

JOSIAH TURNER, Editor.

BLOW YOUR HORN, BILLY.

Billy Smith blows his horn as follows in the following style. The letter does not appear in the News, but in a republican paper. We have not room for the whole letter, but have omitted nothing that would be of interest to our readers, and nothing that relates to yourself.

WASHINGTON, D. C., January 23, 1874.

Editor News, Raleigh, N. C.

Sir—In my note of the 15th inst., in reply to "Fair Play," of the 17th, I intimated that I would answer his communication if he would furnish me with his name. Having waited sufficient time, I am advised by friends to reply to his billingsgate as it should appear to gentle-

men. I have accordingly done so, and am glad to see the spirit of the billingsgate scheme and out of the West forever from the advantages of a railroad. To reply fully to "Fair Play" it is necessary to give a short sketch of the history of the North Carolina Railroad, Company from the time I took its affairs in charge to the present time.

I was elected President of the company in July, 1868, succeeding Jo Turner, of Hillsboro, N. C. I found the road in a deplorable condition in every respect. It had great need of iron on the track, had no credit, no system; was running along without a head, broken down, almost insolvent, crushed by a debt of nearly a million dollars, with less than twenty thousand in the treasury. I found in the office when I took charge an old pine table, a sort of cupboard containing one empty jug and several empty bottles, an old bedstead and mattress, full of chunches and covered with old dirty sheets. All was dirt and confusion. A majority of the officers and employees were drunkards and amiable men.

No sooner had I taken charge of the affairs of the company, than a great hue and cry was raised by the vagabond Turner, that the M. C. R. R. would be run down and destroyed. The spirit of blackguardism was invoked and his filthy missiles hurled at me; and every conceivable lie that could be invented was put in circulation by that unscrupulous, low-down fellow, sustained more or less, by the Democratic party.

And now let us see for a moment what Turner and his board of directors did. They mortgaged the road for one million and a half dollars, when there was no necessity for mortgaging it at all. Why then mortgaged the road? It was for the purpose of "grabbing" two hundred and forty thousand dollars of its bonds. As soon as the mortgage was registered, this same honest Jo Turner (the great enemy of rings and thieves) and his board, declared a dividend of six per cent, on the stock, payable to the bond holders just as soon as the road! Was this honest? I think not.

This broken-down vagabond demagogue, Turner, continued to lie and make charges against me, whilst the private stockholders, a large majority of whom were Democrats, continued to vote for me.

W. A. SMITH.

Now it is well known we never use "billingsgate." We were never known to use "cuss" words in the presence of ladies, children or preschers, and we are under bond to Elder Ward and Brother Mangum, not to use "cuss" words before men, except under high provocation, and then in moderation. If we were given to the free use of "billingsgate," this would be no occasion for retrenchment in that line, in replying to the Horn-Blower's Congress like card, dated Washington City.

As to the condition of the floor when Billy came into it as President, the furniture and all were better than he had been raised to. Gov. Morehead and Colonel Fisher had purchased the bedstead, pine table, old cupboard, &c., &c., &c. It was good enough for them, and not too bad for their successors in the Presidency, except Billy the Horn-Blower. As to dirty sheets on the bed, Mrs. Turner through Zack Williams, col., was careful to provide clean sheeting. The lady alluded to had to rely upon Zack, the waitingman, about that, for she was never in the room and lived twenty miles off.

Billy did not find a jug in the "cupboard" that was put there by us or our order. We had a jug full of whiskey from Clem Curtis, the whiskey man, but the jug had been returned two months before Billy went in to be disgraced at the sight of a pine table and an old cupboard, made to suit the taste of Gov. Morehead and Col. Fisher. Let this make us too temperate and virtuous we do confess to having a demijohn. When the Board of Directors met, we let out something to drink, so none of the board ever got drunk or even intoxicated. Peter Adams scorned anything we offered him except cold water and lemonade. No director or employee ever saw us drunk, intoxicated, or even under the influence of liquor, as they have the man disgraced at the sight of a pine table and cupboard.

No passenger or employee on the road ever saw us negro drunk on the train, head out of the window making a whiskey cascade, as they have seen "Cubbard" Congressman Billy. As to "lying" on Billy, we never uttered an untruth of him in our life, and if we have, he has only to tell us in what, and we will beg pardon and correct the lie or mistake into which we have been led. The charges are only three and we never made any of them.

First. He voted 200 negro women dressed in men's clothes at the election of 1868. This he stated in the presence of a number of gentlemen, and they stand ready to prove it when he denies it.

Second. He put in a bid for Holden's bacon sold by Bergen at the Company Shops, when he knew Bergen was stealing the bacon. Crutchfield, his Agent at the Shops, tells this. Crutchfield says "Cubbard" Billy bid eight cents, and he bid ten and got the bacon.

The third charge is, that "Cubbard" Billy took a bribe to lease the North Carolina Road to Buford & Co. The evidence of this is to be found in Cubbard Billy's sworn statements before a legislative committee. If these things are not so we will be pleased to correct them. There is no "lie or billingsgate" in this.

"As to a majority of the officers and employees being drunkards and unreliable men," there is no truth in it. We found the men on the road and left them there. We never removed a man; Superintendent Anderson removed only a few. No railroad ever had a more sober set of officers and employees. Billy ordered his few superintendents to dismiss certain workmen in the shops for voting against W. W. Holden. Said the order: "Yesterday they voted to dismiss me, to day I vote to dismiss them."

W. A. SMITH. This order was the day after the election. Billy turned off the agent at the time of the election.

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Mr. Editor:—I fear there will be no impeachment of Judge Watts. The Republican members will vote against it to a man. They will be joined by certain Conservatives hostile to the editor of the SENTINEL. And the failure to impeach will then be a condemnation of the party, and a vindication of Judge Watts. The excuse will be cost and want of time. I feel warranted in saying this much, because the Legislature have a clause in the amended consolidation bill excluding from the commission to sell the bonds any person who has refused to answer questions for "fear of criminalizing themselves," and they will not apply the clause to the board of directors which would exclude Major Smith from the board and the Presidency of the road.

What will the people think of their representatives who refuse to impeach a corrupt judge or exclude from office a corrupt railroad president?

Yours, CHAS.

The editor is glad to inform "Civ" that before his facts were set in type the Senate amended the consolidation bill

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