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SIMMONS' DEFENSE.

He Makes a Perfect Defense Against Charges of O. N. Vance. Senator Vance Did Not Oppose Simmons on Grounds of Charges Against His Personal Character.

To the Editor:

I have been shown a letter written by Mr. C. N. Vance, in which it is intimated that the papers in the matter of my confirmation as collector, which are now in my possession, had been improperly abstracted from the files of the senate finance committee.

With reference to this statement of Mr. Vance, I wish simply to say that I received these papers through Senator Ransom by express in September, 1894, with the following letter from Senator Ransom's private secretary:

United States Senate,
Washington, Sept. 20, 1894.

Hon. F. M. Simmons,
My Dear Sir: I send you by express today a package of papers which Gen. Ransom requested me in a letter of yesterday to send you.

With best wishes, I am, truly yours,
(Signed) A. BARNES.

Concerning what Mr. Vance says about my not being for silver until after the people of the State became for it, I only wish to say this: That I made my first speech for silver in 1891 at a public gathering in Craven county, at which were present, among others, William H. Oliver, of Newbern, and Sheriff W. B. Lane, of Fort Barnwell, who well remember this speech. Since then I have advocated silver in every campaign in North Carolina. In 1892 I was criticized for being more pronounced for silver than the national platform of that year. In 1894, at a State executive committee meeting in the senate chamber, I made a speech in which I stated that we would not regain possession of the State until our national platform declared unequivocally for free silver. Gov. Jarvis and the Hon. Samuel F. Patterson have a distinct recollection of this speech.

Mr. Vance intimates in his letter that his father's opposition to me was based upon grounds reflecting upon my personal character. In answer to this, I beg to say when I was first offered the position of collector, I stated to Senator Ransom that I would not accept it if there was any opposition on the part of any member of the North Carolina delegation in congress, and was assured by him that there was no opposition. On the night of that day I visited Senator Vance at his house. Immediately upon his coming into the room, he remarked to me: "We are all for you for collector or anything else that you want in North Carolina. Your services to the party entitle you to it."

Sometime after my appointment, it began to be stated in the papers that Senator Vance was opposing my confirmation. I made a special trip to Washington to see him. In a conversation with him in the marble room I stated to him that I had seen some intimations in the papers that he was opposing my confirmation; that in view of what I had heard from the North Carolina delegation and from what he had stated to me in his own house, I could not believe it, and would not believe it until I heard it from him. He answered "Simmons, I am not opposed to you, but Ransom is fighting his choice for collector in the western district and I am bound to fight back. If you will get Ransom to withdraw the name of Kope Elias and let Gudger (meaning Hazekiah A. Gudger) be appointed collector in the western district, you can be confirmed in 24 hours."

I told Senator Vance I could not control that, but I would report to Senator Ransom what he had said, and this I did.

Every member of the North Carolina delegation knows that Senator Vance was in favor of my appointment up to the time of the difference between him and Senator Ransom with reference to the appointment of Mr. Gudger. Senator Vance's opposition to my confirmation, so far as I have ever known, sprang out of these differences between him and Senator Ransom. Senator Vance never fled under his own signature any charge whatever against me. If he or anyone else had any charge affecting my personal character, they have never been made known, although, in a letter which I published about this matter after the contest over my confirmation arose, I asked that every charge against me be made public, and the charges on file were published, and none others. And I now ask

if Mr. Charles N. Vance, or anyone else, has any charge or knows anything against my personal character, that he make it public, to the end that the people may pass upon it and that I may have an opportunity to answer it. I denounce as cowardly any intimations that there are charges against my personal character, without stating the charges specific.

The only charges made against me in connection with my confirmation as collector are a charge filed by S. Otho Wilson, chairman of the People's party executive committee, in 1892, J. F. Wray, member Republican executive committee of Rockingham county of that year, by John B. Hussey, then and now a Republican, and by Maj. E. J. Hale. The charges of all these persons except Maj. Hale were of a purely political character and related entirely to a circular issued by me as chairman of the executive committee in 1892, with reference to the decision of the supreme court in the case of Harris vs. Scarborough. The charges made by Maj. Hale referred to certain differences between him and myself with reference to the platform of the Democratic congressional convention of the third district, of which I was a member, and to the correspondence between Mr. Harriety, chairman of the national Democratic executive committee, Maj. Hale and myself with reference to that convention.

The statement made by J. F. Wray is addressed to the Hon. John Sherman and other Republican senators. The statement made by Thos. S. Malloy is addressed to the Republican senators, Washington, D. C. The affidavit of S. Otho Wilson sets forth my circular letter referred to above and charges that it was the means of suppressing a large number of Populist votes. The statements of Wray and Malloy also set forth that this circular was the means of suppressing Republican votes. The statement of John B. Hussey involves the Hon. Robert M. Furman and the Hon. A. C. Avery, and is given below. In order that it may be seen who John B. Hussey is, I publish below a statement by A. V. Dockery, assistant secretary State Republican executive committee, in the campaign of 1892, and I find in the papers:

In justice to myself, I publish below certain endorsements of myself which I find among the papers filed in this contest; one being from all the Democratic State officials, another from the entire membership of the supreme court, and another from all the Democratic members of congress; also letters I find in the papers from the late Judge R. F. Arntfield and the Hon. Robert W. Winston, then judge of the superior court.

This whole controversy was in 1893-4. Since then I have been twice chairman of the State Democratic executive committee, in 1898 and 1900, and during those years I have never heard of any charge made against me that reflected upon my personal character by any Democrat until now that I am aspiring to the position of United States senator. During those years the fusionists have charged against me the same things that they have charged against the whole Democratic party of the State, but outside of charges with reference to the election in North Carolina made by our political opponents, no man, in all my life, has ever made a specific charge against me affecting my honor in the slightest, so far as I know. If any man has such a charge, I challenge him to bring it forward.

I prize character more than I do position or wealth, and I wish to say to the people of the State that while I would feel it a great honor to represent this State in the senate, I would not care for the place if I had to obtain it by the destruction of the private character of any man.

If Senator Vance died feeling unkindly towards me, as his son says he did, knowing as I do the reason for his opposition to my confirmation, I did not entertain any such feelings towards him, nor do I entertain any such towards his memory.

F. M. SIMMONS.

(Copy.)

To Whom it May Concern:

The undersigned states, upon oath, that he was present at a conference between F. M. Simmons, chairman of the State Democratic executive committee of North Carolina, R. M. Furman and Hon. A. C. Avery, associate justice of the State supreme court, in Raleigh, N. C., at committee headquarters, September, 1892, when what is known as "The Simmons Secret Circular" was prepared. Affiant was present, not by invitation, but in a newspaper capacity. The circular was written by Mr. Furman, the Democratic candidate for State auditor, acting during the campaign as assistant and advisor to the chairman of the State committee. From what transpired, affiant believes that the circular was the suggestion and inspiration of Judge Avery. Its object, as then stated, was to meet the difficulty involved in a recent decision of the supreme court (Harris vs. Scarborough, 110 N. C. Reports), which Judge Avery himself had rendered, practically requiring a new registration of voters in the State. In addition to the great apathy, there was a formidable revolt against the Democratic party, and

Torturing skin eruptions, burns and sores are soothing at once and promptly healed by applying DeWitt's Witch Ham Salve, the best known cure for piles. Beware of worthless counterfeits. J. E. Hood.

general apprehension disaster was entertained by the executive committee. It was believed, and as stated in the conference aforesaid, that a new registration under the circumstances would be fatal to Democratic success in the State. To obviate this, "The Secret Circular" in question was prepared and, as its terms indicate, was issued as a "confidential communication, only intended for the instruction and guidance of Democratic county committees and election officers." As Justice Avery was leaving the committee room, in response to a message summoning him to the death bed of Chief Justice Merrimon, he impressed upon the committee the importance of the greatest secrecy, both in the printing and delivery of the circular, indicating about what time it should be issued and saying, in substance, that if the Republican committee got wind of it, it might rebound and do more harm than good.

Speaking of this circular and the effect of it to Hon. L. E. McComas, then secretary of the national Republican committee, affiant said it would cost the Republicans and Populists thousands of votes, and, in his opinion, would offset practically the revolting element in the Democratic party. In affiant's opinion, from what occurred antecedent, during the preparation and subsequent to its issuance, the object of the circular was fraud.

(Signed) JOHN B. HUSSEY.
(Copy.)

Raleigh, N. C., Jan. 30, 1894.

Hon. F. M. Simmons, Raleigh, N. C.:

Dear Sir—The charges fled against you by Mess. Malloy, Wray and Cooke, as I understand them from reading this morning's paper, do an injustice to public sentiment and ought to have no weight among honorable men. I held a semi-official position as assistant secretary with the Republican State executive committee in the campaign of 1892 in this State, and I believe I had the confidence of Chairman Eaves, and he is an honorable man. I wrote many of the letters and had charge of the printing, etc., and perhaps can speak something to the point. The fight against you in these affidavits is not of true Republican origin, nor by such desire, but of the Populist party's dying confession of its own incompetency to fool people at that election. During the campaign the two committees (of the great parties) acted as such committees would have done in any other State. Advantages were taken by each of them, and no sooner did your committee issue the circular referred to than our committee got a copy of it and immediately sent out twenty or thirty thousand circulars to counteract it, advising our people to register at once under the decision of Harris vs. Scarborough. I myself had these printed. I addressed and mailed all of them. I sent one or more to every Republican county chairman and to more than one Republican in every voting precinct in the State, and even to Warren county, besides to other persons.

Our committee regarded your action as shrewd, and we felt equally shrewd in being able to so quickly counteract it. There was no thought that you had done anything unfair in politics or that we ourselves would not have done.

The Col. John B. Hussey who files an affidavit against you was in constant communication with Capt. Eaves, both while in Raleigh and from other points during the campaign. I saw during this campaign several telegrams known to be from Hussey, though signed fictitiously, one of which I distinctly recollect, asking Capt. Eaves to meet a certain party in Greensboro by a certain train. We thought him to be connected with the Republican national committee or its funds. We knew him to be acting against the Democratic party while professing to be a Democrat. We knew him to be especially favorable to Thomas Settle's election, and we had little confidence in him. There is much more at the back of this which can be forced out, but, as I write this much without having had a word with Capt. Eaves or Mr. Taylor Walsler, secretary State committee, with whom I labored for undiluted Republicanism during this campaign, I must stop at the remark that all of us regarded you as a strong and honorable foe.

Some little justice requires this much to be said from those who fought you straightest and hardest, and whatever my past or present affiliations, I lovelier play, shall help to get it for others and assert it for you.

Yours truly,
(Signed) A. V. DOCKERY,
Asst. Sec. State Repub. Ex. Com. of N. C.,
Campaign of 1892.

(Copy.)

Raleigh, N. C., Feb. 17, 1894.
To the Honorable the Finance Committee
U. S. Senate, Washington, D. C.:

Gentlemen—We respectfully ask your honorable body for speedy action on the confirmation of Hon. F. M. Simmons to be collector for the Fourth collective district of North Carolina. Mr. Simmons has been in public life in this State for some years, an ex-member of congress in high standing, and we take great pleasure in certifying to his integrity of

GENERAL NEWS.

Matters of Interest Condensed Into Brief Paragraphs.

Senator Sherman left an estate of \$2,500,000.

Suit has begun in Nebraska against the biscuit trust.

The First National Bank of New York offers \$5,000 reward for the arrest of Teller Alvord.

Warby Wias, a negro, was hung at Orangeburg, S. C., Friday for the murder of C. J. Paulding.

Wm. J. Beckley, bookkeeper and teller of N. W. Harris & Co., bankers, of New York, has been arrested on the charge of stealing \$6,400 from the bank.

Capt. W. B. Pendleton shot and killed his neighbor, Wm. Francisco, at Curaco, Louisiana county, Va., Friday, during a quarrel about a right-of-way across Pendleton's land.

The gold in the U. S. treasury Friday amounted to \$451,477,404, the highest point ever reached since the foundation of the government. This is said to be the largest gold fund in the world.

New York city was ablaze for Bryan Saturday night. He was greeted with continuous ovations and thunderous applause. He spoke to tremendous crowds and aroused great enthusiasm.

The Boers have captured Jacobodal, southwest of Kimberly, after a stubborn resistance by the garrison, which consisted of a detachment of Cape Town Highlanders. The latter suffered severely, losing 35 out of 52 men.

Mrs. Annie Hart, upon whom William Schreiner squandered a lot of money stolen from the Elizabethport, N. J., bank, has turned over \$24,000 worth of property to the bank and the bank has given a release of all claims against her.

A French experimenter has succeeded in melting wood. He places it in a closed vessel, from which the gases are not permitted to escape, and after undergoing a process of dry distillation the wood is reduced to a molten condition. When cooled the new substance is hard, may be shaped and polished, is impervious to water and acids, and is a perfect electrical non-conductor.

The Chinese minister at Washington has received a dispatch stating that Kang Yi, a member of the cabinet with Young Lu and one of the intense anti-foreign leaders, whose punishment was demanded by the powers, is dead; also Yu Hsien, the late governor of Shanghai, who is said to have been responsible for the death of many missionaries, has committed suicide. Minister Wu regards this act as the result of the disfavor which the high officials have received from the throne. Minister Wu's advice also show that Prince Tuan has been visited with severe censure from the throne, and to such an extent that it would be no surprise if he followed the course of Kang Yi and Yu.

Too Much Latitude.

With a bright smile the beautiful Eskimo girl left us to join the merry throng in the ballroom.

"Your daughter is a gay butterfly!" I exclaimed, desiring to be very complimentary.

"For my part, I don't think much of this social life," replied the mother, with sudden vehemence. "The idea of dancing every night till away along in March and then lying in bed next day until Aug. 1 or such a matter!"

It was on my tongue to say that these young people had too much latitude, but I checked myself.—Detroit Journal.

Turned Into Trade.

A retired cheesemonger, who hated an allusion to the business that had enriched him, said to Charles Lamb in the course of a discussion on the poor laws, "You must bear in mind, sir, that I have got rid of that sort of stuff which you poets call 'the milk of human kindness.'"

Lamb looked at him steadily and gave his acquiescence in these pithy words: "Yes, I am aware of that. You turned it all into cheese several years ago."

A Shifting Location.

"Midgely is a poetical fellow. I asked him how tall his new sweetheart is. He answered, 'Just as tall as my heart.'"

"There is no sense in that—anyway not in Midgely's case. He told me that the first time the girl's gruff old father came into the parlor his heart was in his boots."—Cleveland Plain Dealer.

There's a Girl Worth Having.

He—I don't believe your father will give his consent. I haven't got much, you know.

She—That doesn't matter. The first month we can live on love, the second I'll begin to borrow things from mamma and about the third papa will get tired of it and come to the rescue.—Stacy Stories.

Mrs. Holt, mother of the late Gov. T. M. Holt, died at her home at Haw River Saturday afternoon, aged 85 years.

STATE NEWS.

Interesting North Carolina Items In Condensed Form.

The Grogan brick block at Winston was damaged by fire Saturday.

Oak Ridge beat Bingham School playing football Saturday, 23 to 0.

Mr. H. A. Foushee, Carr's manager, says he is confident Gen. Carr will win at the senatorial primary.

It is stated that the new registration in the State last week will not exceed one percent, added to that of the August election.

Staff Turner, a popular young Rockingham county man, was accidentally killed while playing baseball near Reidsville Saturday.

The Virginia A. & M. had an easy victory over the N. C. A. & M. College football team at Raleigh Friday, winning by a score of 20 to 2.

W. B. Henry announces that he has left the Populist party and will support McKinley. He is a federal officer under McKinley—a bank examiner.

The University of North Carolina and the Virginia Polytechnic Institute played a match game of football at Chapel Hill Saturday. It was a fine game, neither side being able to score.

James L. Marshall, one of the county convict guards, was knocked down and robbed north of Winston Thursday night. He lay on the ground alone and unconscious all night. His assailant got a silver watch and \$50 in money. Marshall's condition is considered serious. He is at the hospital. His skull is fractured. A white man named Sam Marshall is in jail charged with the crime.

Raleigh Post: At the opening meeting on October 22nd of the Empire City Jockey Club at Yonkers, New York, the world's record for a mile and a quarter running race over a circular track was won by Charentus in the remarkable time of 2:04. In this race Charentus broke the record and beat "Imp," noted as a great racer and the winner of so many races. This is of especial interest in Raleigh because of the fact that Charentus is well remembered here, having been bred, born and raised on the Tucker "Waverly Farm" near Raleigh.

The agricultural department has issued its October Bulletin, which is devoted almost entirely to the game laws of the State. It says the game laws are now so involved as to be a "mass" even to a lawyer, and that there is urgent need of a simple law to supersede the mass of old ones, and also to allow the farmer to sell permits to hunt on his land. It says the farmers ought to rigidly enforce the game laws, punish trespassers, and let the public know that game is property and has a market value, and to charge so much a day for the shooting privilege, say 50 cents a day for a 100-acre farm and 75 cents a day for a farm over 100 acres. The Bulletin says all sportsmen will hail this arrangement with delight, and that farmers can have blank permits for a day's shooting printed and sell them. They now have to give permission to hunt on their land, in some cases verbal, in others in writing.



Show us a fault in our business and we stop it at once, no matter how profitable. We don't believe a fault can ever be really profitable.

They said our Ague Cure was too bitter and powerful for the weak digestion of malarial illness.

We have corrected the fault. It's cost us thousands of dollars to do it, but we have corrected it.

And there is no better medicine under the sun for every form of malaria than this new Malaria and Ague Cure.

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Ayer's Sennapilla | Ayer's Hair Vigor
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AUGUST FLOWER.

"It is a surprising fact," says Prof. Houten, "that in my travels in all parts of the world for the last ten years, I have not more people having used Green's August Flower than any other remedy for dyspepsia, deranged liver and stomach and for constipation. I find for tourists and salesmen, or for persons suffering from nervousness, headaches and general feelings from irregular habits, and Green's August Flower is a grand remedy. It does not injure the system by frequent use, and is excellent for some stomach and indigestion." Sample bottles free at Tripp's-Marston drug stores. Sold by dealers in all civilized countries.