

TO THE SLANDERER:

In last week's edition of this paper you libeled and slandered me in an article entitled "Gates County Politics Still Boiling," and covered your identity behind the letter "X."

I demand that the writer of that article publically disclose his identity by claiming its authorship.

A. PILSTON GODWIN,
Gatesville, N. C.

Sept. 14th, 1914.

GATES COUNTY POLITICS.

Our Gates County Primaries.

We have read with interest the article of Mr. S. I. Harrell and others published in this and other papers regarding our Gates county primaries and county convention, and argue with him that we always have been democrats, but these are some things we don't agree with him in. J. W. Brown was the people's choice and has been ever since he declared himself a candidate and what Mr. Harrell says about the wedge and the bolters is altogether wrong. The wedge he refers to is in the hands of the Ellenor ring that so unjustly defeated J. W. Brown and the people's wishes. Mr. Harrell speaks of such a fair primary at Holly Grove and mentions the strength Mr. Ellenor received only 14 popular votes and they gave him two delegates to the county convention, while Mr. Brown over doubled him in the popular vote and they would not give him but two delegates. This does not look so fair after all. Mr. Harrell's article in part reminds me of our primary four years ago when Mr. Brown was a candidate for the same office when Mr. S. I. Harrell had Mr. J. W. Brown's letter to be read in the opening of the primary, although Mr. Harrell was very careful to read the letter at the very close of the primary. Yes, we are going to vote with the majority of the people in Gates county for J. W. Brown, for at the polls on election day is the only place the voice of the people can be heard, or it seems so at least. If Mr. Ellenor had received the majority of the popular vote, just the county at large as Mr. Brown did, there would have been perfect satisfaction and nothing said.

We write this with no ill will to any one but feel that there are some things misrepresented.

A. & B.

To The Voters of Gates Co.

I am no advocate of newspaper controversies, but, in justice to myself, I feel that I ought to say a few words in reply to an article written by Mr. S. I. Harrell in the last week's issue of the Albemarle Observer. Mr. Harrell starts out by saying he is no of-

fice seeker. He must have a very short recollection. I have been a voter in Gates county for 26 years, have been in every Democratic Convention held in the county in that time, and I have had the pleasure of voting against Mr. Harrell numbers of times for various offices—in fact, I have had the pleasure at a very recent date, his name having been in the County Convention 2 years ago and in the primaries less than 6 months ago.

Mr. Harrell speaks of my enjoying the leniency of a Democratic Board of County Commissioners, one of which board is Mr. E. S. A. Ellenor, now a candidate for sheriff of Gates county, whom Mr. Harrell speaks of as being so faithful to duty.

My record as sheriff is and always has been an open book to the people of Gates county. To that part of Mr. Harrell's communication which reflects upon my official integrity, I have requested Mr. L. J. Smith to reply and to explain, because I consulted him in regard to the matter, and fully acquainted him with all facts. After all the circumstances are fully shown, I am willing to leave the matter to a fair-minded public.

Now just a word in regard to my democracy—as I have stated before—I have been a voter in Gates County for 26 years, I have been to every election in that time and have voted the democratic ticket in all its fullness. I have the consolation of knowing that I stand today for everything that true democracy stands for, therefore I can not and will not support any man who disregards honesty, justice and right for greed of office.

I wish to add that there is no one more appreciative of the confidence of the people than I, and I still stand loyal to the party.

I would be glad to know the author of the couplet quoted by Mr. Harrell. It so closely resembles the rest of his article published, that I would imagine him its author. If he is the composer, it is to be hoped that he will be more successful as a poet than as a politician.

I think this will be all I will have to say in the papers.

With best wishes to the democratic party of Gates county, I am

Yours sincerely,

J. A. BROWN,

Sheriff of Gates Co.



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WOODROW WILSON

PRAY FOR PEACE.

President Issues Proclamation Setting Apart The First Sunday in October.

Every Church in the Land is Designated as a Center For Petitions to the Almighty to Show the Way to the Nations of Earth Whereby They May Sheathe Their Swords.

President Wilson has signed a proclamation calling on the people of the United States to pray for peace in Europe. The proclamation sets aside Sunday, October 4, as a day of prayer.

The President's proclamation follows: "Whereas, Great nations of the world have taken up arms against one another and war now draws millions of men into battle when the counsel of statesmen have not been able to save from the terrible sacrifice;

"And, whereas, In this, as in all things, it is our privilege and duty to seek counsel and succor of Almighty God humbling ourselves before Him, confessing our weakness and our lack of any wisdom equal to these things;

"And, whereas, It is the especial wish and longing of the people of the United States in prayer and counsel and all friendliness to serve the cause of peace;

"Therefore, I, Woodrow Wilson, President of the United States of America do designate Sunday, the fourth day of October, next, a day of prayer and supplication and do request all God-fearing persons to repair on that day to their places of worship, there to unite their petitions to Almighty God, that over ruling the counsel of men, setting straight the things they cannot govern or altar, taking pity on the nations now in the throes of conflict, in His mercy and goodness, showing a way where men can see none. He vouchsafe His children, healing peace again and restore once more that concord among men and nations without which there can be neither happiness nor true friendship nor any wholesome fruit or toil or thought in the world; praying also to this end that He forgive us our sins, our ignorance of His holy will, our wilfulness and many errors, and lead us in the paths of obedience to places of vision and to thoughts and counsels that purge and make wise.

"In witness whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and authorized the seal of the United States to be affixed.

"Done at the City of Washington, this eighth day of September, in the year of our Lord, one thousand nine hundred and fourteen, and of the independence of the United States of America the one hundred and thirtieth.

(Signed) WOODROW WILSON,

"By the President:

"WILLIAM JENNINGS BRYAN,

"Secretary of State."

A Few Corrections to Mr. S. I. Harrell's Remarks of Last Week.

In these remarks Mr. Harrell stated that each and every candidate for sheriff had a fair deal

in Holly Grove township. We would like to know how he arrives at this conclusion when Brown got 31 popular votes and Ellenor 14, and Ellenor had two delegates and Brown only two to represent him at the County Con-

vention. Mr. Harrell also stated Mr. L. L. Smith and several other gentlemen had been mentioned as "the ring" and that each of the men he mentioned was supporting different candidates. We do not believe that Mr. Harrell has any reason or authority for mentioning these gentlemen in this connection, but we do know that every man he mentioned was supporting Ellenor except Mr. Smith.

Mr. Harrell in his remarks intimates that good democrats will not support Brown; that he is a bolter, etc., but we can assure Mr. Harrell that as good democrats as he or any one else is, are going to vote for Brown and they are not going to have any remorse of conscience for having done so either. We all know that Brown or C. C. Savage should have been nominated and that the nomination of Ellenor was not fair. Even the supporters of Ellenor know this, whether they admit it or not. Mr. Harrell with all his "eloquence" will find that he cannot change the people of Gates county this time, though he has remarked in the past that he "held Gates county in the palm of his hand," and that he could take five or six men and carry the county any way he wished "intimating that he was the "Great I AM" of the county. He is going to find that he has lost his "grip" this time, if he ever had such. Mr. Harrell calls attention to the fact that he does not want office, but we are reminded of several occasions on which he has "fallen down" trying to get office.

Mr. Harrell's remarks concerning our present sheriff, Mr. J. A. Brown, who is going to leave a record pure and spotless, are simply ridiculous, sarcastic in the extreme, without foundation and unwarranted and we are sure any such remarks will be resented by the friends of Joe Brown throughout the county. We think Mr. Harrell better write once more and quit.

A VOTER.

"Not For Politics But For Justice."

To The Editor:

I regret very much to see in your last week's paper the attack made by Mr. S. I. Harrell upon our sheriff, Mr. J. A. Brown. So far as it may reflect upon his official integrity, it was entirely uncalled for and does him a great injustice.

There is no man in the county more straightforward, more open and more truthful than Sheriff Brown; and yet one might infer from the insinuations contained in that communication, that he owes his very official existence to "the leniency of the Democratic Board of County Commissioners." Mr. Brown is not aware of any favors shown him by the board of county commissioners, and he is not ungrateful to the Democratic party, and especially is he not ungrateful because the commissioners did their duty or that any particular one did his duty. But he may have some feeling against them because they required more of him than has been required of any other sheriff so far as he can ascertain; and that is he was required to account for more taxes than he actually received, or than he could collect.

But he paid all that was required of him and that ought to have ended the matter. The report of the Finance Committee, published in the Albemarle Observer and referred to by Mr. Harrell, needs an explanation; and in fact Mr. Brown asked the Committee, as he states, to explain when published, that part of their report, which refers to the taxes collected on the insolvent lists for 1909, 1910 and 1911, but by inadvertence, perhaps, the explanation was not published with the report. As Mr. Brown, some time last year, consulted me in regard to the insolvent taxes for those years, and gave me all the facts connected with the matter, I now feel that it is my duty to him, give to the public the explanation he then made to me.

He stated that he made the regular settlement for those years respectively in which he was allowed, as usual, the insolvent lists, but was charged with the balance of the tax list whether it was collected or not; that later on, after each of those settlements he collected something from the insolvent lists, but not enough from any one year to cover the loss sustained by his inability to collect the balance of the taxes for that year; that he was under the impression that untimely collections from the insolvent lists more than covered the loss thus sustained, he had nothing to hand to account for; but that he wished me to tell him what was the proper thing to do, as he wished to do what was right about it; that no other sheriff had been required to pay anything from the insolvent lists, as the records show, and that was the ground of his impression, and that much demand had been made upon him until a short time before then. He made some complaints about the manner in which the commissioners considered the matter and said they were not open about it, and that he first ascertained from another source that they were going to demand the taxes collected from the insolvent lists for the years above named. From then as he learned of it he asked my advice, and I am thoroughly satisfied that he had no idea but that he was strictly within the line of his duty, and I was inclined to the same view as I thought that the commissioners might follow him as insolvent all that he could not collect. This was before the action of the Finance Committee.

After talking the matter over with him we agreed that he should present to the commissioners a full itemized statement of the taxes which he did not and could not collect for the years referred to, and also a full statement of all the taxes collected from the insolvent lists for those years and ask the commissioners to show him as insolvent the taxes which he could not collect, but that if they would not do so, he must give county the benefit of the doubt and pay over the insolvent taxes in full settlements ALL OF WHICH HE HAS DONE. The amount of his loss for those years was \$2214.14 and the insolvent taxes collected for the same years was \$128.50 making a balance of \$2085.64 he was not entitled for ever and above what he collected and which, therefore, he had to pay out of his own pocket. (Continued on page 5)