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# GREENVILLE INDEX

Andrew Joyner, Editor & Proprietor.

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## Senator Butler's Statement.

"I came down from Darlington this evening, where I have been the past twenty-four hours. As far as I could learn, everything is perfectly quiet. The civil authorities are prepared to discharge their duty. It seems that a number of State constables, or spies as they are called, had been in Darlington for the purpose of ascertaining if there was contraband whiskey there. In the searches which they made they were supported by the mayor and civil authorities of Darlington, and there was not the slightest resistance to the enforcement of the Dispensary law.

"This was prior to Thursday, March 29th. It appears that the force of constables or spies was increased on that day by a reinforcement of about eighteen men, armed with Winchester and pistols. It also appears that this armed band were about to retire from that community, where they had not been molested or disturbed, when a personal difficulty arose between two young men at the railroad station where these spies were. The difficulty, from what I can learn, was entirely a personal matter between the parties engaged, and in no way connected with the execution of the Dispensary law. One of these armed constables, McLendon by name, interfered in this difficulty. A citizen Mr. F. E. Norment, who went to the depot on business, made some remark and there was an exchange of epithets between him and this constable, whereupon the constable opened fire upon Mr. Norment with the remark—'G—d—t, boys, let her roll.' The firing then became general between the armed constables and the few persons who appear to have been at the station by accident or on business. The result of this firing was that two young offending citizens were slain, one constable killed and this man McLendon badly wounded; several other citizens were shot and the chief of police, who was trying to preserve order, several times wounded.

"The people of Darlington were naturally indignant at the extraordinary and violent measures adopted by the authorities of the State, and upon the information of this outrage at the station, they turned out and pursued the men whom they rightfully thought had committed a wanton and unprovoked murder upon two of their best citizens. They pursued these men, I take it, as long as there was a prospect of arresting them, and we must assume of bringing them to justice for what they considered an unprovoked homicide. As a proof of their conservatism, the wounded man, McLendon, who had shot Mr. Norment, was taken to the jail and there protected from further injury, although the people of the town were greatly infuriated at his conduct.

"Now it would seem to me that if I had been Governor of the State of South Carolina I would have felt it to be my duty, upon being informed of the occurrence at Darlington, to have gone promptly to the scene of disturbance and assured the people of that hitherto law abiding community that they should have fair play. I think if Governor Tillman had done this, matters could have been composed in twenty-four hours and whoever should have been proven to be at fault would have been made amenable to the law. Instead of that

he issued a proclamation denouncing the good people of these two counties as insurgents and insurrectionists, and ordered the military of the State to camp upon them. During my stay at Darlington I was deeply impressed with the anxiety of both citizens and the military to keep within the limits of the law. I advised, so far as I had the right to advise, that under our form of Government the military be subordinate to the civil power and the use of the military arm was only justifiable when the civil authority was proved to be powerless and paralyzed. And I think if Governor Tillman had or would recognize this constitutional relation of the two powers of our Government, he would avoid many of the mistakes which he has made.

"I can't comprehend what Governor Tillman means by his wild and reckless conduct. The thinking people of the State of all factions are tired of dissension, wrangling, and of his fire-alarm, pyrotechnic style of Government. It is having a bad effect upon the material and social interests of the State. It is making us an object of ridicule and a by-word with all enlightened, intelligent people. We want repose, quiet, peace, order. And it will not do for him to say that these disturbances are brought by an oligarchy or an aristocracy or ring. He has had undivided control of every department of the Government for nearly four years, and it is very strange that all of these disturbances and dissensions and all of this wrangling and bloodshed should spring from his own administration.

"He ought to call around him in council the most prudent and conservative men of all factions. No body wants to thwart him in any honorable effort he may make for general welfare of the whole people. He ought to know that he cannot run rough shod over the people or any part of the people of the State.

"I see by the papers that Governor Tillman in a letter to Captain McCaughrin, of the military company, has stated that the duty of the soldier, and the militia are soldiers called into service, is blind obedience to the orders from his superior and not to question them in any way. To my mind, this proposition is simply monstrous and is not true. No officer is bound to obey the order of his superior when the order issued is illegal. Nothing is better settled in military law than that. Suppose the Governor had ordered Captain McCaughrin to fire into a church filled with women and children; suppose he had ordered him to set fire to the town of Columbia; suppose he had ordered him to throw a train full of innocent passengers from the track. According to his theory, he would have to obey, and yet if he had obeyed Capt. McCaughrin and his company could have been arrested, tried and doubtless convicted of murder, of arson, or of incendiarism, and the order of the superior officer, the Governor, would not have protected him. This shows how wild and untenable and absurd is his proposition. I repeat, no officer can be compelled to carry out an unlawful order of his superior officers, and if he declines to obey it, the only penalty he incurs is trial by court martial. I would not advise any officer or soldier, in the military service of his State or elsewhere to acts of insubordination or disobedience of orders, but they are

as amenable to law as other citizens and should never forget that they are subordinate to the civil power of the Government.

"Why does he continue in his efforts to array class against class, county against town? Why will he appeal to the passions and resentments of the people rather than to their reason and wisdom and forbearance one for the other? We are one people, with a common interest and a common fate, and it behooves him, as it behooves all good and patriotic men of this State, to keep cool, to obey the law, and to respect honorable differences of opinion one for the other.

## An Interesting Prospect.

The prospect of a coalition between the Republican and Populist parties in North Carolina this year raises before the mental vision a prospect of exceeding interest. The sight of a gold standard Republican and a flat money Populist; a free-trade Populist and a protective-tariff Republican; a national bank Republican and a sub-Treasury Populist trotting in double harness will be a sight for gods and men. In Congress the Populist vote with the Democrats; in North Carolina it is proposed that they vote with the Republicans. In Kansas Populists and Democrats fuse to beat the Republicans, in North Carolina it is proposed that Populist and Republicans fuse to beat the Democrats. We want to see if the Republican and Populist leaders can hit it up. We don't believe it would pull even if it could be harnessed.—Statesville *Landmark*.

## Senator Vance.

Senator Vance is said to be suffering from an enlargement of the liver. By using highly concentrated food since his return here he has slightly improved in condition, but is not able to walk. The above information is on good authority, but does not come from a member of the family. Mr. Charles N. Vance tells me to-day that his father was badly jolted by the trip and did not rest well last night, but he is better to-day, and is recovering from the effects of the journey.—Charlotte *Observer*.

Capt. Ben Tillman, Governor of South Carolina, is giving some remarkable illustrations of autocratic government. The constables appointed to carry out his State Dispensary law have been paying domiciliary visits to private citizens. It would seem clear that if there are any constitutional rights and traces of the common law left in South Carolina, its citizens are justified in resisting, in protection of their homes against the incursions of the Palmetto liquor hunters.—N. Y. *Sun* (Dem.)

Statistics collected by the Manufacturers' Record show that there are now in the South 406 cotton mills, with 2,763,879 spindles and 62,052 looms. The capital invested is estimated at \$97,000,000, as against \$21,976,000 in 1880.

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