

The News and Observer

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A MORNING TONIC.

(Hetty Green.)

I don't believe in luck. Luck is superstition. If you start life with a good soul, a good, sound, healthy body and work hard you will succeed. Don't live high, don't get into bad company.

A PROTEST AGAINST SORDID COMMERCIALISM.

It is a matter of genuine regret that there was no stenographer present in the House of Representatives on Friday night to take down in full the magnificent speech of President Henry Louis Smith, of Davidson College. It ought to be placed in the hands of every man and boy in North Carolina. One business man in Raleigh said yesterday that he would be willing to contribute to a fund to give it the widest circulation.

President Smith has divined the influence that most seriously threatens the integrity of the people of this and other Southern States. There is a spirit of sordid commercialism in the air which measures everything by the money standard, which openly puts the Dollar above the Man. This is seen in high places and boys are taught that the sole end of education is to accumulate fortune. It is bad enough when this worship invades the world of politics and men are asked to square their principles with their pockets, but when it invades our churches and colleges, then it is poisoning the stream at its source. Against this overshadowing evil President Smith inveighed with earnestness, eloquence and power. It may be well doubted if ever, since the day of James C. Dobbin, a speech more lofty, eloquent and noble has been uttered in the House of Commons than the speech of President Smith. In lieu of the full speech, we print below an abstract, which gives the outlines of the address:

"I bring in the few minutes allotted to me one message to all those concerned in shaping the character of the young men and women, the boys and girls of the South—that the industrial development and increasing prosperity of the South must be accompanied by a corresponding growth of intellectual and spiritual culture, of the idols of the market place and the factories will displace the purer and more spiritual ideals of the past.

"The prosperity of the South, her marvelous accumulation of riches, and her assured financial future are the admiration and envy of the world. The day of our bitter, grinding poverty has passed away forever and our people are intoxicated with money-making. But it takes no prophet to see that we are now passing through a most critical, formative period in our history, and the sun of prosperity is to prove a severer and more searching test of our true character than the furnace of war.

"The South, even amid the wreck of her social system in 1865, with the flower of her manhood in a hundred thousand nameless graves, her commerce destroyed, her wealth annihilated, her cities in ruins, even then in defeat and disaster she was rich, rich in the purity of her womanhood, rich in personal dignity, religious reverence and in the stately virtues of heroism and self-denial brought out in the night of defeat.

"If these old spiritual and moral ideals are to be sacrificed on the altar of Mammon; if liberal culture, moral standards and reverent religious spirit are to be replaced by greedy triumphant commercialism, then the New South in all the splendor of material prosperity, with her blue sky darkened by the smoke of her factories and a millionaire's palace on every hill, will be infinitely poorer than the Old South of '65.

"Against this on-rushing flood of vulgar materialism let the teachers of our children stand like a rock. If this rising generation, moulded in mind and heart by the teachers, can be taught to feel the eternal value of the things of the spirit; if the New South, holding with one hand all the priceless moral and spiritual assets which enriched the Old, will reach out with the other for all that comes with broad culture, and increased comfort, and national wealth and power, then here under our sunny sky, on our fair plains so lately scarred and desolate, will be built and perpetuated a Christian civilization to be the wonder and the blessing of the world."

There is not a word of pessimism in this earnest speech. President Smith is as desirous of commercial and industrial prosperity as any man in the State, but he wishes to save it from the curse of worshipping the dollar. It is in such instruction as President Smith insists upon that the State has its only hope to stem the on-rushing tide of idolatry of wealth.

Somehow it is discouraging how feminine instinct can distance masculine reason in the way of doing things right.

BRIBERY OF TWO SORTS--AT AND BEFORE ELECTIONS.

One of the most gratifying of the aftermaths of the election is the aroused public sentiment against bribery. It is a crime that has not flourished greatly in North Carolina, though it has long debauched the politics of certain counties and has now and then been seen in its corrupting influences in most close counties. In the recent election, in the State at large, there is cause for congratulation because in at least two-thirds of the counties the election was conducted in a manner to reflect credit upon the integrity and honor of the people of the State. In every county the election was fair and stained by no crookedness or partisanship. But in certain close counties in the State, in Central North Carolina, and in nearly all the counties in the Klutz-Blackburn district and the Gudge-Moody district bribery by money or whiskey, or both, ran riot, and voters were purchased like sheep and debauched like savages. Of course bribery and corruption could not and did not directly affect the great bulk of the people who compose the electorate of those counties, but as it had full play with the meaner portion of the population it put a stain upon the good name of those counties where it was employed. In addition to buying votes with money, nearly every distillery in the State ran wide open as an annex to the Republican party and maudlin drunken men were hauled to the polls to be voted by paid hirelings. Bribery was not confined to one party, but the scandal of the corruption by distilleries is chargeable solely to the Republican party. The distilleries, the agencies of corruption wherever located, must be destroyed, root and branch, as a first step to secure decent communities and to stopping bribery and corruption in politics.

In the matter of bribery, the sin lies at the door of both political parties. In a sermon at Thomasville, Davidson county, the venerable Paul J. Caraway on Sunday night preached a vigorous sermon in the Methodist church against the crime of vote-buying and vote-selling. He said that "Davidson county is distinguished above all other counties in the State for this evil." Writing of the sermon, Charity and Children says: "He denounced the corruption of the suffrage in unmeasured terms and plainly intimated that the buyer is every whit as mean as the seller. It was a courageous sermon and we hope will result in good."

There is need for more Paul J. Caraways in the pulpit, in the press, in the political world—men who go at the root of the evil without vain and peevish and unwarranted slander of good men. This crime can be stopped in North Carolina. The good men of the State now that the horrors of Radicalism no longer engross attention, will put an end to bribery. And, while Davidson county is not a sinner above all other counties, it is one of the places where the most strenuous efforts must be employed to prevent the widespread vice of vote buying and vote-selling—a vice in that county which attaches to men of both political parties. The laws against bribery should be enforced, and righteous public sentiment created that will remove this blight from the otherwise perfectly clean election which was held this year.

There is another phase of bribery in politics that needs to be considered and condemned by patriotic men. It has flourished to some extent in a few counties in North Carolina and it has touched the whole State in its baleful influence. Early in the administration it was set on foot in South Carolina, under the supervision of Senator McLaurin, and, to a lesser extent, in North Carolina by Senator Pritchard. We refer to the policy of buying influence with offices. Mr. McLaurin expected to revolutionize South Carolina by bribing editors and other influential persons with Federal offices. It seemed to be having a measure of success until an offer of the Columbia post-office was virtually made to Gen. Wade Hampton. The old Roman spurned it with indignation, saying that he was too old to betray his people for office. From that hour the influence of every man in South Carolina who had been given a Federal office was destroyed. Wade Hampton's action in spurning the bribe put the bribe-giving and bribe-taking in its true light. McLaurinism perished in a day under Wade Hampton's noble contempt. The men who had been given the offices couldn't control a vote except their own.

In North Carolina, to a less degree, the McLaurinism of attempting to get recruits to the Republican party by giving office to Democrats, or pretended Democrats, was witnessed in small and big places. Commenting upon a striking example, the Rockingham Anglo-Saxon says: "One case of bribery which was proven to the satisfaction of the public mind was the purchase by Republicans of the editorial policy of a daily newspaper two and a half years ago, just like buying a car load of meat."

Hezekiah Gudge and Richmond Pearson, former Democrats, were given places in the consular service, and lesser lights were given places in the revenue service. Some post-office places were given to Democrats. Every man of influence in North Carolina, supposed to be shaky or purchasable, was approached. Some were ready

to betray their birthright for a mess of pottage, but they were few in number. The day they accepted office at the hands of Pritchard, who was known to be distributing offices as bait to land Democrats on the Republican string—from the hour the first dollar of the salary burned their pockets, not one of the Federal office-holders had any influence in controlling votes, and he was as dead as a political factor as a last year's bird-nest. It destroyed him among his neighbors, root and branch—and his influence will never be restored.

The spectacle of a man of ability, known as a county or State leader in the Democratic party, accepting a Federal office—and thereupon either advocating Republican policies or sowing the seeds of discord in the Democratic ranks tends to encourage the Dugald Dalgety spirit in politics. The religious and moral leaders, if they wish to keep the fountain of political life free from pollution, must hurl their anathemas against the acceptance of bribes in the shape of office by men high up in the world of politics or business. If the man of education and leadership sells his influence for an office, why may not the humble and illiterate citizen sell his vote for a dollar or a pint of whiskey? It is a thousand times worse for a leader, a man who has enjoyed advantages of education and position, to sell his influence than for a man denied such advantages to sell his vote. How can the follower be expected to resist the temptation to satisfy his desire for money or drink by selling his vote when he sees preachers and others condone or applaud the editor or lawyer or leader who has sold his influence for an office?

"THOU SHALT NOT STEAL."

The Norfolk Public Ledger publishes in full a sermon preached on Sunday by Rev. A. R. Shaw, pastor of the First Presbyterian church in Portsmouth, on "The Eighth Commandment," emphasizing "Debt Paying." It is an able, strong and vigorous sermon and created a marked impression. We regret that we have not the space to reproduce it. From the sermon, we make this timely extract:

"No one who rightly values civil and religious liberty can view without alarm and indignation the formation of trusts, greedy corporations, which have been justly styled 'commercial cormorants and political corruptionists.' To these trust promoters the command, 'Thou shalt not steal,' is an empty, meaningless injunction. While it is maintained that these vicious combines exist and thrive under legal sanction, it is undeniable that when regarded from a moral point of view they are rotten to the core. It is not my purpose, neither is it my province, as a minister of the gospel, to discuss the tariff as a foster of trusts. I advert to the subject as illustrative of an inordinate, overmastering desire for the quick accumulation of wealth."

In enumerating the ways in which people are guilty of theft we make room for only two, the two that are altogether too common among people of wealth and education. The faithful admonition by Mr. Shaw ought to be read and heeded: "Listing property for taxation at far less than its real value. The maintenance of Government necessitates taxation. The under-valuation of property for the purpose of evading the payment of equitable tax is a species of crookedness which many influential citizens and church members do not scruple to adopt. In the matter of listing property for taxation we should be extremely guarded lest we lay ourselves liable to the charge of theft and perjury."

"Failure to purchase a half-fare railroad ticket for a child over five years of age. How frequently do we hear persons exulting over their success in passing such children over the road without a ticket. The railroad does not compel our children to board its trains, but it does announce that if children over five years of age ride on the trains they must pay half fare. As the conductor comes to collect tickets, to advise the child to 'shrink up and keep still,' or to misrepresent the age of the child when questioned on this point, is not an honest procedure. While some roads may practice extortion on the people, it is evident that the public conscience has not yet reached a very acute stage in dealing with the roads. To defraud a railroad is thought by many to be a legitimate piece of business. In its application to railroads the command, 'Thou shalt not steal,' has not been annulled."

Mr. Shaw is a North Carolinian, a brother of Judge Shaw, of Greensboro, a preacher of the gospel who proclaims the practical truth in a way to make men better. He doesn't grovel at the feet of the trusts.

THEY ARE ALL BANDITS.

They say that John W. Gates, the new Wall street speculator, who made millions on the L. & N. deal, has lost \$15,000,000 through the Rockefeller and Vanderbilt combination in the Northwestern deals. He is very wrathful and calls them "bandits." The whole outfit of stock gamblers in New York are gamblers pure and simple, each trying to "do" the other. A few months ago Gates was the "bandit" that did up Belmont; today Rockefeller and others "do" Gates. And so it goes—the mad rush for getting rich quick. Necessarily, the man who succeeds gets what he has not earned and takes it from some one who probably in his turn was a "bandit" on a smaller scale. "Big fleas have little fleas to bite 'em, and so on, ad infinitum."

Woman's idea of writing good references for a bad cook is that it is an easy way to get rid of her on friendly terms.

WISE AND WEIGHTY UTTERANCES.

At the American Bankers' Association held in New Orleans last week, Mr. John Skelton Williams, of Richmond, Va., was selected to respond to the address of welcome. The address, published in full in the Richmond Dispatch, was a brilliant and notable one, and scored a hit.

After a pleasant reference to New Orleans, present and past, couched in happy and elegant sentences, Mr. Williams discussed the rise and use of trust companies, closing with a strong and vigorous denunciation of those monopolies that despoil their fellows and destroy competition. Upon this phase of the most serious question confronting the American people, Mr. Williams said:

"I recognize, as every thinking man must, that there is a limit beyond which the combination of capital should not go—a point at which the power of concentrated capital should be halted. For the accomplishment of wise and proper economies, for the development of efficiency in service and the promotion of the public convenience and comfort, combinations and aggregations of capital are right, and should be encouraged. When they bend their energies to the stifling of competition and undertake to become monopolies they should be met and checked and must be, if our institutions are to be maintained and we are to remain a free people."

"As one identified with trust company and banking interests and with railroad interests and as the chairman of the Trust Company Section of the American Bankers' Association, I say to you that the power of money ought to be restrained and the power of corporations properly controlled. I believe that the common sense of the American people can be relied on to discern the danger point and so draw the line there and announce the edict 'hitherto shalt thou come and no further, and here shall thy proud waves be stayed.'"

"We are interested alike as tax-payers, as citizens, as workers. Those of us who undertake to despoil our fellows today may ourselves be the subjects of injustice and the helpless victims of some new and mighty combination tomorrow. At this moment it is charged that the commerce and prosperity of the entire South are threatened with the blight and the oppression of vast railway associations, which are attempting the placing of the control of the entire system of railway transportation in the keeping of one man or set of men and at the mercy of one interest, which may be guided by this impulse or that—which may demand that our business shall be developed or depressed. Whilst it is pleasant to feel that there are still lines of transportation beyond the reach of any monopoly, yet it is well for us to know that even this vast power can be dealt with; and the people may be trusted to deal with it. As you here and your neighbors above made levers and levers for the mighty Mississippi, and directed it into usefulness and restrained its ravages, so this power of capital can be checked and governed and guided by the strength of the people. Monopoly, oppressive or threatening to be so, invites its own overthrow. No man, no trust, no accumulation of capital or combination of interests, however stupendous, can stand against the wrath of justly grounded suspicion of the American people or against the organized resentment or resistance of any State of this great Union."

"The business of the corporation; of the trust company, of the bank, of every combination of capital and brains and enterprise, is to give the public good value for fair returns. The moment any of us go beyond that and attempt to extort from the public unjust tribute or extravagant dividends or profit on unfairly inflated issues of securities, or to exercise unjust discrimination, we cease to be business men and become highwaymen, in fact, if not in law. When we cease to become the servants and partners and associates of the people from whom we draw our livings in return for our investments of money and expenditure of thought and energy, and undertake to be the masters of the people, and despots, demanding blackmail from them, we forfeit our claims to respect and sympathy, and invite vengeance. We incite ignorance to seek redress by violence and intellect to devise methods for our destruction."

"It is our duty to recognize our responsibilities and obligations to the great public on which all of us depend for our living, to respect its rights, to offer it always fair value for what it pays us, to encourage and accept honest competition as the best stimulant of our strength and offering the most accurate measure of our manhood."

"Your trust companies here have enabled you to do things you could not have done without them. As your people, all through your long history as a community, have proved their ability to deal with every emergency of war and every problem of peace, they can be relied on in common with their fellow-citizens at the proper time and in the proper and conservative way. I mean by 'conservative,' preserving and maintaining and destroying no rights and no value."

"The real business men and builders of the country—those who represent actual values and substantial investments, and real money, want to be creators and originators, and not despots; helpers and associates, and not tyrants or plunderers, legitimate competitors for business, and not monopolists or masters."

These are the utterances of a wealthy and successful officer of a great trust company, president of one of the biggest railroad systems in the South, and interested in other large business enterprises. In giving expression to them in the company of the world's leaders of finance, Mr. Williams shows that he is a sound thinker and wise in council, as well as the most successful man of his years in banking and railroad circles in the South. He does well to inveigh against the attempt at "placing of the control of the entire system of transportation in the keeping of one man or set of men, and at the mercy of one interest, which may be guided by this impulse or that—which may demand that our business shall be developed or depressed." That is a menace to the South

that many believe to be imminent. The people should not permit any monopoly in transportation. If one remedy fails, others can be applied. In railroads as in other business it is true that at all times it is the duty of the leaders in business and in finance, as Mr. Williams clearly expresses it, "to encourage and accept honest competition as the best stimulant of our strength and offering the most accurate measure of our manhood."

DOES IT PAY TO BUY INFLUENCE WITH OFFICE?

Certain Republicans are still talking about a reorganization of their party in North Carolina upon the basis of buying the leadership of prominent Democrats by giving them Federal offices. That sort of bribery was regarded as the way to break the Solid South when Hayes gave offices to Democrats in 1877. It has been tried several times since, the latest being the South Carolina attempt under McLaurin. In every instance it has destroyed the man who took the bribe and strengthened the Democratic party.

How has it worked in North Carolina, where it has been attempted with some former Democratic leaders and in certain counties? Let us look at a part of the record of the policy now advocated. The Republicans thought they could make big accessions in Buncombe by giving big offices to Hezekiah Gudge and Richmond Pearson, former Democrats and other so-called Democrats, instead of to the old line Republicans. What was the result? In 1896 the Republicans carried Buncombe in the November election by over 400 majority. This year the Democrats won by 800 majority. That wasn't a very big return to the Republican party for the offices bestowed on ex-Democrats, do you think?

In Pitt county, the Republican District Attorney was removed from office, and that responsible position was given to Col. Harry Skinner, ex-Democrat. How did that pan out in Col. Skinner's county? In 1896 Pitt gave a Republican majority of 500. This year the Democratic majority reached the handsome figure of 2,631.

In Halifax county, with the negro eliminated, Senator Pritchard was persuaded that an Independent ticket could be elected if the Federal patronage was given to Democrats. And he turned over the postoffices to the personal and political friends of Capt. W. H. Day, who was managing the Republican campaign in that section of the State. The negro postmasters were kicked out and the places given to men who had been affiliating with Democrats. Result, out of a white vote of about 2,200, the Democrats got 1,963 votes to the Citizens' ticket, supported by the new Federal office-holders, getting 285 votes. In 1896 the Republican majority in Halifax was 2,305.

In New Hanover, the negro was removed from the position of Collector of Customs, and ex-Democrat and ex-Populist Keith was appointed. Result, the Democratic majority this year is 1,221 votes, where in 1896 the Republican majority was over 1,000.

Franklin was another county in which Pritchard thought to make big Republican gains by the wise giving of offices to Democrats. Result: the Democratic majority this year is over 1800, the bigger Democratic majority in the history of the county, whereas in 1896 it gave a Republican majority.

But the influence upon which Pritchard relied most to demoralize the Democratic party was the Charlotte Observer, to whose chief owner and boss he and McKinley gave a \$3,600 sinecure job. What was the result? It did everything it could to hurt the Democratic party, in both State and National politics, but it was impotent to harm the party. Mecklenburg county gave a Democratic majority of 2,423 this year whereas in 1896, before the \$3,600 job had been given by McKinley to D. A. Tompkins the chief owner of the Charlotte Observer, the Democratic majority was less than 200. The counties surrounding Mecklenburg, in which the Observer chiefly circulates and where it was supposed its insidious opposition to Democracy would have some weight for the Republican party, did like Mecklenburg; increased their Democratic majorities as follows: Gaston, which gave 43 majority in 1896, this year gave 1,300; Cleveland, which gave 100, increased to 1,600; Lincoln, which was lost, gave 375 majority; Cabarrus, which was 400 Republican, is 800 Democratic; Iredell, which was 100, is 1,200; Union, which was 200 Republican, is now 800 Democratic—and so on.

These are a few samples of the way the Republican party has gained strength by giving offices to former Democrats. It has not paid a very handsome return on the investment up to this hour. There are some Republicans who believe it would pay better to reorganize the Republican party upon the basis of giving offices only to men who will support the party openly and not be ashamed to be known as Republicans. Having tried the policy of getting Republican leaders by giving offices to disgruntled Democrats, and promising offices to any Democrat who would run for office on a so-called Independent ticket, they say: Why not try to build up a respectable Republican party of Republicans by Republicans and for Republicans?

Here is the way a prominent Republican puts it: "There are 30,000 negroes who can register and vote. There are about 70,000 white Republicans who are not ashamed to be called Republicans. This gives 100,000 votes as a beginning for a strong minority party. If we encourage the negro to register and give him our moral support, in time 50,000 negroes will vote and we will increase our white vote to 100,000, and who shall say we may not in our own name and advocating Republican principles win a victory in North Carolina in ten years? Will we ever win if we look to buy our recruits with office? Does not experience demonstrate the fact that the men to whom we have given the biggest offices in the past have brought the Republicans nothing in the way of increased votes?"

One of the most notable speeches at the American Bankers' Association was by ex-Comptroller Dawes, in opposition to the branch bank proposition. It would result in a mighty bank trust and convert all local banks into mere agencies of the great bank trust with headquarters in New York. The bankers of the country at large approve Mr. Dawes's position.

The American Cigar Company is starting out on a new plan that will make it rich. It is offering to Charleston, Augusta, Greenville, S. C., and other Southern cities a branch factory if the city will give a warehouse and exempt it from taxation for a long term of years. The trust wants the earth, with perpetual exemption from paying tax on it.

Bill Arp is in line with the address of President Smith, of Davidson. In his letter this week he says of many Southern people of this day "Money is their ambition, their idol. Morgan and Rockefeller have done more to corrupt the young men of this country than all other causes combined."

Spirit of the Press.

LIQUOR OR NO LIQUOR. Statesville Mascot.

The Mascot from its foundation to this good hour has been a prohibition paper and wishes to announce that its editors will circulate a petition in their future in Iredell County and the city of Statesville asking two things:

First, that the members of the Legislature from this County be instructed to pass an act prohibiting the manufacture and sale of spirituous liquors in Iredell County outside the city of Statesville.

Second, that the members of the Legislature from this county be instructed to pass an act granting the voters of the city of Statesville an opportunity to say on the first Monday in May, 1903, whether or not they want to prohibit the sale of liquor in this city from and after that date.

We will also advocate an act by the Legislature prohibiting the manufacture and sale of liquor in the State. The writer of this article has all his life longed for this opportunity which now presents itself of fighting this traffic before the white voters of this county, and now that the amendment is in full force and effect with the first election held under it, from this day on, survive or perish, will never let up the fight on the whiskey traffic until victory comes and the nefarious business is stopped.

The whiskey traffic is the great curse of this nation and is doing more against the church and the Christian religion and is making more widows and orphans and sending more souls to hell than any other evil known. It blights the life of the youth of the land and cuts them down in their early manhood as cumber-berns of the ground.

It runs the criminal courts and fills up the jails and workhouses and penitentiaries and levies a heavy tax upon the whole people to pay the costs of the acts of its victims. It erects its hydra head wherever permitted in every civilized community and boldly casts its lurid light of temptation in the pathway of every man, but The Mascot from this day on proposes to challenge its further progress in this community and appeals to every man and woman in this town and county who wants this business stopped to give us their assistance.

A SIGNIFICANT EDITORIAL.

N. C. Baptist.

Under the caption "Prohibition in Cumberland," the News and Observer discusses in its leading editorial of November 7th the recent election in this county. Mr. Daniels says "This is the most significant election held in North Carolina this year." That is comprehensive, but is every word the truth. Our election in Cumberland is the first Local Option election held in the State under the amended constitution and it shows what can be done if the people of the saloon counties will use the present opportunity and "strike while the iron is hot." The people of Cumberland had an opportunity to see the blessing of being without saloons, and even with a law not as strong as it ought to be, and will be made, they said emphatically that they did not want either High License or Low License.

Anti-Saloon League Committees worked exceedingly and judiciously from the beginning to end, and as we review it now, it does not seem that at any point the campaign could have been strengthened.

Indeed, this is the golden opportunity all over the State. Let those in saloon counties, who are opposed to the saloon, get together and lay plans for a campaign to run in this State when we can defend our homes and our institutions from this traffic, which destroys and curses. Let those who, under favorable conditions, have fought the saloon without victory all these years, use the present, when the anti-saloon sentiment is rising to high tide, and strike down this monster of iniquity.

Our election here is an invitation to other counties to follow.

The way a man usually thinks he catches a widow is to slip into her clutches.