

THE NEWS REPORTER OF COLUMBUS COUNTY.

PUBLISHED EVERY THURSDAY at WHITEVILLE, N. C.

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SAYING IT MILDLY

Within the course of every human life it becomes necessary for man to defend himself. If man is smitten on the right cheek, then he must turn the left. But he must not forever continue to let his adversary knock and beat on him, for there is such a thing as protection of the body. Being in a fight, then a real man must see to it well that his opponent is aware of him.

To be perfectly plain, Mr. W. B. Keziah, editor of the newly-organized Columbus News, has made some gross accusations against various people of Columbus county. This paper has come in for its share of criticism from this editor. We do not take the burden of protecting the world upon our shoulders, and it is not our desire to enter into a newspaper controversy with this gentleman, for that is exactly that for which he is seeking. But for the sake of the people of the county who are being misled by the editorial columns of his paper, we are in a small way trying to straighten out the confused ideas of those who do not have the opportunity to become fully acquainted with the affairs to which he alludes.

This paper has never felt the burden of running the county upon its shoulders. If it knew of anything which was wrong and which was injurious to the people, then it would denounce any crookedness of which it knew. But we cannot make biased accusations against men when we have only hatred backing us up. In the opinion of the editor of this paper, the 3 county commissioners who are serving Columbus county are men of principle, men of character, and do not merit the criticism which has been hurled at them. No one of them has a scintilla of connection with this paper, or we would not take their parts. To us they are just normal human beings who have offered their services to the county, have submitted their names to the people, and have been elected to the office they hold by the vote of the majority of the people of the county. They have worked hard, they have had special meetings at night, they have labored with small remuneration—and then they thank that they get for the energy they have expended is a constant knock and actual attack at their character. This comes not wholly from the Columbus News, but from men who are sore because of some selfishness. Look them over, those leaders of the opposition to your county commissioners; size them up. Then if they are the kinds of men you wish to be your county officers, bring them out and make them see how they can handle the affairs of the county which are now alleged in such a tangle. You will find, however, that those constant knockers, those growlers and grumblers, are not friends of Columbus county; they are not men who have worked for its progress and making, but sore-heads who have stood around and let the others do the work. Look them over; are they men who have succeeded and men whom you would wish for your ideal and your criterion?

We admit that all men make mistakes; our county commissioners, our county auditor, our county Board of Education—none of them are infallible. They make their mistakes. And you make your errors and so do we. But if we were lovers of Columbus county; if we had the good of our county at heart, instead of getting off and taking a lick of spleen and hatred, we would try to offer some remedy whereby any error might be corrected rather than trying to poison public opinion against those who have the county's interest at heart. But, gentle reader, when you become so polluted, so foul, and so base, that you think every man is a crook, then you better take an inventory; you don't need your taxes reduced, you need a good case of old time religion.

Goodness knows we want taxes reduced! Furthermore, we want prosperity and progress. Where is

the man who does not want both? But leaving out the idea of progress, wherein are we going to reduce taxes? Are you going to fire the "expert auditor", who is referred to in the last edition of the Columbus News by Mr. Brown, former auditor of the county. When you get rid of him, are you going to get another hundred dollar man and let the books of the county go "bang"? If we want efficiency, we have got to pay for it. In the long run it is economy, and a man who ever has a thought without a brainstorm accompanying it, knows it is the truth. Are you going to reduce the salary of the teacher, about which there is so much howl? Let some brainy kicker tell just how the salary of the teacher is going to be reduced by any board of commissioners or Board of Education in this county. Their salaries are set out by the State Salary Schedule. The commissioners have only to levy sufficient tax to pay what the State says we HAVE to pay. We aren't consulted about that in the least. What are we going to cut out, what are we going to do to remedy it? Where there is a kick, there must be a remedy. The commissioners would no doubt appreciate a suggestion, along this line.

This is the idea: Life is what we make it. If we are no-accounts and good-for-nothings, then we are going to ever have a fuss to raise about somebody elses business. If our taxes are raised, then we have got to work harder to pay them. Don't let any four-flusher come and tell you that he could reduce your taxes if he just had the chance, and he would do this and that and the other. He would do nothing except stir up strife and make unrest in the county which he would have you believe he loves. If you are a worker and one who deserves, don't worry, the Lord looks out for those who merit it. Do you ever hear of a good man perishing to death or his children going in want?

Now about what Mr. C. W. Brown says about the county audit, and about the shortage of funds. We wouldn't criticise Mr. Brown. We do not believe he knows any better. Who except Mr. Brown ever heard of an eighty thousand dollar shortage in this county? He makes light of the "expert auditors", and says that the last one got it down to eight thousand. Surely all of us are sufficiently intelligent to know that an expert accountant knows his business. Do they accuse the whole world of being a bunch of crooks? If anybody is honest, it looks like an auditor who is absolutely disinterested in every way, getting paid a salary to do the work, would be so. Mr. Brown lost his job, it is true, and they said his "errors too numerous to mention," as he repeats in his article in the Columbus News. We are sorry he had such ill-luck, but for the life of us we cannot see why he should take a lick at the successor of him who was in no way responsible for his not holding his job. If the auditor says it was eighty thousand, we believe it was eighty; if he says it was eight, then we believe it was eight; we therefore, do believe it the latter, and since we are not familiar with the matter, we will leave the books to show for themselves. You may examine them at your pleasure, is our understanding.

We don't think it was very kind of Mr. Keziah to say our paper was not worth a d—. That's an awful word for him to think. It means: "To condemn as invalid, illegal, wicked, faulty; to condemn as a failure; esp. to pronounce adverse judgment upon; to bring ruin upon; to curse, swear." This is what Mr. Noah Webster says it means, and we guess Mr. Noah knows what he is talking about. We admit that we have reduced the price to fifty cents, or did, for three weeks, and have got heaps of subscribers. It is at less than cost of production too, we admit that. But Mr. Keziah is a newspaper man who prides himself upon his experience, and he knows only too well that he loses money on every subscription he takes at one dollar—even if he didn't give his subscription-takers half of it. Maybe he was joking about all that and we didn't catch the humor—surely he didn't expect us to believe it, for he knows that he hasn't made a nickel on any dollar subscription he has sold. Even two dollars will not cover the cost. The money in a newspaper office is made on advertising—and in our office some on job work. We don't even figure what we can make on subscriptions, for if they pay for the paper and ink, they have done well.

We admit he has the advantage of us. He knows our prices on advertising, for he worked for us. But maybe he has just forgotten some-

thing. In his editorial he tells the county commissioners that we charge ten cents per line for county advertising and he will do it for five. Something else to help the poor people of the county who are too heavily taxed. If that is his idea, we admire him. But the writer of that article knows deep down in his own conscience that we don't get but seven and a half cents per line for that—and ten is allowed by the law. When he owned the paper we now own, according to the officer who paid the bills for the county, he charged ten cents per line; then when he took the editorship after we had bought the paper, he put the price down to seven and a half cents per line. We don't mean that he intended stating a false fact, thinking we would not take him up on it; but we believe he has just had so much to do that he forgot what the News Reporter did charge when he was on its pay roll. No hard feelings toward him whatever, but we just didn't want the public thinking that the County Commissioners were putting out any more money than they had to. It really seems that the commissioners should help him out without the county advertising in view of his kindly feeling toward them.

"We will say that not having any bank, any board of education, any board of county commissioners or a county treasury behind us, to make good the loss we would suffer," etc., etc. So goes on his editorial. Well, well, well. We are no fools, and your readers are no fools. The day has not yet come when such institutions rally to the support of a failing industry. They try to shake their connection with it. Friends are friends, but they are all careful with their money. We get advertising from the Board of Education once a year, advertising from several banks, and publish the Sheriff's sale of taxes, but we get no other aid. Possibly we could borrow money if we needed it. We would not be citizens of Columbus worth having if we could not rate sufficient credit standing to borrow some money somewhere. But we don't have them at our disposal, and Mr. Keziah knows that the world is not run that way. He doesn't even think so himself.

In an advertisement Mr. Keziah says that he is "not in any way connected with the News Reporter. Parties subscribing to that paper under the impression that I am editing it should write the News Reporter, not me, when they have tangles with that paper that they desire straightened out." We are indeed sorry that he has been caused such inconvenience. We too would appreciate our customers and subscribers writing directly to us when they have "tangles" to straighten out. Far be it from us to wish others to bear our burdens when they have plenty of their own. We didn't know people had been doing that, and we truly beg Mr. Keziah's pardon in behalf of those who were doing the writing to get their "tangles" fixed up. We are always ready to eliminate any misunderstanding and appreciate the fact that people will let us know where the trouble lies so that it may be adjusted.

"It will be a cold day in August when the News gets so worthless that we will offer it for fifty cents and then give somebody a commission to go out and bedevil you to give that much for it." So says another one of the editor's editorials. Gee Whiz! he hits us hard. We thought it was worth two dollars, but we were selling it for fifty cents; that's the idea which he didn't grasp. We don't suppose that when Mr. Keziah cut his paper to one dollar, half of our rate, that he thought his paper had become just half as good as ours. We didn't raise a murmur at his cutting in half; then he says that we are "bedeviling" people because we cut his in half. Oh well, human nature has never kicked on getting anything cheap; so we won't argue about that.

No we have said our saying. We are actually sorry that such had to come about. Down in the depths of our souls we believe that we have treated the editor of the News fairly. If we haven't, then we are willing to admit it when shown so. We want him to clear his own mind, get peace of soul, and then lets have fair, honest, unprejudiced, unselfish competition which two papers which should work for the best interests of the county should have. It has never been our desire to have a controversy, but we cannot as real men be slapped down and then get up and kiss the man who laid us there. We contend that we as blueblooded Americans cannot lie still and have accusation thrown at those who are unjustly criticized

when we have the only other medium in the county which can come to their resource. All that "red-hot" stuff appeals to some people, but it does no good. If all our people would forget their grudges, forget that the world is all down on them and trying to press their very lives out of them, and really get down to honest-to-goodness work, we would have a happier people, and come a sight near getting to Heaven when we die.

'T AINT SO

We beg the pardon of the editor of the Columbus News for this correction, but feel it incumbent upon us to do so for various reasons. Last week the News carried the idea that Mrs. R. B. Whitaker had stated to them that the last night of the Columbus County Fair would be given over to a masquerade ball. Several people over the county have since that time said that their children could not come to a Fair where they had this modern dancing and such carryin' on. They have made their complaint to the head of Education in Columbus county. We feel sure that the News is correcting this statement, and we are carrying this for the purpose of its possibly reaching some people who have heard such that will possibly not see a copy of the News.

This "Old Fashioned Night" is to be just what the name signifies. There will be dancing, to be sure, but it will be the old-time square dance and cake walk. That never hurt anybody, in our opinion. There will be no modern dancing in it, and when the the square dancing and the like are all over, then is it not going to turn into any ordinary dance—that has already been arranged. Everybody is going to have a good time, we should think, but the whole program is to be beneficial and void of the usual hilarity, and without drunkenness that takes place sometimes at such occasions. Were it a regular "Masquerade Ball" then we would expect the men to do a little out of the ordinary by taking possibly a drink, but at this kind of affair, no liquor and hilarity are going to be allowed. A special policeman has been arranged for to take care of such men.

Reserve Money Like Reserve Armies Will Turn the Tide of Many a Hard Struggle

THE solid satisfaction of knowing that you and your family are provided for in case of unemployment, sickness or old age, is a source of more comfort and contentment than that obtained from the expensive everyday pleasures.

BANK OF WHITEVILLE

WHITEVILLE, N. C. VINELAND, N. C. TABOR, N. C.

TABOR LOCALS

Tabor's loss is surely Whiteville's gain, when on last Friday Mr. R. H. Burns moved his family to Whiteville. They have lived with us for the past six years and have always worked for the uplift of the town and community. We wish for them every possible success in their new home and hope that their new friends will learn to love them as the old ones do.

Mesdames J. L. Lewis and R. M. Garrell were visitors in Whiteville Tuesday.

Quite a number of Tabor folks visited Dr. G. S. Cox last Sunday, who is in Wilmington, at Bullocks hospital. Among them were the following: Messrs. J. N. Cox, his father, and Walter Leonard, Mr. and Mrs. W. B. Roberts, Miss Rachael Roberts, Mr. and Mrs. E. L. Green and children, and they report that they found the Dr. very much improved.

Messrs R. M. Garrell, W. S. Pem-

berton, Walter Leonard and C. C. Fridgen left for Washington, N. C., Tuesday morning to attend court. Tabor is looking forward to a big time at the Columbus County Fair. Lets all put our shoulders to the wheel and make it the biggest and best ever.

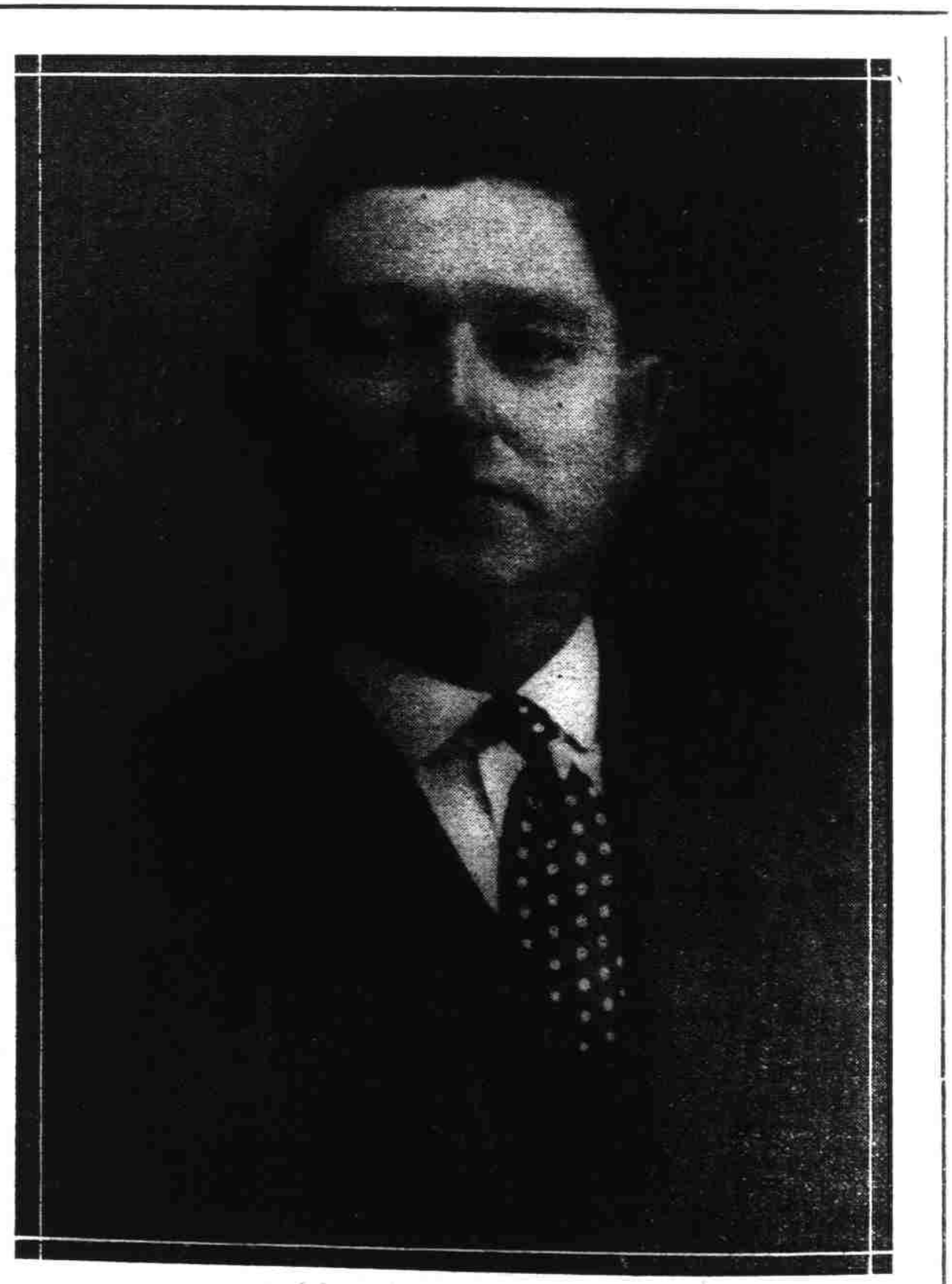
The many friends of little Miss Mary Floyd will be grieved to know that she is confined to her home. We hope she will be well again.

Mr. W. B. Roberts, the Republican candidate for Sheriff of Columbus county, was a visitor in Whiteville Monday.

Messrs E. L. Green, Esq., Campbell and B. F. Kendler were visitors in Chadbourn Monday.

In traveling over the roads it looks good to see that the authorities are bending over backwards to put them in shape, which were rendered almost impassable by the recent rains.

Miss Thelma Baker has accepted a position as one of the teachers at Carolina school.



Vote for CLYDE M. GORE The Democratic Nominee for Sheriff