

THE GREENVILLE INDEX

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One of the Causes of Hard Times.

Not the least of the evils consists in the wholesale perjury committed by some of our very "best citizens."

My one reason for a partial cause of the hard times exists in the cowardly, shirking, lying habit many people have of making false returns of their personal property for taxation.

The burdens of taxation fall unequally on account of it, and the honest man suffers because of his dishonest neighbor, his lying neighbor, his cheating neighbor and very frequently his old hypocrite of a neighbor; for very often he is a man high up in Church circles, and makes a great display of religion or, its better part, charity. In justice to the Church, however, it must be said that the tax return liar and perjurer exists in ranker proportions out of it than in it. However, if the one or the other returns his "household and kitchen furniture" at a valuation of \$500, when he has a piano worth nearly twice that much, the pecuniary result is the same. An examination of the tax books of Charlotte township, and I daresay of almost any other township in the State, will convince any fairminded man that moderately well-to-do people pay the most of the taxes, in proportion, of course. It is only fair, then, to assume that they are the most honest of our people. You can find by examining the tax books that several gentlemen of well-known wealth and richly furnished houses, make no return whatever of "household and kitchen furniture," and you will also find others who return those things at a valuation so low that you could find a painting or a single piece of furniture in their houses that they would not sell for that amount.

I think the highest return made in Charlotte township of "household and kitchen furniture" is \$900. Can it be true that the best furnished house and kitchen in Charlotte only cost \$900, or twice that amount, or even three times as much? Perish the thought. We are not such a poor or miserly people as that. The explanation is simple enough, as bad as it is. People, good people, too, have got into the habit of making false returns.

I heard a man say once, who stands high in the community, and who on the witness stand would rate as an A1 man, that he did not make full returns because others did not. That excuse was satisfactory to him, evidently, but he perjured himself like any other ordinary liar when he took that oath to "true return make," etc.

If the gentlemen who have discussed the matter of getting up a list of those suspected of making false returns and have them brought before a grand jury on a charge of perjury, will carry out their intention without fear or favor it will have a most excellent and wholesome effect.

Personally, I believe that the great majority of the people who do this infamous thing, do it in ignorance or through misapprehension. If so, it is only necessary to call their attention to those facts.

The North Carolina Democracy has done almost everything else toward making a perfect State government. Now let it take up this matter and add to the already rich lau-

rels of its achievements this one of righting a great and grievous wrong.—B. in *Charlotte Observer*.

Governor Tillman.

Governor Tillman, in or out of South Carolina, is an interesting personage. He was in Charlotte last night for 20 minutes, and the *Observer* monopolized him while here.

The *Observer* regretted not having its kodak along; it would like to have snapped the Governor as he appeared last evening. He wore a large black slouch hat, well pulled down over his eyes; a black suit that was rather a loose fit, and a black cravat that was tied in a big bow and was very limp looking. But this about the strongest evidence on record that "it isn't the coat that makes the man." No one can look into Tillman's face and doubt that behind that rough and uncouth exterior there is a force, brilliancy and power. His features bespeak it. He was particularly pleasant last night. His manner is cordial and free. When asked how things were in his State, he said "as dry as can be." "In which way, Governor?" was asked. "Oh," said he, "if you refer to whiskey I come from about the wettest State in the Union."—*Charlotte Observer*.

As You Sow So Shall You Reap.

Last evening about dusk two policemen wended their way to the lock up, having in charge a man who five years ago was earning \$7,000 a year as commercial traveler.

In those days he dressed handsomely, was a prince of politeness and a superb salesman. Now he is out of a job, penniless and almost an outcast, with old age creeping over him.

For two or three days he has been on a drunken debauch, and yesterday evening was unable to get away from a telephone pole, too drunk for anything.

Liquor never yet failed to get the best of a man if he only sticks to it.—*Greensboro Record*.

In one week's time we have seen of the death by morphine of four young North Carolinians cut down in the prime of manhood. J. J. Taylor, of Pitt county, Frank Day, of Edgecombe, Willie Bell, of Cleveland and Walton Busbee, of Raleigh.

We knew all of these men, they were good fellows, but alas! to what did they come.

We note that our Durham correspondent in giving an account, elsewhere published, of Marion Butler's speech at Durham, credits him with saying that Mr. Kitchen had said that Senator Jarvis would join the Third party if certain things should happen, and that he, Butler, expected to see him come over very soon. We have heard similar contemptible insinuations with regard to other gentlemen in the Democratic party. Such rumors are utterly unauthorized and without foundation, and they are thrown out by designing demagogues for a purpose. This purpose is two-fold. First, to attempt to deceive the people of the State into believing that these respectable gentlemen, who are grounded in the faith of the Democracy, have some sympathy with their nefarious movement, and second, it is an attempt to cast suspicion on these gentlemen, whom they are claiming in their mis-

erable hypocrisy as possible converts to their faith. Such insinuations are for a sinister purpose and are the outcome of a mean, unworthy motive.—*News and Observer*.

Silver was demonetized in 1873 and partially remonetized in '78 and '90. Mr. Cleveland and his Republican friends knocked the last prop from under it last year and not an ounce can be added to the currency now, not even the seigniorage lying idle in the Treasury. But to show that we are not alone in our contention along this line, we beg to reproduce the following from an editorial in the *Wilmington Messenger* in its issue of last Tuesday:

"If a man believes in silver as a part of the Constitution and as demanded by the Democratic party in the last National Convention, he can not without self-stultification and lowering his own self respect declare his indorsement of the action of the President or Congress in destroying it, in demonetizing it. A man would better be 'a dog and bay the moon' than to palter with convictions and play fast and loose with conscience."—*Webster Weekly*.

The Republicans are very well suited with the tariff situation. If the Democratic scheme of tariff "reform" can be beaten, and the McKinley act retained, why, they have regained all that they lost in 1892. If the "makeshift" which the Democrats are trying to pass is finally passed, the protective system has nothing to fear, having obtained from a Congress elected on a tariff-for-revenue only platform all that it requires, meanwhile giving a staggering blow at the cause of free trade in America. In any event, the Republican dogma of protection will be served by the delay, which, after all is over, and well over, for the Republicans, no protectionist will have any reason to complain of.—*Louisville Courier-Journal*.

There is no question that the Senate is trying the patience of the country most severely. There is hardly an organ of Democratic opinion anywhere that has not added its criticism to the long list of complaint at the inaction and wrong action of our upper House.

If the two or three Democratic Senators wish to take on themselves the responsibility of disregarding demands of a great majority of the voters of the United States, let the issue be made plain and the blame be put where it belongs. The Democrats of the House, who received their covenant directly from the people, cannot agree to any such betrayal without being accused of a desire to commit suicide.—*Asheville Citizen*.

The twelfth session of the general conference was the most progressive, some would say the most radical, since the general conference of 1866. They have given us a board of education, which the two preceding conferences tried to do but failed. They have given us a board of control for the Epworth League. They have changed the ratio of representation. One of the most radical changes was the transfer of licensing preachers from the quarterly to the district conference. We seriously doubt the propriety of this measure.—*North Carolina Christian Advocate*.

SAY

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