

GIDEON'S BAND.

The Secret Political Order Inside the Farmers' Alliance.

Reference has been made in this paper to the discovery in Georgia of a secret political society inside the Farmers' Alliance.

A speech delivered here by Rev. J. T. W. Vernon, president of the Hart County Alliance, has created a sensation.

It exposed a secret political agency in the Farmers' Alliance.

It was at a joint debate between the Democrats and Third party people.

Mr. Vernon is a prominent Baptist minister of Hart county.

There is no man more universally respected and beloved. As president of the Hart county Alliance he was a delegate to the State convention of the Alliance, which met in Atlanta last August.

Mr. Vernon opened his speech as follows:

"Democrats and Fellow Citizens: I come tonight to tell you of the goose that laid the egg that hatched the third party.

Most eggs are hatched in about four weeks, but it required six months to hatch the Third party egg."

Just here there was great restlessness. This anxiety was happily relieved by the sequel to Mr. Vernon's speech.

Mr. Vernon proceeded substantially as follows: "I was a delegate to the State convention of the Alliance which met in Atlanta last August.

At that meeting a secret body, within the Alliance, itself a secret body, was organized under the name of 'Gideon's Band.'

Only thirty members are allowed in this from each county in the State.

The initiation fee is \$2. I hesitated about joining that band, not knowing its purposes.

But the leaders insisted and finally proposed as I was a minister of the gospel to initiate me free.

I inquired if it would interfere with my politics or religion, and was answered in a negative."

Here the speaker paused a moment and looking straight at T. A. McFarland of this county, said: "You and I went together, didn't we, Brother McFarland?"

Brother McFarland didn't reply; but hung his head in shame.

"And," continued the speaker, "what did we find when we were sworn into 'Gideon's Band'?"

"That we were to bring into the band thirty men from our respective counties who were to manipulate the politics of the Alliance.

These thirty men were to control the offices, and force the member of the Alliance to vote for the men named by them.

Isn't this true, brother McFarland, and didn't you, when you visited my country last fall, inquire of me how I was getting along with the work of organizing 'Gideon's Band,' and didn't I tell you that I could have no thing to do with it, as it was inconsistent with the original principles of the Alliance, which promised equal justice to all and special favors to none?"

Be fair, now, Brother McFarland, and tell me if this is not true?"

But brother McFarland was dumb. The speaker continued: "You remember the sign of the brotherhood, Brother McFarland. If a member of 'Gideon's Band' desired to make himself known, he lolled his tongue, and if his brother happened to be one of the elect, he recognized the sign and lolled his tongue also.

Isn't this true, Brother McFarland?"

For a third time that evening Brother McFarland was dumb.

Mr. McFarland may cry 'falsehood' to the 'Gideon's Band,' but he did not dare to do it at Lavonia. He spoke after Mr. Vernon, but 'Gideon's Band' was not mentioned.

opened to be a man of no influence in Hart county, and as a consequence the Third party has no strength in that county.

Mr. Vernon said, "Gideon's Band is the goose that laid the egg that hatched the Third party."

Nearly two hundred of the best men in Franklin county heard Mr. Vernon's speech and are ready to give affidavits to the truthfulness of this report.

The Gideonites may cry "campaign story," but fair minded men will not heed them.

They may say that Mr. Vernon has misrepresented them, but they will not dare to say it anywhere on the soil of Hart county.

Mr. Vernon is a man whose honesty is unquestioned and whose life has been blameless.

The above publication arrested the attention of Mr. W. B. Gaither, of Newton, and he wrote to the chairman of the Democratic executive committee of Hart county, Ga., regarding the matter.

A copy of the reply has been kindly sent by Mr. Gaither to the Observer and is as follows:

HARTWELL, Ga., May 30, 1892. MR. W. E. GAITHER, Newton, N. C.

DEAR SIR:—Your favor to hand. Regarding the article in the Constitution to which you refer, will say it was published in the county paper before it was published in the Constitution, and has never been questioned that I have heard of.

I know Rev. Vernon and what he says can be relied on. He is an ex-president of the county alliance and stands well in the order.

The reason he exposed it—he told me that he was told before taking the obligation that there was nothing in it that would conflict with his religious or civil interests,

but after receiving the obligation he found he had been deceived and for that reason did not consider that he was bound by it, and not only that, but that he felt it his duty to expose anything calculated to do so much mischief.

When he delivered his speech the president of the Franklin county Alliance was present and asked to deny it if not true, which he did not do though he was a Third party man.

Truly yours, D. C. ALFORD, Chairman Hart Co., Ga., Dem. Com.

As further bearing upon the matter in question the following letter from Mr. Vernon himself, appearing in the Atlanta Constitution of June 1st, is of interest:

At Lavonia, Ga., on the night of May 14, I was introduced by Dr. Bonner as an Alliance Democrat of Hart county, not as the president of Hart county Alliance, as I do not hold that office at this time.

I was their first president and served them as such for two years, and for that reason, I suppose, the correspondent still thought I was president. I have held the office of county lecturer for the last two years and am still in that office.

I did not say that the State Alliance had anything to do with the 'Gideon Band.' But I do say that I was a delegate from Hart county to the State Alliance and during that meeting Mr. DeJarnett, of Greene county, was the man that told me all I know about 'Gideon's Band,' and he said he was authorized to get up such a band in each county in the eighth congressional district and there was one appointed in each congressional district in the State.

And that it was like 'Freemasonry,' one degree higher than the regular Alliance and would not conflict with my political and religious views.

I being a Mason knew if it was like Masonry it was a good thing. Two dollars was the initiation fee. With this assurance from DeJarnett, Brother McFarland and myself were initiated into one of the most corrupt machines of political corruption that was ever concocted on American soil.

I was to pay him when I got the band made up, and I will do it when I make it up. I consider such an organization a clear case of conspiracy against the principles of the Alliance and as such I would have nothing to do with it.

Last fall when Dr. Robbins was going around lecturing the county Alliance in this district, DeJarnett was with him and they came to my house and DeJarnett wanted to know if I had the band ready for him to organize.

I told him that I had done nothing. I at once saw that he was crest-fallen for he had lost his fleece.

Brother McFarland is as high-toned a gentleman as there is in Franklin county, and I knew he was a truthful man and I could appeal to him while I was exposing Gideons' Band, that if I made any false statement for him to correct me, right then and there. Brother McFarland

did not say a word in answer to my statement, as everyone present that night well knows. I am sorry that Brother McFarland or any good man would suffer themselves to be shorn of their grown locks by the Delilah and fall into the hands of the Philistines.

This is all I know personally about "Gideons Band." I have heard some things that gave rise to "Gideons Band" at Ocala, Fla., which if so would be worse than dynamite in the Third party camp.

I have endeavored to answer your questions as asked in the Constitution so far as my personal knowledge goes. I request all Democratic papers in Georgia to copy the above in justice to myself and to good government and to the welfare of the glorious old Commonwealth.

I cannot be heard much longer as I am in my seventieth year, but I still love my God, my country, my wife and children and white supremacy. Hoping and praying that the last mark or resemblance of the Third party may be wiped out at this fall's election never to be resurrected for the sake of greed and office.

J. T. W. VERNON. It is alleged that this order has been established in North Carolina. It is clearly in violation of the laws of the State, and the Observer does no more than discharge a plain duty when it warns those who may be solicited to join it to beware of it.

The undoubted existence of this order brings directly before the people the question whether they are yet willing to have government given them by a dark-lantern society composed of thirty members in each county.

What do they think of it anyway? What do they think, on principle of secret political societies?—Charlotte Observer.

IT SHOULD BE IN EVERY HOUSE. J. B. Wilson, 371 Clay St., Sharpburg, Pa., says he will not be without Dr. King's New Discovery for consumption, coughs and colds, that it cured his wife who was threatened with pneumonia after an attack of a gripple, when various other remedies and several physicians had done her no good.

Robert Barber of Cookport, Pa., claims Dr. King's New Discovery has done him more good than anything he ever used for lung trouble. Nothing like it. Try it. Free trial bottles at Dr. Lawing's drug store. Large bottles, 50c and \$1.

NEEDING A TONIC, or children who want building up, should take BROWN'S IRON PURGATIVE. It is pleasant to take, cures Malaria, Indigestion, Biliousness and Liver Complaints.

ONE WORD. I come to you with a small affair that you may need. In England, the continent, and many foreign countries, myself and wares are well known.

Many American families on their return from abroad bring my articles with them, for they know them pretty well, but you may not be one of these.

Confidence between man and man is slow of growth, and when found, its rarity makes it valuable. I ask your confidence and make a reference to this journal to indorse that confidence.

I do not think it will be misplaced. I make the best form of a cure—an absolute one—for biliousness and headache that can be found in this year.

The cure is so small in itself, and yet its comfort to you is so great—20 minutes being its limit when relief comes—that it has become the marvel of its time.

One and a half grains of medicine, coated with sugar, is my remedy, in the shape of one small pill, known to commerce as DR. HAYDOCK'S NEW LIVER PILL.

It is old in the markets of Europe, but is new to North America. The price is as low as an honest medicine can be sold at, 25 cents. Send a postal card for a sample vial, to try them before you purchase.

DR. HAYDOCK, 63 Fulton St., N. Y. March 18 1892. —BUCKLEN'S ARNICA SALVE—

The best Salve in the world for cuts and bruises, sores, salt rheum, fever sores, tetter, chapped hands, chilblains, corns, and all skin eruptions, and positively cures rashes, or no pay required. It is guaranteed to give perfect satisfaction, or money refunded. Price 25 cents per box. For sale by J. M. Lawing, Physician and Pharmacist.

COUNTY DIRECTORY. Sheriff, A. Nixon, Lincolnton, N. C. Clerk, Supt. Court, C. E. Childs, " " Reg. of Deeds, B. C. Wood, " " Treasurer, L. T. Wilkie, " " Surveyor, C. C. Bass, " " Coroner, J. C. Cooper, " " Supt. Pub. Inst., A. C. Hottenstein, " " BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS. T. H. Hoke, Chm'n., Lincolnton, N. C. A. L. Cherry, " " Triangle. J. E. Reinhardt, " " Iron Station. P. A. Reep, " " Reesville. W. M. Hall, " " Orleans.

COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION. R. Z. Johnston, Chm'n., Lincolnton, N. C. J. C. Bass, " " M and U. S. M. S. V. Goodson, " " POST MISTRESS. Miss Nannie C. Hoke.

TOWN OFFICERS: Mayor, S. G. Finley. Secretary & Treasurer, W. R. Edwards. Town Const. Chas. Jetton. Commissioners:—A. Nixon, J. L. Cobb, Dr. J. M. Lawing, L. J. Houser, W. L. Crouse, L. T. Wilkie, J. A. Abernethy.

ARRIVAL OF MAILS. Mails on C. R. Railway, distributed 6:30 P. Mails on North Gauge Railway, distributed 4:00 P. M. and 11 M. Star Route, via Reesville, leaves Lincolnton at 7 A. M. Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays; arrives at Lincolnton at 4:30 P. M. on Fridays, Thursdays and Saturdays.

PUBLIC SCHOOLS open December, January, February and March. BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS meet first Monday in each month. TOWN COUNCIL meet first Friday night in each month, at 7 o'clock.

BOARD OF EDUCATION meet first Monday in January, June, September and December.

"There are thousands of mothers in our land who are at a loss for some method by which they may practically educate their sons and daughters.

There are also very many gentlemen and well-bred, intelligent, accomplished and versatile men who would gladly undertake the training of girls and boys, and fill their minds with sensible ideas and thoughts, as well as the necessary common school branches of education.

Such an arrangement would be an almost priceless advantage to both parties, in furnishing employment for a class of men and women who just at present have but little field for the exercise of their abilities, and also in bringing out a class of girls and boys who will be practically as well as theoretically educated and accomplished.

—New York Ledger. When Baby was sick, we gave her Castoria. When she was a Child, she cried for Castoria. When she became Miss, she clung to Castoria. When she had Children, she gave them Castoria.

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THE LINCOLN COURIER.

Published and Edited by J. M. ROBERTS, LINCOLN, N. C.

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A COMPLETE NEWSPAPER. THE PRIDE OF NORTH CAROLINA. B. Kingsbury, LL D.

Wm. H. Hearne, —Editorial Staff Do you want to aid in building up a paper that shall reflect the greatest credit on North Carolina? no matter where it may be seen then patronize

—THE MESSENGER,— Published in three editions. The Daily Messenger and the Weekly Messenger, Published at Wilmington, N. C.

The Goldsboro Transcript Messenger Published at Goldsboro, N. C. They are Large Eight Page Papers. Do you want a reliable paper giving you all the news of the world— a Democratic newspaper that equals the best—has the largest circulation and has for more than 21 years been a part and factor in the growth and development of the Old North State?

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Dr. Talmage's Sermons are feature of all three Papers. RICHMOND & DANVILLE RAIL ROAD. South Carolina Division, & L. N. G. [Daily except Sunday.] IN EFFECT May 15th, 1892.

CHESTER & LENOIR N. G. R. R. Southbound No. 11 Northbound No. 12 Lv. 8:30 am Lenoir Hickory Newton Lincolnton Dallas Gastonia Yorkville Chester Ar. 2:45 Lv. 9:16 p m Ar. 8:05 7:15 6:20 5:33 5:20 4:10 Lv. 3:05am

CHESTER & LENOIR N. G. R. R. Southbound No. 9 Northbound No. 10 Lv. 4:05 pm Chester Richburg Fort Lawn Lancaster Ar. 6:28 Lv. 11:38 am Ar. 10:49 9:58 Lv. 9:20

CHARLOTTE & STATESVILLE. No. 64 mixed No. 65 mixed Lv. 5:20 pm Charlotte Ar. 11:20 am 6:42 Huntersville 10:05 Davidson 9:35 Mooresville 9:07 Statesville Lv. 8:00

Daily. No. 12 No. 11 Lv. 10:45 am Charlotte Ar. 6:20 pm 11:30 Huntersville 5:37 11:50 Davidson 5:16 am 12:09 Mooresville 4:57 Ar. 12:55 Statesville Lv. 4:10

No. 12 leaves Statesville for Taylorsville 1:10 p. m., arrives Taylorsville 2:25 p. m. Returning, leaves Taylorsville 2:50 p. m. arrives Statesville 4:00 p. m.

For detailed information as to local and through time tables, rates and Pullman sleeping-car reservations, confer with local agents or address— Jas. L. Taylor, Gen'l Pass. Agt., Atlanta, Ga.

W. A. Turk, A. G. P. A., Charlotte, N. C. A. Dodson, Supt., Columbia, S. C. W. H. Green, Gen. Mgr., Atlanta, Ga. Sol Haas, Traffic Mgt., Atlanta, Ga.

CAROLINA CENTRAL SCHEDULE. MOVING WEST. NUMBER 42— Daily except Sunday. PASSENGER, MAIL & EXPRESS TRAIN. STATIONS. ARRIVE. LEAVES.

Wilmington a m 9:20 Charlotte p m 4:13 Paw Creek 4:27 Mt. Holly 4:39 Stanley Creek 4:58 Iron 5:17 Lincolnton 5:34 Cherrysville 6:05 Waco 6:14 Shelby 6:33 Lattimore 6:50 Mooresboro 7:00 Ellenboro 7:08 Bostic 7:20 Forest City 7:30 Rutherfordton 7:40 p m

MOVING EAST. NUMBER 36— Daily except Sunday. PASSENGER, MAIL & EXPRESS TRAIN. STATIONS. ARRIVE. LEAVES.

Rutherfordton a m 9:00 Forest City 9:09 Bostic 9:16 Ellenboro 9:29 Mooresboro 8:35 Lattimore 9:44 Shelby 10:04 Waco 10:23 Cherrysville 10:32 Lincolnton 11:03 Iron 11:21 Stanley Creek 11:41 Paw Creek 12:00 Charlotte 12:28 Wilmington 7:18 p m

Through passenger train No. 38 leaves Charlotte via Hamlet and Raleigh for Portsmouth, Va., at 4:30 a. m. Through passenger train No. 41 leaves Portsmouth, Va., at 8 a. m. arrives at Charlotte 11:00 p. m. Wm. Moncree, Supt.