DAILY NEWS

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 12, 1879.

HUSSEY & JORDAN, Prop's.

JOHN B. HUSSEY, - Editor.

Robinson's Committee.

At the instance of Mr. James L. Robinson, Senator from Macon county, on the 1st day of March a committee was appointed to inquire into the truth of a certain "report in circulation" to the effect that threats and promises were made, and improper and undue influences were used by certain parties interested in the question of public printing during the early part of this session of the General Assembly, with a view to control the votes of Senators and Representatives for or against the interests of the said parties interested in determining the question of public printing.

The Committee, consisting of Messrs. Dortch, Snow and Rufus White, was appointed by Mr. Scales, having been called to the chair for that purpose.

Two witnesses, who were supposed to be "interested in the printing," were examined. Walter Clark, of this city, a stockholder in the NEWS, was examined. He affirmed most positively that he had no connection with the NEWS and not the remotest interest in the printing. This testimony stands unimpeached.

Mr. Geo. C. Jordan, one of the proprietors of the NEWS was examined. He was emphatic and pointed in his testimony, denying the use of any "threat or promise" to secure the printing. He used only honorable means and was assiduous in his efforts to secure votes.

Whether the success of candidate for the printing made any "threats or promises" or used any "undue influences" is unknown.

Whether Edwards & Broughton, a large printing house in this city, made any "threats or promises" or used any "undue influences" is unknown.

Mr. Jordan was the only supposed "interested party" examined by the committee. His testimony was printed yesterday, together with a statement which bears the impress of truth.

Mr. Carter's testimony in rebuttal was also printed, and but for the respect we have for that gentlemen we should pooh-pooh his evidence out of court. It is simply mouth-provoking and when that is said it has all the significance that can possibly attach to it.

But this is all *aliunde* the main question. It has a grave and serious aspect. A committee is appointed by a law making power to investigate a report in circulation that threats and promises were made by certain parties to influence the votes of Senators and Representatives" in caucus. [A proceeding unprecedented in the history of political parties in North Carolina.] In the investigation of this "report" the proprietor of a newspaper is called to the witness stand and interrogated sharply as to who wrote certain editorials discussing a question of grave public concern, which in no wise reflected on any individual, Senator or Representative. The witness declines to answer and a committee with an able and experienced lawyer at its head decides that it is a proper question. We shall appeal from Mr. Dortch's decision and submit the case to the country.

THERE was no mistaking Col. Clark's testimony before the Robinson committee. Even Rufus White the Radical friend of the concern, could comprehend him when he swore that he had no interest or connection with the NEWS and had no authority to act or speak for it. No effort was made to rebut this testimony. No effort was made to connect his identity with the NEWS as the committee pursues him. Pursues the investigation with an authority under the resolution of inquiry. Invites and hears testimony reflecting on the editorial conduct of this paper. Assumes with an impertinence unprecedented in Star chamber inquisitions to demand the author of editorial opinions touching a great public question affecting vitally the tax-payers of the State. And it is in this way that Mr. Robinson's committee would muzzle the freedom of the press.

Well, the NEWS isn't muzzle.

Never?

No never.

What, never?

NEVER.

The "revolutionary Democrats" are determined to keep troops away from the polling places, and believing that the people can insure for themselves fair elections they are opposed to the undertaking of this business by irresponsible and overpaid Federal supervisors. Of this sort of "revolution" the American people can stand a great deal. But if the policy of relying upon soldiers and Federal retainers for fair elections they have had more than they will ever again tolerate. No people who desire to be free distrust themselves or ever shrink from the responsibility of looking after their own concerns.

STAND up Mr. Snow.

Did you make any "promises" to any elector in Wake county, with a view to controlling his vote?

Never.

What, never?

Well, hardly ever.

Snow was the only Democrat on the ticket elected, but he made no "promises" we are quite sure. When he makes a "promise" he keeps it.

WOULD champaign be an "undue influence" if administered with a view to control the votes of certain Senators and Representatives? Give us a committee.

THE severe language used in yesterday's paper is no reflection on Col. Clark. It does not appear that he made any "threats or promises" to influence the public printing by authority of the NEWS or that he assumed such authority in whatever action he may have taken in the premises.

WITH the animus of Mr. Robinson's committee in pursuing "that man Clark" we are not concerned. That gentleman is amply able to take care of himself.

State bonds have gone up from 17 to 21 since the passage of the act to compromise the State debt, and nearly $100,000 of the bonds have been already tendered the Public Treasurer for exchange under the act.

A LAWYER of thirty years practice says the Supreme Court of North Carolina is the strongest bench since the days of Rufin.

THEY NOW say that Robinson's committee whitewashed the NEWS. It does look s(n)o(w) with white on it.

WE HAVE the grand spectacle in North Carolina of a Legislature sitting without pay. Verily, there is some patriotism left.

A LETTER FROM COL. CLARK.

Investigation No. 3, Investigated.

RALEIGH, N. C., March 11

EDITORS NEWS: The report of the investigation published in your columns yesterday, is of little importance to the public, except from the motives and the mode by which it was conducted. To myself it is of deeper interest by reason of the finding of the Committee that "Col. Walter Clark and Geo. C. Jordan did make threats and promises with a view to control the votes of Senators and Representatives in determining the matter of public printing."

The peculiar language of this report as well as the fact that it was made a not exceptionable rule prevailing at this session of the General Assembly by the testimony, being ordered to be printed and spread before the public as a delectable bit of Sunday reading gives force and pith to the admission of Mr. Carter that the committee "were after that man Clark," and requires more than a passing notice at my hands.

THE MOTIVES OF THE INVESTIGATORS.

To understand fully the underlying this investigation it will be necessary to recur to the circumstances under which it was first mooted on the floor of the Senate. On the last day of February and after two months of the session had expired, Mr. Robinson the President of the Senate, goaded into apparent madness by a stinging telegram to the N. Y. Times, in regard to his former conduct as a legislator, laid aside, at once his seductive smile and the Speaker's gavel and coming down upon the floor in the course of a furious tirade upon the correspondent of the Times declared that other parties were in his opinion, connected with the matter and announced his intention "to carry the war into Africa" by moving an investigation of the course of certain parties in regard to obtaining the Public Printing. He has since openly stated on the floor of the Senate, while confessing his error in this respect, that his information of complicity in the Times dispatch referred to me. Consequently his purpose to "carry the war into Africa" referred to me also.

As the result of this avowed purpose to obtain revenge, came the resolution of March 1. It is shrewdly worded. The subject of inquiry is two-fold, but so deftly joined that it seems at a glance but a unit. The committee were to inquire:

"1st. Whether any threats or promises were made and; 2nd. Whether any undue influences were used, by certain parties, interested in the question of public Printing during the early part of the session of this General Assembly, with a view to control the votes of Senators or Representatives for or against the interest of said parties."

The avowed purpose of this resolution was to secure a personal revenge on my child for a suspected complicity in the Times letter, charging Mr. Robinson with having a swindling mileage. It was no virtuous indignation which was anxious to vindicate the fair fame of the Senate, but a desire to forge a sword to be used against the President of the Senate.

A SUBSIDIARY MOTIVE.

But there has been also, there had for weeks been the article in the Raleigh NEWS of an entirely favorable tone and bearing in which appropriations to the Western North Carolina R. R. were explained and criticising somewhat sharply the conduct of the work as a State investment. This fact also seems to have rankled in the breast of the all-in President of that road and, behind his white lip during his fierce philippic against the author of his mortification he determined "to carry the war into Africa."

THE COMPOSITION OF THE COMMITTEE.

Shows still more conclusively that it was the deliberate purpose, not to rebuke corruption but to bull-dize any one who had the boldness—perhaps I should say, the audacity—to differ with the ring of railroad wreckers who are battering on the scanty remains of a State which this Assembly has declared insolvent and able to pay only one dollar in five of its admitted honest and just debt.

Mr. President, *pro tem*, Scales—the especial champion in the Senate of the Coalfields & Yadkin Valley combination which appropriated $50,000 (by the change of front of the colored troops on the Speaker's casting vote) to pay the debt of a railroad, a large part of which debt consisted (it has been charged and not denied) of usurious and compounded interest—appointed the Committee. The two democratic Senators appointed were the two who were known to be the most hostile to the NEWS of the entire 50 Senators. Mr. Dortch had spoken against the NEWS in caucus, and denounced it upon the ground "that it should be punished for having advocated the claims of Gov. Vance for the Senate in preference to all others who had claims upon the Senatorship"—a doctrine which was peculiarly obnoxious to a man of Mr. Dortch's political appetite. Mr. Snow, the second on the committee had likewise spoken against the NEWS in caucus and had been given a supper by the typographical union for having denounced the NEWS because it saw fit to employ men who chose to regulate their own wages instead of yielding to the tyrannical dictation of that organization. The other members Messrs. Eaves and White were mere Radical ciphers who had no sort of interest in the question, whether a democratic caucus was bull-dozed in the selection of a Public Printer. This picked and prejudiced jury, against the Democratic half of which a challenge *propter affectum*, would lie in any court of justice, was charged by the resolution to inquire as to what? Let the careless reader turn to the resolution and see. They were charged to inquire as to threats and promises and undue influences exerted "to control the votes of Senators and Representatives." By the way, what had the Senate to do with the action of members of the House.

But to

THE WITNESSES.

Mr. Jno. M. Moring the last syllable of whose name has been rendered significant of more than a mere passing co-incidence by his course in this matter is the Speaker of the House of Representatives and the only speaker in our State who is known to have come down from his place to advocate upon the floor the passage of a railroad bill, appropriating $50,000 to pay a debt of a railroad company accumulated largely of usurious and compounded interest—and not only advocated it but begged and entreated members, if they were conscientiously opposed to the bill to be silent and not vote upon it. As the NEWS whose sins it seems I am fated to bear and for whose faults it would appear, I must vicariously atone had not been favorable to these specious grabs upon an almost depleted treasury, Mr. Moring is a very swift and willing witness. In the last Senatorial contest by his sinuous course he was able to secure the support of the friends of hostile aspirants to the Senatorship. In railroad measures he has been equally ambidextrous and now wishing to avoid exposures which might be justly anticipated, like the cuttle fish, he trusts to escape through the murky waters of his own creation. He says that he does not repeat my conversation exactly, and as to the rest he is entitled to that which belongs to the dead—charity to his memory. Mr. Carter is an innocent young legislator from Buncombe, who did not know that he had been bull-dozed until some one told him of it, and is not quite sure of it yet. Mr. Jno. G. Byum of Burke, who made a lame statement, under protest, and whose course was that to have been expected of a high-toned honorable man, and Geo. Leach who said that his principle was to fight those who opposed him. These were all the witnesses called and examined by the Committee, before whom Mr. President Robinson appeared as prosecutor, who had any knowledge of any threats or promises made by anybody. This resolution requires the Committee to examine as to influences brought against the interests of the suspected parties, but no such evidence was taken.

THE TESTIMONY.

Everyone of these witnesses agree as to one thing—a most astounding fact when we consider the professed object of this investigation, viz: That there was no question before the General Assembly on printing, it was not possible any should arise, at the time of the conversations given, in regard to the public printing. On the contrary it appears from the testimony of every one of them, that the committee had been already appointed and that the conversations in question could have referred only to the action of the caucus. So we have the novel spectacle of a committee of the Senate, gravely engaged, with an ex-Confederate Senator at its head investigating and administering the discipline of a Democratic caucus! But what is this testimony. There is a contest for the public printing between two aspirants pending before the Democratic caucus. According to Mr. Moring I tell him that if he can do nothing for the NEWS, he should do nothing against it; that he might stay away from the caucus; that he might need the help of the NEWS and that the NEWS will stand by its friends. The unsuspecting Mr. Carter, was told by Mr. Jordon, he says, that a newspaper ought to stand by its friends and fight its enemies. Mr. Byum says I told him that if the NEWS should publish a statement of what had been expected of the Western Road it would militate against the road, but that this was not intended to affect his vote as he was for the NEWS and it was not communicated to any member. Geo. Leach said I told him the NEWS would stand by its friends and fight its enemies, and he testifies that is his own principle in life.

This is every title of the evidence as to threats or promises. It was in the evening a Democratic caucus and in regard to a matter in reference to which no Senator or member was entitled to vote. Now without considering the rebutting evidence at all, with no solemn, but after it was shown that I was not an agent or authorized to speak for the NEWS and had not so represented it, need the committee should have ruled out all conversations held with me, under every principle of justice and according to their promise to do so; what is the broad fact finding that can possibly and truly fully made upon the evidence? Very clearly an attempt had been made to influence Democrats in caucus assembled, to support the NEWS as against the Observer, by appealing to their interests as members of the party. Yet the Committee report that I made "threats and promises to control the votes of Senators and Representatives." The Committee did not dare to state the whole truth by adding to their finding the words: "In the Democratic caucus assembled," because the whole State would have laughed at the farce it disclosed. For a similar *suppressio veri*, one of old "gave up the ghost, and the young men wound him up and took him out and buried him," as the people of this State will bury this Committee and its projectors and instigators when they fully understand their acts and motives.

THE REAL OBJECT.

As is evident from the whole testimony, was to discover who was the author of the articles in the NEWS in regard to the Western N. C. Railroad. "Who," asks the eager prosecutor, "wrote these articles?" It is objected that the question is not pertinent to the enquiry. No matter; the question is pressed, "Did Walter Clark write them?"

Who is bold enough to dare impugn the sanctity of the idol whose servitors are so royally provided for? Who dares to rebuke extravagance, and folly, and waste in that body which has the speakers of both Houses as its special champions; which makes and unmakes men, controls conventions and parties, smothers inquiry, and is ever crying for "more, more" like the two daughters of the horse leech? This is the milk in the cocoa nut. The man must be known that he may be crushed.

When the notorious Laffin was leaving Raleigh for the last time, some one asked him as he sat on the "bus" before the Yarborough House when he was coming back. "Coming back" said Laffin in surprise what in h—l is there to come back for?" The people have been resting in that belief for years and until the articles in the NEWS there has been no exposition of the fact that there is still a "ring" and one whose optics are keen enough to find something to appropriate where Laffin could not.

The railroad combination was alarmed. It must discover and punish the man who had dared impugn their right to rule. They knew that if they did not, the lights would be turned on; that next summer when the fingers of the tax-gatherers reached into their pockets to gather money to tunnel inexhaustible quicksands and pay usurious interest, three hundred thousand tax-payers would awake from their lethargy and wonder if Littlefield had returned.

No other hypothesis can explain the action of the committee. They were directed to investigate parties "interested in the public Printing." I had no more interest in the public printing than a native of Timbuctoo has in the Chinese question. The evidence shows that conclusively. Yet the entire investigation is directed at me. They are directed to enquire as to threats and promises made to Legislators, yet they are chiefly concerned as to articles on the Western N. C. R. R. and the TIMES dispatch. Every fact and circumstance connected with the resolution, the committee, the conduct of the investigation shows conclusively that it was an attempt to direct the whole power of the State against one man—to stifle free discussion, to manacle the press, a conspiracy to defame and persecute. The prosecutor and mover of the resolution was the would be President of the Western N. C. R. R; the President pro tem who selected the committee, Mr. Scales was a Director on the Western N. C. R. R, who resigned temporarily during the session of the Legislature; the chairman of the committee, Mr. Dortch was also a Director on the same road and Mr. Snow was chairman of the committee on the road who was so unable to see its defects that he did not report a landslide of 8,000 cubic feet into "mudcuc" which took place as it were under his nose. The rest of the committee were radicals and every witness called for the prosecution were warm advocates and prominent ones of the Western N. C. Railroad and some of them of the Coalfield subsidy besides. Now let the public say if this was the fair play which they require to place a verdict above suspicion. I denounce this attempt to divert the machinery of government to such purposes and appeal to the people who will soon feel the hand of the Sheriff on their depleted purses to consider whether that is the purpose for which they have sent their representatives here.

FOR MYSELF.

I have been a not inactive member of the Democratic party. I have given to its support my time and money without stint. I grew up with it and am of it, but I will not sit quiet when some of its servants seek to make it an engine of oppression or a vehicle of extravagance or fraud. It is a noble party but it can only remain such while it remains a party of free thought and counts the light of noon day to be poured upon its acts and policy.

IN CONCLUSION.

An unpremeditated conversation intended to help a poor but deserving young man in his struggle for the Public Printing has been seized upon and distorted to crush a private citizen who had the insight to perceive, and the firmness to express in public his condemnation of the conspiracies by which the Public Treasury was being robbed before his eyes. The mere conjecture that I gave the information or composed the articles in the NEWS exposing these workings, coupled with the interest I had manifested for the success of that paper in its candidacy for the printing furnished the pretext and forthwith all the artillery of State, the machinery of legislation, the combined array of two railroad corporations is put in motion to crush me.

Since he can neither be intimidated nor bought the order goes forth "that man Clark" must be crushed. Independence is catching among men of Anglo-Saxon race and the security of appropriations and schemes depended upon crushing the first victim fed.

This, my countrymen, is the head and front of my offending. I have endeavored to keep the light handed long fingered bondholders and subsidizers out of your pockets. When I saw that over half of your State taxes were to be levied and collected, not for your government and protection, but to foster railroad monopolies I protested.

"Unshaken, unseduced, unterrified, my faith I kept; my loyalty, my zeal."

I have been the first to feel the potency of the anger of this railroad combination that assumes to rule North Carolina. Next Fall when the tax-gatherers come, three hundred thousand tax-payers will be my fellow sufferers.

They judge me contrary to law. They will tax you under the forms of law. They "investigate" me. They will pillage you.

Mr. Editor, I thank you for this space in your columns. What I have said has been less from a sense of personal grievance than from a determination to uphold the great principles of Freedom of the Press, Freedom of Thought and Speech, the right of trial by jury, and from that innate sense of fair play, all of which have been outraged in this prosecution. I have no concessions to make to the huge monopolies that oppress us, and to the public

"I stretch forth these hands
To show you that they still are free."

Respectfully,
WALTER CLARK.

What Hampton Says.

Special Dispatch to The Post:

CHARLESTON, S. C., March 9.—Senator Hampton, in an interview with a correspondent to-day, said that he was as yet uncertain whether he would be in Washington at the extra session, although he would go if he possibly could and his doctors would allow it. In case the business was particularly important he will go anyhow. In reply to a question as to his opinion concerning the action of the House in refusing to pass the appropriation bills, he replied that he thought that the House was right. He would favor Congress sitting forever if necessary, before it receded an inch from its position. He did not think Mr. Hayes would have a right to oppose the amendments if Congress continued to urge them, as such action would show that they were the will of the people.

Our Man Andrey.

Southern Home.

The other speech was the one delivered by Capt. W. Ardrey, on the abolition of the State Board of Agriculture. The speech was copied in full by the Raleigh NEWS, and is a sensible and manly tribute to the agricultural interests of the State.

THE gossip occasioned by the sudden eclipse of the Vanderbilt will case continues, but it is only just to note the fact that all the persons interested in the case who care to speak upon the matter, continue their former denials that there was any compromise between the principals. It is acknowledged that William H. Vanderbilt stand ready to fulfil the promises to his relatives made a year ago, but it is denied that this indicates a compromise of any sort, inasmuch as the proponent had been willing from the first to do this.

Vegetine

FOR
CHILLS, SHAKES,
FEVER AND AGUE.

TARBORO, N. C., 1878.

DR. H. R. STEVENS:—

Dear Sir,—I feel very grateful for what your valuable medicine, Vegetine, has done in my family. I wish to express my thanks by informing you of the wonderful cure of my son; also, to let you know that Vegetine is the best medicine I ever saw for Chills, Shakes, Fever and Ague. My son was sick with measles in 1873, which left him with Hip-Joint disease. My son suffered a great deal of pain, all of the time; the pain was so great he did nothing but cry. The doctors did no help him a particle, he could not lift his foot from the floor, he could not move without crutches. I read your advertisement in the "Louisville Courier-Journal" that Vegetine was a great Blood Purifier and Blood Food. I tried one bottle, which was a great benefit. He kept on with the medicine, gradually gaining. He has taken eighteen bottles in all, and he is completely restored to health, walks without crutches or cane. He is twenty years of age. I have a younger son, fifteen years of age, who is subject to cramps. Whenever he feels one coming on, he comes in, takes a dose of Vegetine and this is the last of the Child. Vegetine leaves no bad effect upon the system like the most of the medicines recommended for chills. I cheerfully recommend Vegetine for such complaints. I think it is the greatest medicine in the world.

Respectfully, MRS. J. W. LLOYD.

VEGETINE—When the blood becomes lifeless and stagnant, either from change of weather or of climate, want of exercise, irregularities, or from any other cause, the Vegetine will renew the blood, carry off the putrid humors, cleanse the stomach, regulate the bowels, and impart a tone of vigor to the whole body.

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We, the undersigned, having used Vegetine, take pleasure in recommending it to all those troubled with humors of any kind, Dyspepsia, Nervousness, or General Debility, being the great Blood Purifier. Sold by R. E. Crowell & Sons, who sell more of it than all other patent medicines put together.

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and Rheumatism.

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Also, and better, a fine BAY HARNESS HORSE 6 years old, 15½ hands, fast trotter best in the city, not afraid of anything, warranted sound, true and kind in all harness.

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feb 17-3m. Fayetteville, N. C

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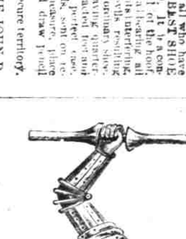
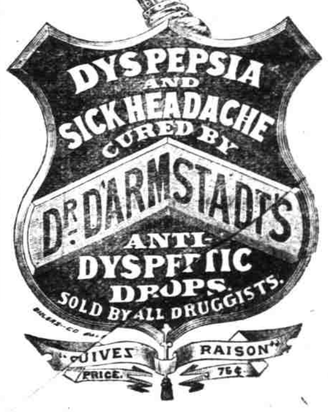
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