

THE GREENVILLE INDEX

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Unfortunate.

In the case of Edward Fuller sentenced to death in Fayetteville for the killing of Parker last summer, the Supreme court has granted him a new trial, and one of the errors in the court below was that upon reading an affidavit, that one of the jurors who tried the case and stated that he had not formed or expressed an opinion that the defendant was guilty, had made such statement before the maker of the affidavit, and the court below ought to have granted a new trial.

We were at school with Edward Fuller and feel a natural sympathy for him, but it seems to us that the Supreme court has opened the door for any amount of sharp practice. For instance, after a man is convicted of a capital felony, to save his neck a few friends can make affidavits that some particular juror had made a mis-statement on challenge to the favor, and get a new trial. The juror may never have done so, but release of the prisoner is in question and the whole mass of evidence of his guilt can be repeatedly brushed aside by this simple one of what a juror said, and the whole case is placed in the hands of the Judge, on whose decision an appeal is always taken, if unfavorable to the prisoner. His guilt may be established, but he can not be punished if this side issue is shrewdly worked and it always will be in cases of such importance.

Retrenchment.

The town of Greenville is in great need of water for fire and health. Some time ago the INDEX joined with the *Reflector* in calling for a higher tax levy, so that some permanent improvement could be done on our streets and water supply. Since then we must confess that the retiring board was right in not raising the taxes, unless a better system of spending the money was adopted.

We had not given the matter much study and are not thoroughly posted yet. But we know enough to believe that a general curtailment of expenses in salaries and fees in these pinch times is the first work the new board will devote itself to. And in this article it is not our purpose or wish to reflect on the conduct of the old board in the least, because we believe they acted under their best impulses. It is because we believe the new board will be actuated by a sense of duty to the public welfare, that we make these suggestions to them. The idea that the town must take care of any body, that its funds can be used to pension off any one, should first be routed out of the mind of a conscientious public servant.

The next question should be what

do we need. First a Mayor. Before he is elected let the Board determine what the services are worth, not how much a special favorite can get out of the treasury, the salary ought to be fixed before any one is selected. Now as to the salary, we venture to say that in proportion to the taxes collected and the duties of the office, a salary of \$50 or not more than \$100 would get the services of as good and patriotic a mayor as the present munificent sum of \$300 or \$400. The Mayor ought not to get the fees. The fines ought to go into the treasury or better still chronic law breakers ought to be worked in squads on the streets. By depriving the Mayor of fees, you dignify the office, you remove temptation to make the fines too light for the sake of the cost and you place the Judge above the criticism and slander of malicious or law breaking victims, and at the same time leaves him free to abate many nuisances, that for fear of being accused of trying to make a dollar he allows to continue.

The town councilmen have to do a great deal of work for nothing. They have besides to take all the cursing and all the responsibility. The Mayor does not lose one hour a week from his other business. He should be equally as patriotic as the councilmen and in these hard times \$50 a year is enough, \$100 a liberal allowance. Put the other \$300 in town wells.

As to policemen. Let the Board first decide what he is worth to the town, before they decide who he shall be. If one is enough and we think it is, decide on that. Then the salary, then the man, remembering that the whole well being of the town depends upon the peculiar fitness of the man for the position. It is impossible to measure the value of a first class peace officer in dollars and cents. It is also impossible to make a greater mistake than to select one simply because he comes cheap and promises much, but whose special merit for such position has not been established.

We hope the new Board will pull together for the good of the town regardless of personal preferences, prejudices or greed and we believe they will.

Let retrenchment be their watchword in paying salaries and liberality in water and street improvements.

Honors Thick And Fast.

Senator Jarvis will deliver the eulogy on Senator Vance before the Confederate Veterans Association in Washington, May 17th. He will discuss the "Obstacles to Southern Progress" at the Southern Industrial Congress in Atlanta and will deliver the literary address before Greensboro Female College, June 7th.

What a field, a whole plantation in fact, for the exercise of genius, what varied questions to analyze and audiences to gratify. Biography, statecraft and martial valor before veterans and warriors at the national capitol.

The science of industrial development, involving moral, social, politi-

cal and mental sciences to be presented at the South's industrial ex- hibition to the South's greatest leaders, thinkers and workers.

A literary thesis before the queens of beauty in the gem city of North Carolina. What opportunities our honored Senator has in two weeks to do what an ordinary man would hesitate to assay in five years.

He can rear grim visaged war's awful front at Washington, he can by industrial and industrious application of the arts of piping peace and pungent speech, smooth out his wrinkles at Atlanta and taking a chaplet of immortelles gleaned from the rapituous realms of romance, poetry and song, from where burning Sappho loved and sung, where Delos rose and Phoebus sprung, with the Scian and the Teian muse, the hero's harp, the lover's lute, he can weave it around the old Leathens erstwhile awful noddle at Greensboro, and present an Apollonian dode before whom even Methodist virgins could literarily "fill high the bowl with Samian wine" and figuratively or in figures "dance on Sulisrock or Parga's Shore" where nothing save the orator's echoes could hear their ribbons, laces and hearts flutter, and where fluttering they might adjourn to Sunium's marbled steep and swan-like they could sing and die.

We trust they will not do it, we only suggest that they might.

Keep an eye on them Governor.

Help Us.

ED TOR INDEX ;

The INDEX does Prof. W. H. Ragsdale our worthy Superintendent of Public Instruction a gross injustice, when it says that he has shown a strange indifference to the fight for a free school. In justice to him, I must say as one of the school committee, of this district, that he has done all that he could do in aiding me and am sure other members of the committee.

I have never gone to him for information or advice, that he did not with an especial interest give me all the help in his power; this criticism is unjust and unmerited. I am free to say, Prof. Ragsdale has always taken an especial interest in education even more than could be expected, as he has always had his time fully occupied with a full school and hence could not be expected to exercise himself as much as if he had only a thin school.

However the INDEX is right so far as the action of the public school committee is concerned, they could do nothing more than hold the public school fund until a sufficient amount was raised to procure a suitable lot and build a house.

B. F. Sugg.

Now, now Bro. Sugg, we didn't say a thing about Prof. Ragsdale. Of him we have the highest opinion as an educator, a scholar and a gentleman. We have often said he was the best teacher for boys Greenville ever had. But we spoke of a public officer, in his official capacity. If you had not blurted out his name, but few people in the county would have known who the Superintendent was. Now don't run away, hold on a minute. You say his time is so fully occupied with his full school, he cannot be expected to exercise himself so much with other matters. The

"INDEX" said his indifference, only as to the free school building in Greenville, was strange. Well it was strange until your explanation that he hasn't time to attend to such matters and it occurs to us that you are much harder on him than the INDEX was. We do not accuse you of doing him a gross injustice as you did us, but we hope you do. We believe on that point we had rather have you as a critic than a champion.

Just one more word. The advice and aid so freely given could not have amounted to much since it had convinced you that a public school could not be had in Greenville for a year or two more. The INDEX's labors have put a free school in sight, for the fruitless advice you have praise, for the accomplished fact you have only to say, that the author of it is guilty of gross injustice to your un-utilitarian adviser. We take it all back. It was strange before, but it is not now, since you have enlightened a wondering public. We thank you for praising us for praising you. You deserve all the praise we have ever given and your efforts for a school are more commendable than your censure of us.

SAY

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