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Our "reform" legislators have made a bad start. Before they had been in session three days there were such open charges of bribery and corruption made against them that a resolution was adopted to appoint a committee to investigate these charges. Unfortunately these charges are not "democratic lies" (for if they were an investigating committee would have been appointed), but they are made by prominent Populists and a resolution to investigate them was introduced into the Senate by the chairman of the Populist caucus, Senator Atwater.

These charges allege that bribery and corruption have been and are being, used to secure the re-election of Senator Pritchard. It is a legend that Mark Hanna has sent his agents with plenty of money to Raleigh to buy as many Populists as may be necessary to elect Pritchard. Pritchard is a great favorite with McKinley, whose vote in the United States Senate will give the Republicans the control of that body. These charges of bribery and corruption are the "dishonest methods" where the Populist *Messiah*, in last week's issue, said our Democrats would be necessary to defeat Pritchard. And the editor of the *Messiah* gives the color of truth to these charges by the Populist caucus held by the Populist members of the Legislature published in the *Observer* of the 5th, introduced by Senator Cheney, was unanimously adopted by the Populist caucus to abide by the decision of the majority in all cases, and yet, notwithstanding this pledge, when [illegible] held and it was evident that a majority of the Populists would vote for Pritchard, numerous Populists "scented" the caucus and left the caucus among these Pritchard's friends, after they had confidently boasted that they had secured, and it was [illegible] investigating committee [illegible] in time the bribery and corruption that have been [illegible].

While we do not believe that a majority of the Populist members of the Legislature can be induced by Mark Hanna and his agents to propose and pursue the course that has been bought, yet we do hope, for the honor of our good State, that such an investigating committee should be constituted. It is the first committee ever appointed by a Democratic Legislature and we [illegible] will be the last. Where there have been many cases and charges of corrupt tests over the election of Senators in this State, yet never before have there been such charges of bribery and corruption as to render necessary an investigating committee. It is indeed a sad and shameful reflection to the State generally and to true North Carolinians, and a lasting illustration of the degeneracy of our "reform" Legislature, if they are not disposed to do something for the honest people".

Until this senatorial election is held (which will be next Tuesday) the Legislature will not consider any laws of any importance as [illegible] question seems to absorb the entire time and attention of our legislators. Many bills have been introduced, but very few of any importance thus far.

One of the first bills introduced was one to repeal the notorious assignment act, which became a law by a decision of our Supreme Court but was never passed by the Legislature. Of course a resolution had to be introduced in favor of Cuba, recognizing the independence of the mythical "Republic of Cuba". This resolution was promptly passed by the House, but the Senate has kindly put up for more serious consideration. If our legislators can give relief to North Carolina they will do about well enough, without trying to give relief to Cuba!

We were at Raleigh the day after the Legislature met and we took a peep at both branches of that illustrious body. The lobbies and rotunda were crowded with an eager and anxious horde of men seeking places and positions within the gift of the legislators. The Governor said that there were at least thirty applicants for every place, and it really seemed so. Most of them whom we saw were colored men, who no doubt had been promised places during the campaign and were now grievously disappointed.

We were not at all favorably impressed by the personal appearance of our legislators, even if they did have on their Sunday go to meetings clothes. Among them are [illegible] representatives, and one of the latter (Jim Young of Raleigh) is one of the most prominent and influential members. With few exceptions there are no members of more than average ability or information. They are said to be divided politically as follows: 72 Pops, [illegible] Democrats, 69 Republicans and 3 Republicans.

Quite a [illegible] question under the auspices of the Populist caucus if the Populist party in this Legislature will be [illegible] legislative, executive and judiciary. The inauguration of Gov. Russell, on last Thursday, gives the Republicans the executive department of the State government, and in these [illegible] twenty years, that is, since January 1877, the Democrats have had the executive department of the State government. Gov. Vance was inaugurated governor of North Carolina on the 1st day of January 1877, and Gov. Russell will be inaugurated governor of North Carolina on the 14th day of January 1897. The Populists have the balance of power in the Legislature, and will be the most known party in the State. The Republicans will control the Governors [illegible] Democrats have a majority in the Legislature. Democrats will have a majority in the Senate, and Republicans will have a majority in the House. Democrats will have a majority in the Senate, and Republicans will have a majority in the House. Democrats will have a majority in the Senate, and Republicans will have a majority in the House