

# Will Germany And Russia Form Alliance? Such Is The Report

New York, Dec. 26.—International news circles in New York have been suddenly galvanised into renewed interest in the European war developments by a report that negotiations are on foot for an adjustment of differences between Russia and Germany, and for Russia's withdrawal from the war.

Efforts to bring the two nations to an understanding are being made through one of the most powerful influences in the world, a medium friend to both Germany and Russia, it is reported. It is definitely known that the negotiations have at least reached the tentative stage and are in such a position that they have caught the attention of both nations.

The revolution even the preliminary negotiations indicate that there may be a scattering of all predictions as to the outcome of the present war, and that Africa new boundaries and settlements unthought of when the war began.

The willingness of Russia to consider a peace pact with Germany is based on the failure of the Austrian army in Serbia. To protect the Balkan interests by preventing Serbia from being crushed was Russia's excuse for mobilization. With Serbia's showing of ability to protect her own interests, Russia's real interest in the war has practically ceased. To fight against Germany chiefly to aid the world and policies of Great Britain, against which Russia has had an ancient grudge.

The exact terms on which the negotiations are being conducted are not known, but it is understood that the first objective of Russia is the unfettered use of the Black Sea and the Bosphorus in peace or in war. It is expected that the Czar will face the anger of Great Britain and France without flinching, and the war water front will be a more serious one than the land front.

Her lack of warm water ports has always been regarded by Russia as the chief reason for her failure to become a world power. The sea as England, lacking a more direct outlet to the Pacific, she sought for them on the Pacific and Japan drove her from Port Arthur. She is now double-tracking the Trans-Siberian Railway, and later the question of her acquisition of ports on the Pacific is expected to be re-opened.

Meanwhile, there awaits on the Black Sea a haven for Russia's Navy and untold commercial opportunity if the freedom of the Black Sea and the Dardanelles can be secured. The petroleum and minerals of the Caucasus, the cereals of the steppes and the growing manufacturing activities of Russia all would have an outlet. Under such conditions Batum on the Black Sea, would probably soon surpass Odessa and other Russian ports in favorably located.

That Germany is now in a position to thwart Russia's plans for extension of the Black Sea is believed by those who have followed developments in Turkey and Egypt since the opening of the war. It has been demonstrated that Germany practically governs Turkey. Gen. von der Goltz, recently military Governor of Belgium, and who trained the Turkish armies from 1885, is now in Turkey on an important mission. He is by official appointment a Turkish pasha, and is at this moment the Turkish Secretary of War.

Since the outbreak of war between Turkey and the Allies, Egypt, nominally under the sovereignty of Turkey, has been taken over as a possession of Great Britain. This carries with it the Suez Canal, which, under the terms of the original agreement, would have reverted to Turkey in 1914.

It is understood that the return of the Suez Canal to the control of Great Britain is the result which is being held out to the Turkish government for acquiescence in Russia's designs on the Black Sea. It is regarded as certain that if the negotiations now under way are concluded little difficulty will be met with in securing Turkey's consent to any plan Germany may demand. German influence with Turkey which rose triumphantly over that of England through the decisive diplomacy of Marshal von Biberstein, is now such that Germany's lead will be blindly followed.

It is pointed out in connection with the present situation that Russia has never opposed Germany's commercial and industrial activities in Turkey, including her plan to extend her railways and commerce to the Persian Gulf. Great Britain, on the contrary, has always bitterly protested against the extension of German influence.

An explanation of Russia's pastures it is hinted that long before the present war broke out German and Russian diplomats had discussed an agreement practically along the lines of the negotiations now pending. The seizure of Egypt by Great Britain has given Germany the final leverage needed to bring Turkey completely into the plan.

The importance of the pending negotiations on the future of Europe cannot be minimized. It has become almost since the war opened that Germany's real objective in the war is special quarrel or grievance against either France or Russia, and while to a large extent a friendly tone toward both these nations has been maintained by both the press and officials of Germany, against England the flames of enmity have been increased every means in Germany's power.

The pact between Great Britain, Russia and France entered upon shortly after the opening of the war and under which it is agreed that the three nations shall act jointly in making peace and not separately, is not regarded as an obstacle to the negotiations between Germany and Russia.

It is pointed out that this is an agreement founded upon self interest, and that it is found by any of the nations concerned that its self interest means more strongly in another direc-

tion, the pact will join the "scraps of paper" which litter Europe.

It is known that both Russia and France have already been restive under the failure of England to aid in protecting Belgium from Germany by rushing large masses of troops across the channel. The apathy of England toward the Allies as evidenced by her slow recruiting, her failure to smash the German fleet, which in the Baltic is a constant menace to Russia, and other reasons might readily be given for Russia's withdrawal from the war.

In the event that this happens, Germany will bend all of her power to the disruption of England. France will be disregarded as a more or less negligible quantity, and with augmented fleets, with peace on her eastern border, and with the fighting population of her opponents reduced to an equality, Germany will continue the struggle to the supreme end she has had in view from the beginning.

The withdrawal of Russia from the war it also pointed out, will have an important effect upon the situation in the Orient, and indirectly affect the United States. The growing cordiality between Japan and Russia, which has been increased since the two nations found themselves united in fighting Germany, will be suddenly shattered.

Japan will have in the Orient the enmity of Germany for the seizure of Kiau-chen, the resentment of China for the seizure of the connecting railway lines, and the fear that Russia, at peace with Germany, will again move to secure warm ports in the Pacific as a connecting link with the commerce which she plans to build up through the Baltic Sea.

Washington, Dec. 26.—Secretary of State Bryan locked his peace treaties in his desk Christmas morning, took down his shotgun, and declared war on rabbits. He hunted many miles through snow in the Virginia hills and then came back without a single cottontail.

He had not even seen a rabbit's track.

He was horrified to learn on his return to Washington that his ill luck as a hunter was all that prevented his being a law breaker. He didn't know there was a law in Virginia forbidding rabbit hunting while there is snow on the ground.

"I am glad to say that I returned guiltless of any rabbit's blood," said Bryan; "but I enjoyed it just as much as if I had caught something."

New Jeweler at Roark's.

Mr. R. E. Ford, formerly of Cumberland, Md., has been engaged by B. F. Roark, the jeweler, as watchmaker and engraver. Mr. Ford has been a resident of Charlotte before, having been with the Little-Long Co., as well as Roark.

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# ADVERTISEMENT

To The Charlotte News.

I am of the opinion that King David was fighting something like cigarettes, coca cola or tainted money when he wrote the thirty-eighth Psalm, for in the nineteenth verse he exclaims:

"Mine enemies are lively!"

"Mine enemies" are not so very numerous for most everybody seems to be with me, but those that are against me are certainly "lively." I have had scarcely a dull moment since shortly after my "tainted money" discourse on "tainted money" was first published. By the way, it is interesting to note how often the battle line has shifted since the "war" first began. As every one knows, my primary purpose was not to go particularly after coca-cola or cigarettes either, but assuming or arguing that both of these were pernicious, my primary purpose was to get after the Methodist church for accepting the proceeds of the sale of articles whose use was harmful, and thus well nigh destroying the ability of the Church to combat successfully these growing evils. This primary purpose has in a large measure been lost sight of, somewhat to my regret, but I propose later on in this article, or "war report," or whatever you may term it, to come back to a discussion of my original proposition and to disclose somewhat more clearly the purpose I have in mind in all this.

An Explanation.

To those of my friends who might be disposed to criticize me for what seems to be the unreasonable length of this communication, I beg to remind them that I am replying to numerous attacks from several different sources. I am trying to make one "bombardment" answer all of the attacks and, therefore, it is necessarily long.

However, gentle reader, I flatter myself by saying that if you will begin reading this article, I believe you will read it to the end, notwithstanding its length. It gets hotter and hotter until it down towards the end you will almost be able to smell something burning! Go on, and see.

While you are reading, don't forget my four Forts: My Anti-Cigarette Fort; My Anti-Coca-Cola Fort; My Anti-Tainted-Money Fort; and my Freedom-of-the-Press Fort. I am compelled to fire from all of them today. A good many guns have been fired on me since my last report, and I think the public is entitled to a further report of the progress of the war.

I shall find it necessary to mix my metaphor and violate all rules of rhetoric; but then, war, like poetry, knows no rhetoric. So here goes.

Fort Guthrie.

I am glad to report that the guns of Fort Guthrie have ceased firing.

# PETROGRAD SAYS AUSTRIAN CAMPAIGN HAS COLLAPSED

Petrograd, via London, Dec. 26.—The war expert of the Novoe Vremya, in a summary of the war published today refers to what he calls the "collapse of the Austrian campaign in Galicia; the lack of cohesion on the part of the German armies to the north of Cracow, and the dogged perseverance, but with waning spirit of the Germans at Sochaczew," which he says describes the situation in Poland.

Going into details this observer says:

"The lack of the success of the Austrian army on the Sanok-Lisko front devitalized all the Austrian operations in Galicia. The fate of Przemysl has been a weighty factor with the Austrian general staff, which placed great importance on the co-operation of the garrison of this fortress with the army advancing through the Pezlaboretz pass. The unsuccessful sorties of the garrison of the fortress and the failure to effect a junction with the field army caused the collapse of the entire Austrian plan. The Przemysl sorties were the last feverish efforts of the garrison's expiring energy."

"Following the failure of the Austrian army on the Sanok-Lisko line," the writer in the Novoe Vremya, goes on, "their entire campaign weakened so that our counter attacks became more and more effective. Finally the Russian armies took the offensive along the entire front. The Austrians lost all interest in their third Galicia campaign when they failed to relieve Przemysl."

# ZEPPELIN DROPS MANY BOMBS ON CITY OF NANCY

Paris, Dec. 26, 3:55 p. m.—A despatch received here from Nancy says that a Zeppelin airship flew over that city early this morning and dropped a total of fourteen bombs.

Two persons were killed and two others wounded.

Several houses in Nancy were slightly damaged, but none of the public buildings was injured.

This is the first report of any hostile activity by a Zeppelin airship against a French city. The last notable exploit of a Zeppelin was over Antwerp when such a ship flew over that Belgian seaport in the early weeks of the war and threw down bombs.

Nancy has a population of about 100,000. It is due east from Paris, and about ten miles from the German frontier.

The Berlin official announcement of today said that German airmen had thrown medium sized bombs into the outskirts of Nancy in retaliation for the throwing of bombs by a French airman into an unnamed German village.

My position, which I believe is the same as that of all the editors who have spoken, except Col. Fairbrother, is that a newspaper should not become a slave of its counting room; that it should not so commit itself to an advertiser that it would feel compelled in protection of him to exclude from its columns any criticism of the advertiser's business. As I have stated before, the provision of the Constitution as to the freedom of the press was intended to protect it from the foes without, but if the counting room is to be the dominant factor in running a newspaper, then we need some constitutional amendment to enforce the freedom of the press against the foes within.

A Ridiculous Canard.

But as a last resort Col. Fairbrother and some others who are attacking me say that I was an "anonymous scribbler" because my sermons were not signed with my name. In the light of the facts this is the most ridiculous charge of all. When I handed in my first sermon to the Observer I told the editor that I was signing a pen name not for the purpose of concealing my identity, but for the purpose of making the article impersonal and to let the author of it be known to the man who was to read it. The Tainted Money sermon I distinctly suggested to the editor that he make an editorial reference to the article and tell that I was the author, because as to that particular sermon I wished it known that I was the author, but the editor did not see proper to follow this suggestion. The next day after it was printed in the Charlotte Observer I sent copies of it to the News and Observer and the Statesville Landmark, requesting the editors to publish it and requesting them to state that I was the author of it, both of them complied with both of these requests. Besides that two (2) weeks before my Tainted Money sermon appeared in print I stated to a crowded church on Tryon street that I was the sinner. But apart from all this the thing that makes the charge grotesquely absurd is that the article which was rejected was signed as follows: "Charles W. Tillett; Alias, Carous; Alias, The Sinner." I do not know what other ridiculous charges are being brought against me in various parts of the state, but I hope this explanation will dispose of the canard above mentioned.

## Fort Candler.

There is an ominous silence at this Fort. I would like it much better if I could hear the "barking" of the guns of Fort Candler. It may be that instead of sending the steam roller which the Superior Court Judge warned me against, they may be fitting up a Zeppelin and suddenly this monster of the air may appear above me and drop bombs upon me sufficient to destroy all of my Forts. Or, it may be that Fort Candler is preparing to send out its best submarine, U. S. S. Fish, to the use of torpedoing Commodore Johnson's battleship. I shall have to send a warning at once to Commodore Johnson to protect my Navy against such a disaster.

## Mount Duke.

Nothing doing. The Commander of this Fort is a veteran of many such wars as this. I have about come to the conclusion that he thinks "discretion is the better part of valor," and I really do not believe we are going to have any shots fired on us from this direction—at least none such as anybody can see.

## Fort Charlotte News.

This Fort, after having remained quiet for two weeks, has opened up and fired on me from four standpoints, viz., the News and Observer, the Statesville Landmark, the Greensboro News, and the editorial columns of the Charlotte News. The headlines in the News and Observer above Col. Dowd's attack, read, "W. C. Dowd goes after C. W. Tillett."

Col. Dowd's complaint is the one which becomes somewhat hackneyed, viz., that I am violating the rules of equitable warfare. He charges that I am wrongfully putting him before the people of North Carolina as an editor who was unwilling to open his columns to me for the purpose of discussing the moral questions which underly this controversy.

Dropping for a while the allegory, let me say that Mr. Dowd will not deny that he published my communication very reluctantly, even as an advertisement, and he will not deny that in his editorial "reply" to my "advertisement" he defended both cigarettes and coca-cola. He certainly does not mean to make the impression that he was willing to publish my reply to Fort Guthrie in charge as a communication because that would put me in the attitude of being forty-nine times an ass in insisting on paying him forty-nine "plunks" for that which I could have had published free of charge.

## Fort Everything.

This Fort has been exceedingly active. The commander has not only been firing broadsides after broadsides through the columns of his own paper, but has "battered in" to the Charlotte News and published his attack on me there at so much "per quod em." I regret to say that Col. Fairbrother has allowed some vitriol and mud to get mixed in with his ammunition. I do not know him very well, but I am informed that he is a courageous and high-toned soldier, and this being true, he must have allowed these ingredients to get in by oversight. My experts tell me, however, that no ammunition fired at us which contains either vitriol or mud does any of my Forts any harm. My own guns are not yet equipped with a muzzling attachment, but perhaps this may be added at the arsenal.

Col. Fairbrother convinced himself that cigarettes were harmful and he, therefore, declined any advertisement of cigarettes, which was very creditable to him. He examined into coca-cola and became convinced that it was harmless and accepted the advertisement, and surely no fair minded person could complain of him in this respect, except as to the fulness of his investigation. The point of complaint, however, is that he should become so enamored of coca-cola as not to be able to discuss the question without casting aspersions upon men who are surely entitled to as much respect as he claims for himself. Any person who will take occasion to read his attack on me will see the pertinency of these remarks.

I could but feel my head swelling just a little when I discovered that Col. Fairbrother was getting after the editors of the state for following me in the matter of the freedom of the

press. My position, which I believe is the same as that of all the editors who have spoken, except Col. Fairbrother, is that a newspaper should not become a slave of its counting room; that it should not so commit itself to an advertiser that it would feel compelled in protection of him to exclude from its columns any criticism of the advertiser's business. As I have stated before, the provision of the Constitution as to the freedom of the press was intended to protect it from the foes without, but if the counting room is to be the dominant factor in running a newspaper, then we need some constitutional amendment to enforce the freedom of the press against the foes within.

so that they cannot see the force of any arguments against it. They seem to ignore the statements of great experts like Dr. Wiley, the great educators of the country who have charge of the young men, and the social service workers and eminent physicians. Well, all I can say is, I am not a more "snuffed atmosphere" than any more are taking just in that way, and the time is coming rapidly when we are not going to accept either a Duke or a Candler as the Lord High Almoner of the Church.

For myself, I want to say that I am against accepting these munificent benefits from any source, whether a Duke, a Candler or a Carnegie, if any of them come in such way as that the result is brought about to which the brave preacher above quoted from refers, viz., that "the source of endowments shall have its influence in the shade of opinion" taught in our theological seminaries, or proclaimed from American pulpits."

Does it not make your Methodist blood tingle to read words like that? Does it not make you hold your Methodist head up and sniff the pure air of a more "snuffed atmosphere"? Many more are taking just in that way, and the time is coming rapidly when we are not going to accept either a Duke or a Candler as the Lord High Almoner of the Church.

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## Methodist Preachers Embarrassed.

Reverend Kirkpatrick is also promulgating which should not appear to be an old "rag," that I am asking the Methodist preachers as a class to have asserted, and I still assert, that Methodist preachers, one and all, feel either stopped or greatly embarrassed in making any attack on cigarettes and coca-cola, because the Church to which they belong is "feeding" in part on both cigarettes and coca-cola. What is there that would not be embarrassed by such a situation? If the Methodist preacher attacks coca-cola and cigarettes and he does a complete job in his not being obliged also to attack the Church that is profiting by the very thing that he is condemning, upon the ground that the Church ought not to encourage any pernicious business by accepting the proceeds arising from the business.

## Not Attacking Methodist Preachers.

Let me make my position clear. I do not believe that the Methodist preachers as a rule are under the dominion of the money power, and as I have stated frequently, I will trust the rank and file of these veterans to do the right. They will when aroused, push the battle line forward and "the gates of hell shall not prevail against them." However, as stated above, I think all Methodist preachers are embarrassed by the situation in which they are placed, because I do not believe that while many of them are now attacking both cigarettes and coca-cola, they all do, nevertheless, suffer from the embarrassment of the situation.

## Finally Brethren.

And now finally brethren, I am receiving letters from all over the state saying, "We read with pleasure all you say." "Write some more." "Hit 'em again!" On the other hand, nearly all of my critics speak of my long discourses which evidently are very boring to them. I have no doubt that I have had so many attacking me from so many different standpoints that it has been impossible to be brief. Besides that, I rather feel flattered that my communications are boring to the "enemy." I am reminded of a story which is frequently told and which runs on this wise: Hon. F. I. Osborne, of this city, was formerly Solicitor prosecuting criminals in the Judicial District which included Charlotte and Monroe. It is doubtless true that there never was a bolder or more eloquent prosecuting officer than he. On one occasion in the town of Monroe, he was trying a defendant charged with some offense and was making before a jury a terrific and scathing arraignment of the conduct of the prisoner at the bar. While Solicitor Osborne was speaking, the defendant went out on the streets of Monroe and told his friends that that fellow Osborne was making the most boring speech he had ever heard! I hope "mine enemies" will see the point of the anecdote.

## CHAS. W. TILLETT.

Charlotte, N. C. Dec. 24th, 1914.

## To The Public.

Well, here I am back again in the advertising columns of the Charlotte News, costing me only a little over \$30 this time. While this article is a good deal longer than the other one, yet it seems that I get reduced rates on account of its length. Thus, I am glad to say a "long haul" which is less than a "short haul," which is very gratifying to a man who is as long-winded as I am.

Mr. Dowd informs me that his reason for declining to put this in free as a communication is that others on the other side of the question are trying to get into The News, and he is refusing to admit them unless they pay. I do not know whether he is attacking them in the editorial columns of his paper, but if he is, I think he ought to let them reply to his editorial attack without charging them.

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## The Tocsin Has Been Sounded.

All Methodist preachers who take themselves liable to counter attacks from the aforesaid theological demagogues who may be over them. That is where a layman like myself has the advantage of the preachers in making this fight, because there is nothing that these political Fathers of the Church can do to me. But I do not believe that I would be deterred even if I were subject to their authority.

However, thank God there are preachers who stand ready to "speak out in meeting" and boldly express their honest convictions. Some of them have already done so.

Yes, the tocsin has been sounded; the alarm has been rung! Hear what a brave preacher occupying the pulpit of one of the foremost churches in the Western North Carolina Conference has said within two weeks passed. I find it quoted in the Statesville Landmark of December 18th. This man of God preaching upon the courageous words of Saint Paul—"Where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty," closed his brave sermon with these words:

"The question before America today, is not the question of 'tainted money,' but a question of tainted men. It is a question as to whether money alone can control American manhood, whether money can control the channels of American thought and the sources of public opinion in this country. It is a question as to whether we shall allow the columns of our newspapers to become directly or indirectly subsidized; it is a question as to whether the faculties of our American people can be trained to hear their Master's voice, before they speak to the young men in their class rooms; it is a question as to whether the

source of endowments shall have any influence in the shade of opinion taught in our theological seminaries, or proclaimed from American pulpits."

Does it not make your Methodist blood tingle to read words like that? Does it not make you hold your Methodist head up and sniff the pure air of a more "snuffed atmosphere"? Many more are taking just in that way, and the time is coming rapidly when we are not going to accept either a Duke or a Candler as the Lord High Almoner of the Church.

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## Not Attacking Wine of Cardul.

But this article is getting so hot that the printer may have to use asbestos paper unless I cool it down.

I, therefore, shift over to another subject and ask leave to say to the large number of friends who have written me in reference to the fight going on against the Wine of Cardul and the good Methodist brother who is manufacturing and selling it, that I have all that I can attend to in my "scrap" with the cigarette and coca-cola people and in discussing tainted money and the freedom of the press. It seems that this Wine of Cardul has so much of the "reverend" in it, that it is troubling the reverends, but I ask that you will kindly excuse me from "pulling out" in the fight on brother Pattison out in Tennessee.

## Let me make my position clear.

I do not believe that the Methodist preachers as a rule are under the dominion of the money power, and as I have stated frequently, I will trust the rank and file of these veterans to do the right. They will when aroused, push the battle line forward and "the gates of hell shall not prevail against them." However, as stated above, I think all Methodist preachers are embarrassed by the situation in which they are placed, because I do not believe that while many of them are now attacking both cigarettes and coca-cola, they all do, nevertheless, suffer from the embarrassment of the situation.

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For myself, I want to say that I am against accepting these munificent benefits from any source, whether a Duke, a Candler or a Carnegie, if any of them come in such way as that the result is brought about to which the brave preacher above quoted from refers, viz., that "the source of endowments shall have its influence in the shade of opinion" taught in our theological seminaries, or proclaimed from American pulpits."

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## Not Attacking Wine of Cardul.

But this article is getting so hot that the printer may have to use asbestos paper unless I cool it down.

I, therefore, shift over to another subject and ask leave to say to the large number of friends who have written me in reference to the fight going on against the Wine of Cardul and the good Methodist brother who is manufacturing and selling it, that I have all that I can attend to in my "scrap" with the cigarette and coca-cola people and in discussing tainted money and the freedom of the press. It seems that this Wine of Cardul has so much of the "reverend" in it, that it is troubling the reverends, but I ask that you will kindly excuse me from "pulling out" in the fight on brother Pattison out in Tennessee.

## Let me make my position clear.

I do not believe that the Methodist preachers as a rule are under the dominion of the money power, and as I have stated frequently, I will trust the rank and file of these veterans to do the right. They will when aroused, push the battle line forward and "the gates of hell shall not prevail against them." However, as stated above, I think all Methodist preachers are embarrassed by the situation in which they are placed, because I do not believe that while many of them are now attacking both cigarettes and coca-cola, they all do, nevertheless, suffer from the embarrassment of the situation.

## Finally Brethren.

And now finally brethren, I am receiving letters from all over the state saying, "We read with pleasure all you say." "Write some more." "Hit 'em again!" On the other hand, nearly all of my critics speak of my long discourses which evidently are very boring to them. I have no doubt that I have had so many attacking me from so many different standpoints that it has been impossible to be brief. Besides that, I rather feel flattered that my communications are boring to the "enemy." I am reminded of a story which is frequently told and which runs on this wise: Hon. F. I. Osborne, of this city, was formerly Solicitor prosecuting criminals in the Judicial District which included Charlotte and Monroe. It is doubtless true that there never was a bolder or more eloquent prosecuting officer than he. On one occasion in the town of Monroe, he was trying a defendant charged with some offense and was making before a jury a terrific and scathing arraignment of the conduct of the prisoner at the bar. While Solicitor Osborne was speaking, the defendant went out on the streets of Monroe and told his friends that that fellow Osborne was making the most boring speech he had ever heard! I hope "mine enemies" will see the point of the anecdote.

## CHAS. W. TILLETT.

Charlotte, N. C. Dec. 24th, 1914.

## To The Public.

Well, here I am back again in the advertising columns of the Charlotte News, costing me only a little over \$30 this time. While this article is a good deal longer than the other one, yet it seems that I get reduced rates on account of its length. Thus, I am glad to say a "long haul" which is less than a "short haul," which is very gratifying to a man who is as long-winded as I am.

Mr. Dowd informs me that his reason for declining to put this in free as a communication is that others on the other side of the question are trying to get into The News, and he is refusing to admit them unless they pay. I do not know whether he is attacking them in the editorial columns of his paper, but if he is, I think he ought to let them reply to his editorial attack without charging them.

## The Tocsin Has Been Sounded.

All Methodist preachers who take themselves liable to counter attacks from the aforesaid theological demagogues who may be over them. That is where a layman like myself has the advantage of the preachers in making this fight, because there is nothing that these political Fathers of the Church can do to me. But I do not believe that I would be deterred even if I were subject to their authority.

However, thank God there are preachers who stand ready to "speak out in meeting" and boldly express their honest convictions. Some of them have already done so.

Yes, the tocsin has been sounded; the alarm has been rung! Hear what a brave preacher occupying the pulpit of one of the foremost churches in the Western North Carolina Conference has said within two weeks passed. I find it quoted in the Statesville Landmark of December 18th. This man of God preaching upon the courageous words of Saint Paul—"Where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty," closed his brave sermon with these words:

"The question before America today, is not the question of 'tainted money,' but a question of tainted men. It is a question as to whether money alone can control American manhood, whether money can control the channels of American thought and the sources of public opinion in this country. It is a question as to whether we shall allow the columns of our newspapers to become directly or indirectly subsidized; it is a question as to whether the faculties of our American people can be trained to hear their Master's voice, before they speak to the young men in their class rooms; it is a question as to whether the