

# The Daily Sentinel

RALEIGH, N. C., MONDAY, MAY 18, 1868

NO. 246

## DAILY SENTINEL

Wm. H. Hill, Proprietor.

From the Richmond Examiner.  
**THE ALABAMA CASE OF MILITARY TYRANNY.**

While the people of the North have been frantic with the excitement of the so-called trial at Washington, and the newspapers, North and South, have striven their columns to contain accounts of the proceedings, circumstances and incidents connected with the trial, the people of the South have been performing in our sister State of Alabama a more thrilling and important drama than that of the making or unmaking of a President that ever took place. The event to which we refer has already been mentioned by the telegraph and briefly commented upon by the press of the North, but it is not until now that the importance of the event is fully appreciated, and the people of the North are beginning to realize the magnitude of the event.

The events of the day are rendering their lessons into the ears of the American people, and unless they give heed, not only are we of the South in danger, but the days of the "Great Republic" are numbered, and the last hope of constitutional liberty has departed. Those who have the lead and the civilization of the Federal Union will lead into military anarchy, or, slipping into the arms of an imperial dynasty, to escape the intolerable tortures of a Federalist over our nation, and the terrible fate of a Federalist nation over the other.

Nothing has occurred in the South since the fall of the Confederacy, so deeply painful to the heart of the people, and so full of indignation to our fellow Anglo-Saxons at the North, as nothing else has stirred it since the fall of Fort Sumter. As we read the record contained in the order of the military commander, we instinctively inquire the nature and evidence of the offense which has called down upon these citizens a heavy and harsh sentence. The offense is nothing more serious than a civil suit in any of the Northern States, which would have subjected these persons to nothing more than a trivial fine. But, admitting the charges proven, we find that here, in a military district, these citizens are condemned to a fate most revolting in its enormity, and that by the military authority of a long since sentenced Federal officer to conduct a few months in the officers' quarters of a military fort, or shooting to death a weak, unoffending, unarmed and utterly defenseless old man, who was then in his hands a prisoner, bound and brought before him?

The evidence before the commission which condemned these citizens was not published, but it is publicly known by almost all persons, and that by the military authority of a long since sentenced Federal officer to conduct a few months in the officers' quarters of a military fort, or shooting to death a weak, unoffending, unarmed and utterly defenseless old man, who was then in his hands a prisoner, bound and brought before him?

Among his offensive acts, the banishment of the land of Mr. Pettigrew, a prominent gentleman living in the same neighborhood. Having been charged with the theft, he either directly or indirectly confessed it, and gave his note at any day in payment for the value. The payment of this note had evaded from time to time, until young Pettigrew was taken on a public holiday, 18th of April, 1868, and on becoming acquainted with the facts, he took a sick of his wife and struck him a blow, without any other material injury. Several young Pettigrews' friends and neighbors warmly sympathized with him in what he had done, and some of the party gathered around him, and some of them proposed to help him, but the note was not adopted, and no such violence was attempted. Whoever may have been the feelings of the persons engaged, or the fears of Hill, it does not appear, and it is not contended, that any real bodily harm or injury to person or property whatever was done to Hill.

We might well be surprised at the atrocious tyranny of General Meade in condemning these citizens to the slow torture of a civil suit, likely to end their days on a dreary coral reef in the Gulf of Mexico. We might well cry out against such exercise of despotic power, by the sword, in a time of profound peace, and hold General Meade up to the execrations of all civilized men for this exhibition of the military sword and pliers with which to lance the cruelty of these tyrants of tyranny we might well invoke the boundless sympathies of every Southern man, for whom they are during, in some sort, a vicarious punishment. Their terrible fate is no doubt intended as a warning to other Southern men to follow in the footsteps of "fellowship" with the scoundrel and negro. But we draw a deeper lesson from it, more comprehensive than the circumstances of the present month.

We see in it only an incident of the overthrow of civil liberty and the abrogation of the sacred right spring from King John's Magna Carta, and a warning to all men, which has been the history of the world, that the same fate is likely to befall the present wretched condition of the Southern States, any citizen is liable, at any moment, to be torn from his family, to be taken to the South, and transported to the place, as they have been, upon the false charges of some military commander, who is a personal ally of the military authority of the day. The same fate is likely to befall the present wretched condition of the Southern States, any citizen is liable, at any moment, to be torn from his family, to be taken to the South, and transported to the place, as they have been, upon the false charges of some military commander, who is a personal ally of the military authority of the day.

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## THE ALABAMA CASE

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Among his offensive acts, the banishment of the land of Mr. Pettigrew, a prominent gentleman living in the same neighborhood. Having been charged with the theft, he either directly or indirectly confessed it, and gave his note at any day in payment for the value. The payment of this note had evaded from time to time, until young Pettigrew was taken on a public holiday, 18th of April, 1868, and on becoming acquainted with the facts, he took a sick of his wife and struck him a blow, without any other material injury.

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