

State Economy

# THE WILSON ADVANCE.

J. & C. Daniels, Eds and Prop's

"LET ALL THE ENDS THOU AIM'ST AT, BE THY COUNTRY'S, THY GOD'S, AND TRUTH'S"

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### MARSHALL'S LETTER

#### WHO IS THE AUTHOR IN QUESTION?

Let us settle, Politics Again discussed and the End is not

Let us vindicate the truth of history. Whether it was John Marshall or Harry Lee who used the phrase, "First in war, first in peace," etc., is of much importance to be left in doubt. I made a mistake in my letter in ascribing it to Richard Henry Lee, but corrected it in my next at the name of Judge Clark. But now comes Mr. Morrisett, of North Carolina, before the public and says it was neither of the Lees, but that John Marshall was the author. He says that many learned men have been to the same error, and that Mr. William Jones, who has written "Personal Recollections of Robert E. Lee," as one of the learned, but mistaken men.

To prove his assertion that John Marshall is the author, he refers to "The Life of Washington," which contains the speech of Marshall in the house of representatives on the death of Washington and the resolutions that were adopted, and asks me to rise again and make another correction. I cannot do so yet. It is a matter we will not hurry over. It is indeed, strange if all the Lees and their biographers should have lived so long under such a delusion. The standard school histories and readers have got it down the same way. Can it be possible that Irving, who is most excellent authority, should have ascribed it to Marshall, and that Mr. Morrisett discovered it.

Let us investigate. I have before me Bartlett's dictionary of quotations in which he gives the authorship of Harry Lee and says in a note. The resolutions that he gave up had the words "fellow citizens," but when he afterwards delivered the eulogy on Washington he changed from "fellow citizens" to "countrymen." See Marshall's life of Washington.

Well, of course, if John Marshall himself gave the credit to Lee that settles it beyond dispute. But possible Bartlett may be mistaken. I have also Appleton's last great work on American Biography (1889) and that Robert C. Winthrop, U. S. Senator and ex-United States Senator, wrote the biography of Washington. It is an admirable history and most careful in its details and recitals of facts. In the sixth volume and page 281 we read as follows:

Congress was in session at Philadelphia, and the startling news of Washington's death reached there on the day of his funeral. The next morning John Marshall announced the death in the house of representatives in a short but admirable tribute to his illustrious friend, and concluded with resolutions prepared by General Lee which contained the grand words that have ever since been associated with Washington: "First in war, first in peace and first in the hearts of his fellow citizens." On the 26th of December General Lee pronounced an eulogy by order of both houses of congress, in which he changed the last words of his own famous phrase from fellow-citizens to countrymen.

So it would seem that Marshall offered the resolutions that Lee had prepared. Marshall's speech did not contain the phrase, but the resolutions that Irving does not say to the contrary. He gives Marshall's speech in full, and his concluding sentence was: "I bid in my hand resolutions prepared for this occasion," but Irving does not say that Marshall prepared them. At all events, the weight of evidence is in favor of Lee, and I will not rise to correct, and I believe that John Marshall could have said it. But do not doubt that I made the mistake of making the speech and Lee to prepare the resolutions—for they were in the hands of Irving. Now, I hope that the young readers of The Wilson Advance will stand on this question until the contrary is clearly established. Honor to whom honor is due. It is a comfort to find so many sagacious minds among the southern people. When I made my mistake and gave the credit to Richard Henry Lee I was waked up by the scholars from Virginia to Texas, and I have answered a score of letters and acknowledge my error. I thought for a time that Judge Clark was about the only one

who would write, but I was pleased to receive many others and to answer them. It is a good sign, and especially so as several of the letters were from school teachers not long from college. There is no letter education for a younger man than to teach. Teachers are the best students of history and they make the best writers, the best editors and the best preachers. A college graduate cannot better prepare himself for any one of the professions than to teach school for a year or two. It trains and solidifies the mind—makes him thoughtful and precise in language. Besides this, it gathers around him a bulwark of friends, who stick to him through life. Not long ago we had an exciting election for a superintendent of our public schools, and one of the candidates got one vote at every count for forty-nine ballots. "I went to school to him," said the member of the board, "and I know him, but I don't know the others, except from hearsay."

Things are not altogether calm and serene in these parts. The farmers' ground swell has amazed and bewildered the people. I asked my friend, John Black, what he was doing in politics over in Rome. "Nothing, nothing, at all," said he in a sad sweet tone of voice. "I'm staying inside the house now and waiting for the storm to blow over." "Suppose it don't blow over at all," said I. "Maybe the thing is like the deluge and all you political sinners are out of the ark and floating around on the logs and chicken coops, and every little while you look up at the great floating warehouse with its closed doors and say, 'Boys how long is this infernal shower to last?'"

Blessed is he who hath a boat of his own and does not have to depend upon the people's line. Blessed is he who don't banker after office. This whole thing would be funny if it wasn't death to the frogs. A few months ago our town boys were puzzling around and laying their plans for the legislature, and were fixing to catch the alliance vote for it had not gone into politics then, and the boys got hot over their rights, but they have all swayed down and look as meek and humble as a run-over calf. The farmers made no noise, but simply said: "Boys, we don't think your sort are fitted, and you ain't fit to get fitted, so we will attend to this business ourselves." And the boys made a bow and said: "Jesso."

It reminds me of a story they tell on Mrs. Brown, the senator's plain-spoken and discerning wife. After old Joe had served nearly two terms as governor, some gentlemen were discussing, in her presence, the question as to who would be his successor. Mrs. Brown was stitching away on some garment and took no part in the conversation until one of them said: "Mrs. Brown, who do you think will wear the governor's mantle when he retires?" She looked up and replied in a matter-of-fact way. "I don't think he is going to retire; he calculates to wear it himself for two years more." And he did.

I heard a big alliance man say "We'll show you how to run a legislature when our boys get there. The boys will eat breakfast by sun-up, just like they do at home, and in an hour more you will hear a horn blow at the capitol and they will all be there and go to work, and there won't be no fooling around and no excuses nor absentees, nor going down town to get a drink, nor running off on excursions to Tybee and Chantauqua. Mark Hardin shant have fourteen clerks, dog on him, but he shall do the clerking himself. We can't do without him, and don't expect to, but he will have to knuckle down to work. The last session cost \$150,000 but the next won't cost a cent of it. I'll bet any man a suit of clothes it don't. We are going to rent out about half the state house. Every one of them stalled fellows have got a front room, and a back room, and a sanctum, and a sanatorium, and a fifty-dollar sofa to sleep on, and they have their business hours just like the banks, and you can't see 'em only when you don't want to see 'em; and they haven't got to go to mill either, or take up the fodder, dog-on 'em. We'll straighten out their chains when the boys get there."

"I hear," said I, "that some of your members are opposed to George Lester for attorney general because he is a lawyer." "Well, yes," said he, "some of 'em was, but I told 'em that

George was a poor man and a good soldier, and was no lawyer to hurt, and I think they will go for him. I know he ain't much of a lawyer, for I had a case in his court when he was judge and he decided it pintblack agin me, though I knew I was right all the time. No, he ain't much of a lawyer, but we don't expect to need any—we are going to run the machine in a common sense farmer way, without any red tape or Sullymagundy, and if these judges and solicitors don't do better than to give us a relish of what I have heard in the past about the finances of our country—intermingled with my own views, showing why we have not prospered. When the people of this country first gained their independence, our Constitution was formed by wise and patriotic men who realized the fact that Almighty God designed men to labor—yet He did not design them to labor without a reward. Our laws were so framed that every man should have, as far as possible, equal rights, and should be allowed to gain all he could and spend it as he will, according to the talents given him by an All-wise God. Then there were but a few millionaires on American soil. But that period has passed and to-day the United States boasts more millionaires than any other country on the globe, while she has more tramps, and there is more general depression among the toiling masses than ever before. What has brought about this great change? Why is it so? These are questions well worthy our consideration.

Let us go back to 1860, when the war cloud was gathering. The old men of the North shook their heads and mothers on bended knees clasped more closely their precious boys and prayed God that the storm cloud might pass. But above all the prayers and wallows could be heard from Wall Street and along the line of money centers the echoes of jubilant satisfaction. Why this exultation of the moneyed men over a prospective civil war? Why were the money kings of Wall street so anxiously and positively joyous when the guns were turned upon fort Sumpter and the declaration of war sent its thrilling notes throughout the length and breadth of our land? It was not because they loved the negro of the cotton fields of the South, but it was because their love for gain had stiffed the finer instincts of their nature and they rejoiced because they saw in the preparation for war their long coveted opportunity for plunder. They knew the war must bring its necessities, and through these necessities they determined to subjugate their unsuspecting fellow-men. To accomplish this it became necessary to obtain possession of the national finances. They knew their opportunity was at hand and scarcely had the war cloud broken ere the gold and silver of the country disappeared.

What had become of it? The Shylocks of Wall street had obtained all of it and for what purpose I will now show you. From Appleton's Encyclopedia in 1861, page 296, we learn that the money kings of Wall street graciously tendered loans to the government in her distress at 24 to 34 per cent interest—those same money kings who to-day bear quoted as those patriotic and generous capitalists.

The gold and silver of the country was in their possession and it would not serve their purpose unless they could loan it to the government at exorbitant rates of interest. But Lincoln read in the Constitution, "Congress shall have power to coin money." Then to the world he declared that Congress would coin money and that the government would not submit to the infamous demands of the capitalists. Following this declaration came the enactments of July 17, 1861, and February 12, 1862, authorizing the issue of \$60,000,000 treasury notes, not bearing interest and payable for all debts, public and private. These first issues of greenbacks constitute the demand notes, which, unlike all subsequent issues, did not contain the exception clause; consequently they have always been at par with gold and established the fact that had it not been for the exception clause on the greenback they would have always remained at par with

gold. Wherever gold went, these demand notes could go, even into the coffers of the bondholders. They paid his interest, paid duties on imports; the millionaire took off his hat to them and the banker made obeisance. We find that only four days after the passage of the legal tender act to supply the country with government money, a bankers' convention, consisting of 4 delegates from New York, three from Philadelphia, and three from Boston, was held in Washington City. They were alarmed. They saw in the legal tender act a friend to the people—they saw in it a precedent which, if established, would forever afterwards enable the government to relieve itself and the people without submitting to the usurious exorbitations. They knew too, that the government, supplied with its own money, would have no occasion to call for its hiding place their hoarded gold, unless by some means they could create a market for it. This, then, was plainly the object of that notable bankers' convention, to create a demand for their hoarded gold. To do this they must get control of Congress, which they did. The result of which was that infamous exception clause on the greenback that was consummated by the act of Congress February 25, 1862, wherein it was stipulated that "the greenback should be legal tender for all debts, public and private, except duties on imports and interest on the public debt, which from that time forward should be paid in coin." When this act was passed the money kings rejoiced. They had accomplished their purpose. They had created a demand for their gold. Henceforth the government should bow to them and none should question their right to wield the golden scepter of money king. They had no army or navy at their command, but they had subjugated the people more effectively than the army did.

Gold immediately went to 185 per cent. That is \$1 in gold would bring \$1.85 in greenbacks. The gold was then bound to be had to pay the duties on imports. This \$185 in greenbacks which the importer paid for the \$1 in gold he immediately invests in government bonds at face value, and it is stipulated on these bonds that the interest must be paid in gold and in advance. He collects his interest in gold and the next day is ready to sell to the importer at 185 per cent. Not contented with this large profit, the next scheme to rob the people was the national banking act, passed in 1863.

### HON. J. B. PHILPIPS,

#### NASH COUNTY'S DISTINGUISHED SON.

Address the Alliance upon the Money Question—A Resume of Republican Legislation that has Ground the Life and money out of Our People.

Mr. President, and Brethren of the Farmers' Alliance: At our last meeting I was requested to deliver an address to the Alliance to-day. It was left to me to choose my own subject, and after giving it some thought, I decided not to confine myself to any one particular subject, but to give in as brief a form as possible a relash of what I have heard in the past about the finances of our country—intermingled with my own views, showing why we have not prospered.

When the people of this country first gained their independence, our Constitution was formed by wise and patriotic men who realized the fact that Almighty God designed men to labor—yet He did not design them to labor without a reward. Our laws were so framed that every man should have, as far as possible, equal rights, and should be allowed to gain all he could and spend it as he will, according to the talents given him by an All-wise God. Then there were but a few millionaires on American soil. But that period has passed and to-day the United States boasts more millionaires than any other country on the globe, while she has more tramps, and there is more general depression among the toiling masses than ever before. What has brought about this great change? Why is it so? These are questions well worthy our consideration.

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By this act the capitalist was permitted to invest his greenbacks in government bonds at face value, and upon these bonds he not only drew gold interest in advance but by means of the bank scheme he actually had 90 per cent of their value returned to him. While drawing interest upon the entire investment in the form of bonds, 90 per cent of it has been returned to them in the form of national bank notes and it is with these he carries on the banking business, loaning them out upon the most advantageous terms. On the one hand he draws interest from the government; on the other from the same investment he draws interest from his individual debtors, allowing him to draw two interests from the same investment at the same time. Further the national banks, as depositors of the United States Treasury, to-day hold \$60,000,000 of the people's money upon which they do not pay any tax nor do they pay one cent of interest, but are, and have been, for the last twenty-five years, loaning it at from 8 to 12 per cent, or using it for effecting corners on the necessities of life.

I can better illustrate by quoting from the Hon. S. S. Marshall, of Illinois, in a speech on the floor of Congress, July 21st, 1868, when he mentioned the following instance: "An association of gentlemen in an Eastern State raised \$300,000 in currency. They went to the office of the Register of the Treasury and exchanged their currency for \$300,000 in six per cent gold bearing bonds. They then went to the office of the Comptroller of the Currency, in the same building, organized a national bank, deposited their \$300,000 in bonds, and received for them \$270,000 in national currency. They had let the government have \$30,000 in currency more than they received for banking purposes and had on deposit \$300,000, on which they re-

ceived as interest from the government \$18,000 a year in gold (and exempt from taxation). It was pretty good financing for these bankers to receive \$18,000 a year in gold on the \$300,000 in currency which they had thus loaned to the government. But this is not the whole story. They had their bank made a public depository. They soon discovered that there was scarcely over less than \$1,000,000 of government money deposited within their vaults; they did not like to see this vast sum lie idle. They took \$1,000,000 of this government money and bought \$1,000,000 of 5-20 bonds with it. In other words they loaned \$1,000,000 of the government's own money to the government, and deposited in the vaults of their bank the bonds received from the same government \$800,000 a year in gold as interest. Thus for the thirty thousand in currency which they originally loaned the government they received annually, in all, seventy thousand in gold."

But this was by no means the limit to the legalized robbery which these gentlemen were capable of perpetrating under the national banking laws. Since they had no scruples about investing the government deposit of one million in 5-20 bonds and appropriating the interest to their own use, it is not at all likely that they would stop there when by simply depositing the one million in 5-20 bonds with the Comptroller of the Currency instead of their own bank vaults they could draw 80 per cent more currency; or by starting two more new banks of \$500,000 each, they could draw 90 per cent more currency to substitute for that amount of the original deposit of the government used by them. If any one doubts that the national banking system was deliberately planned for the purpose of robbing the people, he may be undeceived by reading the following private circular sent out to the bankers of the country by their secretary, James Buell. Here is the circular:

DEAR SIR:—It is advisable to do all in your power to sustain such daily and prominent weekly newspapers, especially the agricultural and religious press, as will oppose the issuing of greenback paper money and that you withhold patronage and favors from all applicants who are not willing to oppose the government issue of money. Let the government issue the coin and the banks issue the paper money of the country, for then we can better protect each other. To repeal the law creating national banks or to restore to circulation the government issue of money will be to provide the people with money and will therefore seriously affect your individual profits as banker and lender. See your member of Congress at once and engage him to support our interest that we may control legislation. (Signed by the Secretary) Jas. Buell.

DEAR SIR:—It is especially the agricultural and religious press through which the Secretary design working up the prejudices of the people. The third scheme of robbery was that of contracting the currency by destroying the greenbacks. In pursuance of this plan the act of April 11th, 1866 was passed, whereby it was provided that a regular and systematic cremation of greenbacks take place. Let it be remembered that upon this government money, the greenbacks, the people did not pay interest. It was backed by the government which made it safe and reliable and issued in sums convenient for small as well as large business transactions.

The money king with one thousand in greenbacks, had found it necessary to loan or employ that money in order to derive any profit from it. This added to his care which apparently was the very thing he sought to avoid; investment in commerce and manufacturing required his personal supervision; investment in houses and land incurred taxation, risks and often loss, but investment in bonds seemed quite suited to his tastes, for they returned a rich golden harvest without any of the annoyances of taxation, insurance or even the care of looking after his investments. It is no wonder he hailed with joy the contraction policy and gladly gave his one in greenbacks (to be converted to the furnace) in exchange for a one thousand untaxed interest-bearing bond. But what of labor seeking employment? The money king has invested his property in bonds as he has no need for labor; true labor must pay the

interest on his bond but he has no employment for it. While this one thousand was in government money it could have given two men employment in some profitable business, but with his money invested in bonds he kicks labor into the street and groins about the inefficiency of tramp law. He does nothing whatever to advance the interest of labor, but drains its life-blood in payment of his everlasting interest. By investing the one thousand in bonds it is taken from circulation. There is one thousand less for the people to do business with and one thousand more for them to pay interest upon. Again by contracting the volume of money it lowered the price of other property and added that much more to the burdens of the labor class. I can better explain by quoting from a Georgia editor as follows:

"In 1868 there was about \$40 per capita of money in circulation, and cotton was about 30 cents a pound. The farmer then put a 500 pound bale of cotton on his wagon, took it to town and sold it. Then he paid \$40 taxes, bought a cooking stove for \$30, a suit of clothes for \$15, his wife a dress for \$5, 100 pounds of meat for \$18, one barrel of flour for \$12, and went home with \$30 in his pocket. In 1887 there was about \$5 per capita of money in circulation, this same farmer put a 500 pound bale of cotton on his wagon, went to town, sold it, paid \$40 taxes, got discouraged, went to the saloon, spent his remaining \$25.00, and went home dead broke and drunk."

I will now give some statistics, showing that our government circulation was reduced nearly one billion four hundred millions. On the 12th day of April, 1866, Congress passed a law authorizing the Secretary of the Treasury to sell 5.20 bonds and with the proceeds to retire United States currency, including greenbacks.

On December 4th, 1866, E. G. Spaulding, a Buffalo, N. Y., banker, a member of Congress, wrote to Secretary McCulloch as follows: "You no doubt, no, to a certain extent, have control of the currency of the country, and I think that you will, of necessity, contract moderately, so as to preserve a tolerably easy money market. There may be occasional spasms of tightness for now, but generally I shall look for plenty of money for at least one year to come."

When this letter was written the country was in possession of one billion nine hundred and ninety-six million six hundred and eighty-seven thousand seven hundred and seventy dollars in currency.

During this year there were but 520 business failures in the whole country, involving a loss of but 17,625,000 dollars. Labor was well paid and fully employed.

1867. This year the work of contraction was vigorously pushed and there were 2,386 failures with a total loss of 86,218,000 dollars.

1868. During this year the 437,000,000 dollars were destroyed and failures increased to 2,608, with a loss to creditors of 63,774,000 dollars. Money began to be tight and financial spasms were frequent.

1869. During this year over 500,000,000 dollars passed into the crematorium, producing a loss of 2,790 business failures and a loss of \$74,064,900. Money was growing tighter and wages lower.

1870. This year 67,000,000 dollars of money was destroyed and 3,651 failures took place, involving a loss of 88,242,000 dollars. Money was very scarce and wages of labor were reduced all over the country.

1871. Thirty-five million dollars of money this year was retired, 2,915 failures and a loss of 85,250,000. More men were thrown out of work and wages were out down.

1872. Only about 12,000,000 dollars were destroyed this year, but such had been the strain upon the business of the country for the past five years that this proved the last straw to 4,069 business firms, involving a loss of \$121,058,000 dollars. More cutting of wages and strikes talked of.

1873. This year the storm reached its climax. Business had hoped that with every returning season prospects would become brighter and money would become plentiful. Instead of this, however, notwithstanding but \$1,609,000 were destroyed, the people became panic stricken, and 7,183 business firms were precipitated with a loss of \$238,409,000. Five hundred thousand men were thrown out of employment, wages were

cut down all over the country, and strikes were frequent occurrences.

1874. Notwithstanding the terrible results of the last year (the wine press of contraction still creaks in its hinges of death) as around and around it sweeps out of circulation \$75,484,000 certificates of indebtedness, which have been made legal tender money, \$85,760,000 treasury notes, 6,335,045 legal tenders, 3,000,000 fractional currency, and 1,000,000 bank notes, producing 5,832 failures and a loss of 155,239,000 to creditors. A million idle men began to tramp in search of work. Wages still declined and strikes were more numerous.

1875. The volume of currency this year was contracted 40,817,418 dollars and the failures reached 7,840 with a loss to creditors of 201,060,000. Two million of laborers were thrown out of work. Famine and hunger began to stare them in the face and "tramping" became a profession.

[Continued on 4th page.]