

Great Many People Prefer Railroads to Eleventh Amendment: Mr. Johnson

Continued from page 1

personal purveyor of the world's events with silent and nameless rollers doing their work in the dark; and they will not be less useful or able than the grand old man whose name is known over the whole wide world. This is as it should be. We have come into a better day. The element of egotism in the newspaper business is tending toward strength but weakness. It is better to be than seem to be. What I do develop and enrich me more than what I say. The editor who saves his life shall lose it. To the conceited bombastic who love the glare and glory of popular applause, this observation of the editor's personality is intolerable, but to him who loves his work more than he loves himself, it is the finest stimulus to a perfect mastery of his business. It has come to pass that no man can wear the collar of the public service without the collar of the public opinion. At one and the same time. The recent distressing embargo in Georgia in which a newspaper man was pitted against a politician resulted as might have been expected—the politician got the plum and the editor got the black eye. The spirit of ambition upon the altar of service may seem a high price to pay, but to reach the top every penny of it must be paid.

"I hold it truth with him who sings To one clear harp in diverse tones, That many may rise on stepping stones Of their dead selves to higher things."

Increased Power for Good.

As the editor decreases as a personal or political factor, he increases immeasurably in his power for good. In order to mould the public opinion and shape the public thought he must, like the grain of wheat, be willing to fall into the ground and die, that his power may be multiplied. I have said all this in order that I might pave the way for this recommendation: Do not run for the legislature.

We have no more democratic organization in the state than the North Carolina Press Association. I hope this may always be true. We weekly brethren are as much a part and parcel of this state as our brethren of the city dwellers. Men of every shade of political opinion dwell together in perfect unity, and the editors of our religious journals who occasionally give each other a nudge under the fifth rib sit side by side in these delightful reunions with their brethren, without fitting across their peaceful breast. We are brethren in the real sense of that much abused term. We distribute the offices of honor evenly around. The only office involving hard work and poor wages we pack off on Brother Sherrill and when he threatens to resign we give him fifty dollars and fifty dollars to his labor. A member of the association stands a very excellent chance of winning the highest office within our gift. I desire to acknowledge here and now my appreciation of the confidence and esteem of my brethren in choosing me headliner into this, the highest and most honorable position I have ever held, the more gratefully accepted because wholly unthought. Owing to the popularity of one of our distinguished members, who is now the president of the National Editorial Association, the constitution was changed in order to allow him to hold a second term in succession, of the office of president, which he administered with so great ability. I would recommend that since the end for which the change was made has been reached, that we return to the original plan of electing the president for one year and that he be not permitted to succeed himself.

Loyalty to the Schools.

The subject of education is so closely allied with the question of journalism that I need hardly stop to urge our brethren to loyalty to our schools. We have had a wonderful awakening in North Carolina on this great question. Chas. B. Aycock, the Apostle of Light, kindled in the hearts of the people a deep longing for the uplift of the children of the state. The seed he sowed is bearing a rich harvest. The local school house is a rare

thing now, and better teachers during longer terms are leading the children into the light. Every newspaper in North Carolina ought to be, and I believe really is, the friend and defender of education. We should find joy, brethren, in reaching out a helping hand to every boy and girl however poor and ragged to lift him over the rocks in his rugged way. It is no small part of our work to teach little feet to climb the steep and gain the summit above the clouds.

Allow me to pause just here to say that there is one feature of our educational situation over which I rejoice to say, our North Carolina newspapers have not gone into spasms. There is each year a bright and glittering throng of brethren from the North, with pity in their hearts for the poor, who make their way through the South, halting for a brief period at Tuskegee and giving Booker Washington an approving smile; then, gathering up their garments, sail back to New York city with consciences void of offense toward all men. These men mean well, but they do not understand the spirit of the traditions of the South.

There is a growing spirit of independence among the newspapers of the state of which I am delighted to speak. I believe in parties. A newspaper, like an individual, ought to stand for something. But an editor can be true to his party without being its slave. Newspapers must have self-respect if they would command the respect of others. What a man believes in his heart he should speak through his columns. This matter will be discussed later on, but I desire to call attention to the growing tendency toward candor and sincerity in the editorial expression of the North Carolina press.

It is also pleasant to note the apparently healthy financial condition of our newspapers. None of our number have gone into the hands of a receiver, nor have we out of a single hour from our day's labor. It takes something worse than a white house panic to bring a North Carolina newspaper man to a cash basis, whether or no, I am inclined to think the outlook more hopeful still. The new postal law was enacted to help rather than hurt newspaper business and I think we shall all feel its benefit and be convinced of its wisdom before we meet again. The deadbeats had abused the privilege accorded the real newspapers, and forced the government in self defense to find a way to confine its benefits to those for whom they were intended.

From time immemorial the newspapers have waged a relentless warfare upon the trusts, and now we find ourselves in the iron grip of the most heartless of them all. There are several of these giant combinations, but they are all one in method, purpose and aim. This monstrous trust first flings defiance at the president of the United States, snags its fingers in the face of congress and dares the world to do its worst.

Mr. Herman Koder, the president of the American Newspaper Union, in a letter to the president gives some very startling statements with regard to the rapacity and wickedness of the gang of robbers who are holding up the newspaper fraternity and growing fat on the earnings of honest men. No matter what house a publisher may approach for quotations, he is told the same story. Prices are predetermined and competition is destroyed. I quote a paragraph or two from Mr. Koder's luminous letter which appears in the Eastern number of the National Printer-Journalist.

Publishers Supply Predetermined.

Publishers who apply for quotations realize that in some intangible way the source of their supply has been predetermined for them and that also the price they are to pay has been prearranged for them. In each case the publisher finds that all bids out one are at a prohibitory price. He also finds that he has no remedy against the supply of inferior paper. Unity of action on the part of manufacturers and uniformity of price are obvious.

Publishers who make inquiry of one will discover that the others have been advised of the inquiry. A secret bureau of information is at work. New selling agencies, representing an aggregation of previously independent mills have merged the output of those mills.

Various mills have been shut down for various periods upon various pretexts. We allege and expect to be able to prove that some of these mills were shut down to starve the paper market and to create a paper famine.

I would earnestly recommend that the North Carolina Press Association take this matter of resistance to this scheme of plunderers into serious consideration and formulate some plan by which we may unify and stimulate all our members to do their utmost to destroy this matter whose shadow is cast upon the whole country.

In my judgment there is nothing more practical or important before the newspapers of the country today, for we are face to face with a foe that will not parley or compromise, but that demands the earnings of the fraternity and will bear to nothing less. Speaker Cannon has decided to "investigate" and that proves the injustice and iniquity of the methods of this trust; but a united, determined, persistent and uncompromising effort on the part of all the newspapers of the country will mean not an "investigation," but annihilation. Let us all stand shoulder to shoulder in opposition to this most offensive and insatiable of all trusts.

I trust we are entering upon what shall be a session of unusual profit and pleasure. Accepting with pleasure the courtesies of our kind friends among the South, we joyfully know, so well how to make life sunny and sweet, let us not be lured away from our duties here, but make the meeting tell for our own good and that of others.

Like ships that pass each other on the wide and lonesome sea, and then break their way through the onward billows, we pause a little while from the grinding toll of the year and salute one another, returning to our work with our hearts teeming with happy memories. To me, this annual reunion of my fellow workers, this elbow touch with those who, like myself, are striving to make the world a little better because we live and labor, is a very helpful as well as a very happy occasion, and I always feel like poor Tiny Tim whose heart was so brimming full it could only burst out the childish sentiment that has become immortal: "God bless us every one."

The Editors Develop Difference of Opinion as to Partisan Press

Continued from page 1

Lenburg's goods roads, and on Thursday evening a reception at Southern Manufacturers' Club. On Thursday evening at 7:45 the Old Veto Choir will sing for the editors at the Selwyn. At 8:30 o'clock an informal smoker will be given at the Southern Manufacturers' Club.

The Personnel.

Among those who have so far registered are: J. D. Byvans, Albermarle Enterprise; J. P. Hurler and wife, Concord Tribune; H. A. London, Pittsboro Record; Maj. E. J. Hale, Fayetteville Observer; W. J. Jones, Snow Hill Standard; M. L. Shipman, Hendersonville Hustler; H. B. Varner, Lexington Dispatch; W. M. Moore, Lenoir Topics; W. A. Fair and son, Lincolnton News; J. A. Thomas and daughter, Louisburg Times; Zel P. Connel, Durham Recorder; A. J. Conner and daughter, Rich Square Times; J. A. Robinson, Durham Sun; Mrs. J. A. Noell, Roxboro Courier; F. M. Williams and wife, Newton Enterprise; H. C. Martin, Lenoir News; Rev. J. O. Atkinson, D. D., Elon College Christian Sun; R. M. Phillips, Newbern Sun; H. R. Kineaw and wife, Rocky Mountain Echo; Thad R. Manning, Henderson Gold Leaf; C. L. Stevens and wife, Newbern Journal; Miss Jessie M. Stevens, Newbern Journal; W. F. Swearingen and wife, Edenburg Transcript; W. K. Jackson, Washington Progress; J. J. Farris and wife, High Point Enterprise; Paul H. Elkins, Siler City Grit; Josephus Daniels, Raleigh News and Observer; Archibald Johnson and wife, Thomasville Charity and Children; Miss Mary Johnson, Thomasville; H. T. Hudson, Shelby Star; R. B. Clark, Tatesville. Landmark; J. B. Sherrill and wife, Concord Times; D. J. Wichard, Greenville Reflector; J. Z. Green and son, Marshville Our Home; R. F. Beasley, Monroe Journal; J. H. Quinn, Shelby Aurora; J. V. Simms, Raleigh Times.

Mayor Franklin's Welcome.

After a fervent prayer by Rev. J. O. Atkinson, President Johnson called Mayor Franklin to the front and he welcomed the delegates to Charlotte. He said that he had seen the city grow from 4,000 inhabitants to the leading manufacturing city in the state. Mayor Franklin attributed the phenomenal success of Charlotte largely to the influence of its newspapers, and the same thing was true of the papers of all the towns in the state.

"I want you to have a good time," said the mayor. "If you don't get all you want come to me and I will give you a ticket to Salisbury but it will not be good after May 26th."

Mr. Preston, Too.

President E. R. Preston, for the Greater Charlotte Club, added his welcome. He pictured the old time political speaking in 1898 as the moulder of public opinion and commended the press, in its mighty power today. It was expressed by the Duke of Marlborough when he said: "This villainous way of printing things stabs me to the heart."

Mr. W. C. Dowd, representing the press, said that Mr. Latta had given 800 tickets. Mr. Dowd warmly added his welcome to that of those who had preceded him.

Maj. London Responds.

Maj. H. A. London of the Chatham Record, replied to the speeches of Maj. H. A. London, of the Chatham Record, referring to the last convention which met here in July, 1892. Of the 72 members present, 46 are dead. Mr. J. L. Chambers, of the chamber of commerce, made the welcoming address then. The speaker commented on the rapid growth of the city since then.

Major London emphasized the fact that newspapers are not only the moulders of public opinion, but the developers of the state's resources, both material and moral, and said that it was significant that not a paper in

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North Carolina had come out against prohibition.

President Johnson's fine address is to be found in another column.

Mr. Green's Address.

"Independent Editorials in Country Weeklies," was the subject of an illuminating address by Mr. J. Z. Green, of the Marshville "Our Home." The country weekly has a field of its own. The editorial work on such a paper should be on a higher plane than that of mere party service. Among its readers there is a demand for independent editorials based on soundest thought and judgment. The constituencies of the country weekly are not easily excited or aroused over questions or partisan politics.

The editorials in a country weekly should not be limited to the field of party. Politics should not be rammed down the throats of the readers in season and out of season. The country editor who spends his time listening to the mouthings of the professional politicians who spend their time sitting around goods boxes, will lose opportunities of aiding in the developing of his community. Such men as these are not the builders of prosperity.

It is none of an editor's business how each individual votes. If he allows himself to become over-anxious on that question, he will be hampered and hindered in his larger work. Independence must be maintained. For every step of progress that has been taken has its genesis in independent thought and action.

The Religious Editor and Politics.

Rev. J. O. Atkinson, of The Christian Sun, had as his theme "Should a Religious Weekly Enter the Domain of Politics, and if so, to What Extent?"

"President Andrew Johnson," he began, "was, I think, falsely accused once of having repeated in his boyhood days that cherry tree incident attributed to George Washington. A late historian vehemently avers that this Johnson cherry tree incident is a vile slander, for two reasons: First, because Andy Johnson's daddy had no cherry tree in his garden; second, because the old gentleman had no garden to have a cherry tree in."

"Should a religious weekly enter the domain of politics? No, for two reasons: First, because when it enters politics, like those who entered Dante's inferno, as to their hope, it leaves its religion behind; and second, its entering politics is a good wife, who is asked to resign to leave behind."

The doctor then proceeded to relate the interesting discussion which arose between Parson Brown and Deacon Smith, on the possibilities of falling from grace. The former maintained the grand old doctrine of once sinned, always sinned, of which the latter was a bit dubious. The main cause of his doubts was his good wife, who rejoiced in the Christian name of Grace, without being in possession of all the qualities thereby connected, had once on a time fallen him to the kitchen floor with a blow of her broom. And if that was not falling from Grace, the deacon failed to be able to describe it. Like the deacon, the speaker was unable to call the entering of politics by a religious weekly by any other name than a "fall from grace."

The religio-political editor is a monstrosity. It is possible that religious men may and do edit papers. (Laughter.) But the religious editor who does his duty has no time to dabble in politics. His business is more serious; his task more tedious, more trying than that of the politician.

Religion Man's Chief Business.

Man's real business is not politics, but religion. Politics is a game, and in men exercised their passions, and in the other hand, a pastime. But religion is the most serious of human pursuits. It may be possible to gather a crowd for a few weeks previous to an election to hear public men and measure discussed. But such gatherings are not taking place throughout the year. On Sabbath, more people will be gathered in houses of worship to hear of the matters of religion than will gather on any single day during the approaching presidential campaign.

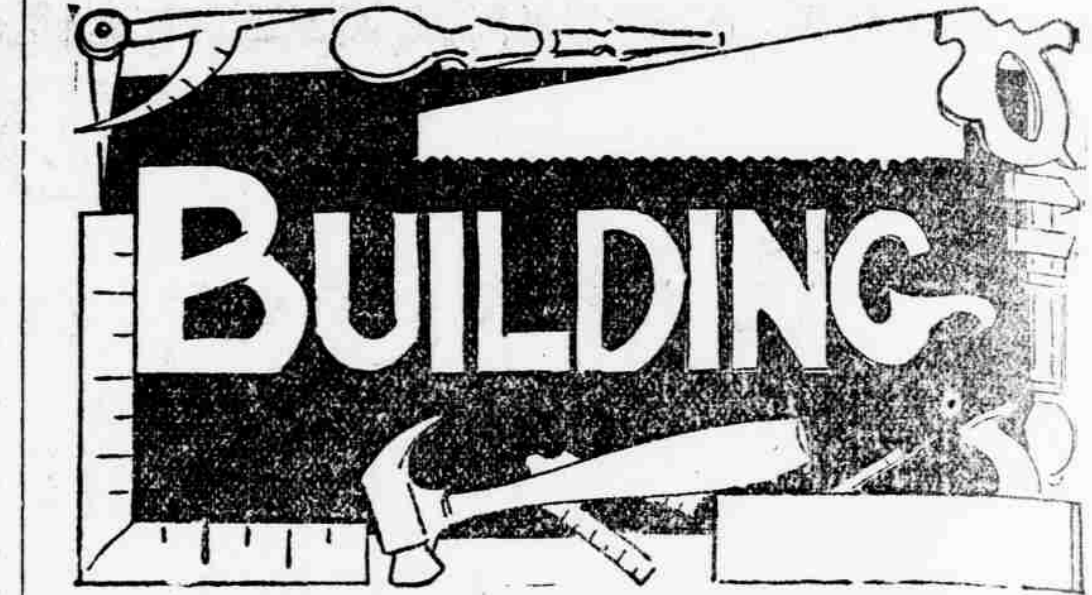
It is easy to see that a religious editor's sphere of action is higher and more vitally important than that of politics. It is his business to strive constantly to reach the serious and sober faculties of his readers. Would a sane and conscientious man neglect this, the vital part of his office, to mix in the common squabbles of partisan politics?

The origin of the religious weekly just a hundred years ago this year, was contemporaneous with the origin of the movement for foreign missions, and the beginning of the activity of the church in educational matters. This may be merely a coincidence, but if it is, it stands as a most striking one. The religious weekly has been called into the service of man for the betterment and uplift of the race. Shall this glorious object be prostituted to the baser realm of politics? Never!

Leave it to Partisan Press.

Let the religious weekly leave to the partisan press the discussion of pickles, and even pie; as to whether the latter shall be after the orthodox Down pattern or built heterodox, after the fashion of Iredell; whether it

"Macbeth" at the Edisona, Today



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Editor Beasley's Address. "The Editor and His Subscribers," was discussed by Mr. R. F. Beasley, of The Monroe Journal. The richest and most valuable asset of any paper he declared to be what is known as the good will. This consists of the proneness of the readers to stick by their paper. And in this sense the paper is the editor. The readers admire the same qualities in an editor as in a man. The sine qua non is a fair measure of sense and a full measure of courage, justice, fairness and generosity, in a word, honesty.

For Non-Partisan Paper.

A strong and impassioned plea was made for the non-partisan paper by Mr. H. C. Martin, of the Lenoir News. He averred that the great and increasing power of the press ought not to be forever enslaved under the yoke of party, but should be enfranchised to take its proper weight in the independent discussion of all issues. It is time that editors got together and framed a new Declaration of Independence, one which even The News and Courier would cavil at. In conclusion, and with due apologies to Leigh Hunt, Mr. Beasley recited the following verses:

"All hail the non-partisan, may his tribe increase; May we awake some night to a scene of peace. May we stroll in the moonlight within our room, Making it rich like a lily in bloom. An editor sitting by the table old, Turning out copy both spicy and bold; And may the face of this good man, Box the honest face of the non-partisan."

Mr. Daniels Champions Partisan Paper. After these able addresses from secular and religious editors alike, all pleading for independence from partisanship, Mr. Josephus Daniels, of Raleigh, arose and made a splendid defence of the editor who follows his party, because of profound conviction. Mr. Daniels did not take much time in his defence, but every sentence told. His graceful reference to Maj. Hale, of Fayetteville, as the editor of the oldest paper in the state, and one which had never been non-partisan a half hour in its whole history, brought forth rounds of hearty applause. He referred to Horace Greely as at the same time the most intensely partisan and the greatest independent editor the country ever knew. When he took his seat there was no doubt in any of his hearers' minds that there were two sides to the question.

The address of Third Assistant Postmaster General A. L. Lawshe, of Washington, D. C., on "The Post Office Department and the Legitimate Publisher," which was scheduled for this morning, will be heard this afternoon.

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