third day it was whispered, 'The Master is risen.' Gliding from their homes, they stealthily assembled. Suddenly 'Jesus stood in their midst,' and then were they glad when they saw the Lord. Slowly emboldened by the growing evidence that the Lord was 'risen indeed,' one hundred and twenty disciples gathered at last in open assemblage.

Pentecost came, and the Christian Church was forever established. The disappointed and affrightened Apostles who had fled for their lives now challenged rulers with their bold words, 'Whether it be right in the sight of God, judge ye.' But for the Resurrection of Christ from the dead, there had been no Christian Church; and but for the Christian Church, it had not been possible to establish His Resurrection beyond a cavil. As it is, no fact in history is so well authenticated as that 'Christ died for our sins, was buried, and that he rose again on the third day, according to the Scriptures.'

DO YOU WANT A BOY, SIR?  
"Do you want a boy, sir?" said George, a little fellow scarcely eight year old, to a clerk in a large office.

"Want a boy? Who wants to be engaged?" asked the clerk, looking with a puzzled glance at the little applicant.

"I do, sir," replied George.

"Look here," cried the young man, speaking to his fellow clerks, "Here is a regular Goliath. Wants to be a porter, I suppose. Look at him!"

The clerks gathered in great glee about George, who stood, full of earnest purpose, therefore quite unconscious of any reason why he should be made an object of sport.

"What can you do?" asked one.

"You can post books, of course," said another.

"Carry a bale of goods on your back, eh?"

"Hush," said the book-keeper at the desk, after viewing George through his spectacles. "Hush! don't make sport of the child. Let me talk to him." Then speaking to George, he said, "You are too young to be engaged, my child. Who sent you here?"

"I came myself, sir. My father and

mother are dead; my aunt is poor, and I want to earn something to help her. Won't you please take me, sir?"

The simple story, told in a way showing how earnest the boy was, not only checked the sport of the clerks, but brought tears to their eyes. They looked on the delicate child before them with pity and respect, and one of them, placing a shilling on the desk, asked the rest to follow his example. They did so. He then took the money, and offering it to George, said, "You are too small to be of any use here, my good boy. But take this money, and when you have grown a bit, perhaps we may find something for you to do."

George looked at the money without offering to take it.

"Why don't you take the money?" asked the clerk.

"Please, sir, I'm not a beggar boy," said George. "I want to earn something to help my aunt to keep me, for she is very kind." "You are a noble little fellow," said the senior clerk. "We give you the money not because we think you a beggar, but because we like your spirit. Such a boy as you will not easily become a beggar. Take the money, my boy, and may God bless you and give you and your aunt better days!"

I like George's spirit in this affair. It was noble and self reliant beyond his years. It was the spirit that makes poor boys grow into useful and successful men. It made George do this, for in after years that little boy became a noted artist, whose praise was spoken by many tongues. All children should cherish a desire to do what they can for themselves, as soon as possible. Those who lean on father and mother for everything will find it hard work to get along by-and-by, as they may have to do when their parents die. Learn therefore, to help yourselves, always taking care to do so under the advice and with the consent of your parents and guardians. Ladies Repository.

## A BOLD ROBBER.—The Memphis Commercial, says

One of the coolest outrages ever perpetrated upon a citizen of Memphis, occurred on Wednesday evening last. A well dressed fellow called at the residence of Gen. Albert Pike, on Pontotoc street, and upon being informed of the absence of that gentleman from home, asked to see his niece, who was left in charge of the house, and whom he pretended to have been acquainted with during the late war. Although failing to recognize the fellow upon entering the parlor, the young lady treated him with the courtesy becoming her position as hostess of her uncle's establishment, and sustained a conversation of several minutes duration, in the course of which the request was made on the part of the intruder that he might see the general's portrait. This request being coupled with many assurances of the high esteem in which the general was held, and the most fulsome flatteries of herself, the young lady reluctantly retired into an adjacent room to produce the picture. Upon her return to the parlor, but a few seconds after, to her utter astonishment, and as it would prove, to her sorrow, she found that the rascal had disappeared, and with him about \$500 in gold coin which had been placed in a lock-drawer in the apartment. By the time the latter discovery was made the perpetrator of the outrage had succeeded in making his escape doubly sure.

Littleton Chambliss, aged sixteen years, son of James H. Chambliss, of Jackson county, Fla., who cultivated fifteen acres in corn and five acres in cotton, housed two hundred and seventy-two bushels of corn and picked for the gin two and a half bales of cotton. With the usual appliances the crop was made by himself. Corn at \$1.50 and cotton at 25 cents, rather below than above the market price, his crop would yield seven hundred seventeen dollars and fifty cents. This boy has shown an industry and application worthy of all praise.

Mr. Davis has been removed from his casemates to more commodious apartments in Carroll Hall.