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THE ROCKET.

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VANCE TO HIS PEOPLE.

TIMELY AND ABLE ADDRESS

A MOVING APPEAL TO PATRIOTISM.

God Has Afflicted North Carolina's Beloved Senator, But He Has Left Him His Clearness of Head and Purity of Heart—A Forceful Review of the Situation—An Earnest Warning Against the Dangers Which Surround Us—The Attitude and Purposes of the Two Parties.

To the People of North Carolina:

FELLOW CITIZENS:—For many years past I have been in the habit of visiting you in person during every important campaign and addressing you upon the political issues of the times. Being on this occasion prevented this privilege by the condition of my health and earnestly believing that the questions to be decided by our November election are of vital importance to the public welfare, I am induced to contribute, in this way, my share in the discussion of them.

I regard the situation as most critical. Since 1860 the legislation of our country has been almost exclusively within the power of one political party. Naturally it has ceased to be general in its beneficence and has become local and partial in the extreme. The law-making power has become the fearfully efficient implement of such classes, corporations, cliques and combinations as could by fair means or foul obtain control of it. It has been made to subserve purely personal ends. In divers ways the taxing power of the government has been perverted from the public to private purposes, and moneys levied thereby to enrich manufacturers, to suppress rivalry in business, and, in every conceivable way, to help the favored few at the expense of the many.

The varied corrupting influences upon the business world arising from this legislation produced their natural effect. The classes whose business was thus favored, flourished apace, whilst the unfavored have experienced in the midst of peace and plenty all the losses and hardships commonly felt only in time of public calamity; and the extraordinary spectacle is presented of a nation whose aggregate wealth is rapidly and vastly increasing whilst the individual wealth of its chief toilers and wealth-producers is diminishing in proportion thereto.

From the Republican party, with its disregard of the limitations of the constitution and its natural dependence for support upon the money of the people whom it has enriched, all of this corrupt legislation has proceeded. Without it, there was nothing evil done that was done. It follows as an undeniable truth, that whoever directly or indirectly upholds, helps or supports that party is a friend to the corruptions which it has produced, and is an enemy to those who would repeal that legislation and reform the abuses founded upon it. There is no escape from this.

The Democratic party, on the contrary, believes in the strict limitations of the constitution, and has as a party steadily opposed all abuse of the taxing power of the general government for private purposes; and has unceasingly advocated the most absolute and perfect equality of all citizens in the legislation of our country. There is not a single wrong or injustice of which complaint is made in our laws for thirty years past, which can justly be charged to the Democratic party.—It has ever been a break water against the tyrannical tendencies of the Republicans; and though in a minority, has been able to prevent some of the worst legislation ever attempted and to modify other laws which in their original iniquity would have been intolerable. This statement of the acts and purposes of the great political parties cannot be truthfully denied.

Now, what is the situation? What is the manifest duty of our people to do in the coming elections? The two great political parties into which our people are mainly divided are once more in the field with their platforms of principle and their candidates, State and Federal, thereon. The Republicans profess all of their

old doctrines from which have come the evils of which the people complain; they glory in that abuse of the taxing power which has made a few rich and millions poor; and, seeking new fields of injustice and oppression, they openly declare their intention to take from the States the right to control the election of their own representatives, which is the chief bulwark of their rights and liberties.

The Democrats re-affirm their adherence to the constitution, their opposition to tariff robbery, to banking monopoly and to corporate oppression in all its forms, and their desire to have the power to control elections where the constitution left it, and where it has resisted for more than one hundred years. Primarily, it would seem that no Democrat, and especially Southern Democrat, could hesitate a single moment as to which of these parties deserved his support.

But a new party has arisen which is endeavoring to make people believe that the Democratic party is no longer to be trusted. The argument to prove this is a travesty on common sense; that because for thirty years they have as a party steadily opposed all abuses and have not at any time been able to prevent or reform them, therefore it is no longer worthy of the support of those who desire a reform. The meaning of this is: The Democratic party has been guilty of being in a minority. Its sin consists in not having done that which it could do. Then they in effect say: "Let it be condemned, whilst the Republican party, which has had the power and actually did all these things, and still has the power to undo them and does not, is acquitted. Nay, we will help it to keep in power by betraying and destroying its only enemy."

Therefore the Democratic party, with its vast organization in every State, county and township in the United States, with its control of one branch of Congress, and comprising in the popular vote a large majority of all the people in the Union, being not strong enough heretofore to effect reform for which it has labored and wished, being without the Senate and Executive; they claim the only chance for reform is to vote for the candidates of this Third party, whose existence in the national government and power to control its legislation are evidenced by three or four members of the House of Representatives and two in the Senate! Common sense and self-preservation would seem to dictate that we should help the Democrats, who are almost in power, to get together in power, and trust them to correct abuses as they have promised. One strong pull at the polls in November next would give them control of both branches of Congress and the Executive, and the long night of misrule and injustice would burst into the dawn of a new and better day. It would be time enough to leave them and form a new party when they had been tried and had proved faithless.

But the leaders of this new party, falsely called the "People's," insist that you shall abandon the Democratic party now and vote with them. I am grieved to know that there are quite a number of our fellow-citizens in North Carolina who propose to follow that advice. It strikes me as the very extreme of unwisdom; and, when done with a full knowledge of the consequences, it ceases to be mere folly and becomes a crime. For, whatever may be the hopes or the wishes of these men, they know as well as they know of their own existence, that this party has not only no chance of electing their candidates at the polls, but also none of throwing the election into the House of Representatives, about which they appear to be most sanguine.

Let no man be deceived about this. The handful of votes which will be cast for Weaver in this State, be it as large as they can honestly claim cannot wrest the electoral vote from Cleveland and Harrison, so as to help throw the choice into the House. It is absurd to hope so; but thirty thousand votes taken from Cleveland and given to Weaver will throw the vote, not indeed into a Democratic House, but into the hands of Harrison.

This result is so plain that the Republican leaders, notwithstanding their professions to the contrary, determined to not let slip the opportunity, and they are now ready with full tickets and a complete organization, to avail themselves of everything which the dissension and folly of our people may throw into their laps. Their promise to run no State ticket were manifestly made with the intention of alluring a Third party ticket into the field, trusting that when men get hot and bad blood prevailed, they might walk off with the prize in both State and Federal elections. Alas! that want of reflection or patriotism should render this scheme a probable success.

Indeed, it is so plain that no intelligent man can fail to see it, or an honest one deny it that the only probable, not to say possible, result of the Third party movement in North Carolina this fall will be to elect a full Republican State ticket and to aid in the election of a Republican President and House of Representatives. What is to be gained by that result I need not ask. How the reforms which they profess to desire are to be obtained through Republican success in something which surpasses human conjecture. No true friend of this commonwealth, I am sure, will contribute to this result.

It is reported that a prominent candidate on the ticket of the Third party says he had rather submit to negro or any other kind of rule than such as we have at present; but I am forced to believe that, if this be true, there are very few other white men of North Carolina who are outside of the penitentiary or who ought to be outside, who entertain sentiments so foul and brutal. Our people know that under Democratic rule they have had good laws, low taxes, economy and purity in the administration of their affairs, and I hope and believe they will not lightly risk its overthrow by casting useless or hopeless votes in November.

The class of our people who have had greatest cause to complain of vicious legislation is the agricultural. The party which has steadily resisted this, and continually declaimed against it on the hustings and have struggled manfully to repeal it in the halls of legislation is the Democratic. You will bear me witness that unremotely since I have been your representative in the Senate, I have both spoken and voted against that unjust legislation. At home, as you know, I never ceased to expose its inequalities and to advise the farmers to organize to resist it. When they did begin to combine they had the sympathy and good wishes of almost every just man in the United States who was not in some way the recipient of the plunder arising from this abuse. Never was the political movement of our people founded upon better grounds or more reasonable complaint. But that which I feared and warned them against soon came to pass. Men who had little interest in agriculture, and much interest in their own fortunes, aspired to be its leaders. Often men who had failed to obtain office from either of the old political parties, concluded to FARM THE FARMERS and raise personal crops of honor and profit out of them. They pressed to the front, thrust real farmers aside and involved the Alliance in the wildest and most impracticable propositions ever heard of among sane men; and, in defiance of their constitution soon converted it into a mere political party, composed of the discontented and the disappointed elements of society, professing no fixed political principles or regard for the constitution of their country, but striving only to obtain the very worst of class legislation, which is their sole idea of statesmanship.

Their proposition to purchase and control all the lines of transportation and telegraph in the United States, at the expense of many billions of dollars, and of refunding to the soldiers the difference between paper and gold at the date of their payment, at least a billion more; of loaning people money on real estate at lower rates, or interest than the market rates, and kindred schemes, are so preposterous that to argue them seriously is a slander upon our civilization; and the advocacy of such measures by the hitherto con-

servative element of our society is a notification to all the world that we are approaching that stage of demagogism and communism which mark a people as unfit for self-government. My unflinching confidence is in the true farmers of North Carolina, who, as members of that Alliance, will I trust, not permit their noble order and their just cause to be thus prevented and debased.

Rest assured that no real friend of that noble class of men who, under the providence of God, give us our daily bread, will ever consent to this degradation of their cause into the obsequious tool of unscrupulous, ambitious men, forfeiting the sympathy of all moderate people, and making the very name of Alliance to stink in the nostrils of justice and common sense. I can but believe that the good judgment of our farmers will enable them to see where their leaders are taking them, and that their native honesty will impel them to draw back in time to save their country.

Many of our people, it is true, have objected to Mr. Cleveland, and preferred that he should not have been nominated. I confess that I was among that number. But an individual preference before the nomination of a candidate is one thing, and the duty of a true man after that nomination has been fairly made, is another and very different thing indeed. In the one case a preference may be indulged properly, without danger to the principles we profess or the party which has those principles in charge; in the other case we endanger both and falsify our pretensions by contributing undeniably to the success of our adversaries.

If we refuse to abide by the voice of the majority of our fellow Democrats freely and unmistakably expressed in friendly convention, there is an end of all associated party effort in the government of our country; if we personally participate in that consultation or convention and then refuse to abide by the decision of the tribunal of our own selection, then there is an end of all personal honor among men, and the confidence which is necessary to all combined effort is gone forever. The man who bets, proposing to collect if he wins and to repudiate if he loses, is in all countries and among all classes of people considered a dishonest man.

But if the considerations of god faith do not influence men's actions in such a case as this, surely those which pertain to the public welfare ought to be decisive. If not satisfied with Mr. Cleveland, it seems to me that an honest man should balance accounts pro and con, in this way: "Cleveland agrees with me in desiring to reform the oppressive tariff taxation; to restrict the abuse of corporate privileges, to repeal the tax on State banks, and thereby to balance the currency; and above all, he is vehemently opposed to force bills and all similar attempts to destroy the rights and liberties of the States. In all essential reforms he agrees with me except in the single matter of the free coinage of silver, and in respect to this, there is reason to hope that the same candor and vigorous investigation which brought him in full sympathy with his party on the great question of tariff reform will soon bring him to see the absolute necessity of maintaining both of the precious metals on a par, to meet the urgent needs of the currency of the world. Harrison, on the contrary, agrees with me in nothing. There is no change or reform which I desire to which he is not bitterly opposed, and his party with him. Why then should I hesitate? Either my vote for Weaver, will help Harrison and injure Cleveland or it will not; it cannot avail Weaver, for he has no chance whatever—will probably not carry a single State. Why, then, should I risk my doing a damage to the candidate who would do most for me, though he does not promise to do all, and contribute to the election of the one who promises me nothing but an indefinite continuance of existing wrongs and an insistent threat of other and greater wrongs as soon as he has the power to perpetrate them?"

It seems to me, fellow citizens, that the path of duty was never more plain or the necessity of walking in it more imperative than it is at this moment.

Let me beg your earnest consideration of the situation before you vote in November; and before you cut loose from the old, constitutional Democratic party, which in times of our extreme peril has so often brought us forth out of the house of bondage, and abandon its shining banner to follow reckless and incompetent men into the wilderness of their unreal schemes. Think well of the possible result of your action; how easy it is to destroy—how hard to rebuild.

I recently cut down in my mountain forest in about five hours, a tree that had taken five hundred years to grow. The Democratic party is strong and able and willing to help you. Its arm is not shortened that it cannot save you. To cherish and uphold it is the dictate of patriotism and common sense.

Your fellow citizen,
Z. B. VANCE.

"Gombron," near Black Mountain, Sept. 17th, 1892.

Historical Fact About the Tariff

Correspondence of THE ROCKET. Everybody, who knows anything about politics, is aware that the Republican party favors what is known as "high tariff," and that the Democratic party opposes it. Knowing the position, then, of the two parties, it becomes the duty of every Southern man to ask himself the question, "Am I benefitted or injured by this tariff?" If it is a benefit to me and the South, then I will vote with the Republican party and for it. If it is injurious then I should vote with the Democratic party and against it.

Go to almost any store where school books are for sale and ask the loan of a Goodrich's Child's History of the United States; turn to page 201, verse 4, and read these words: "In order to protect, as it was called, the Eastern States, Congress, in 1828, increased the duties on foreign manufacturers. This BENEFITTED THE NORTH and EAST because they had no more cheap foreign goods to compete with. But it WAS INJURIOUS TO THE PEOPLE OF THE SOUTH, who naturally preferred buying foreign goods cheap to buying domestic goods dear." And again on the next page, 202, we read these words: "I said in the last chapter that the SOUTHERN STATES WERE INJURED by what was called the 'tariff of 1828. A tariff is a law which fixes the duties that imported goods shall pay on entering a country.—The tariff was altered (increased) in 1832 and the changes were STILL MORE INJURIOUS TO THE SOUTH."

Mr. Goodrich, the man who wrote this history is a Northern man from one of the New England States—Massachusetts or Connecticut, I think—a manufacturing section that favors this "high tariff" which he states is "beneficial to the North but injurious to the people of the Southern States." If Mr. Goodrich had written within the past two years he could have added with as much truth, that the tariff was again increased when the McKinley bill went into effect in 1890; thus making the tariff still more injurious to the people of the South. Yet in the face of these naked facts some of our people persist in voting the Republican ticket, thus helping to fasten upon themselves and the South a burdensome tax (for the tariff is a tax) which is reducing us year by year to almost abject poverty.

W.

DEAR SIR:

I purchased one of the Electro-pose on the 5th day of May, and began using it on Mrs. Hazel, who is eighty-five (85) years old. She has had the rheumatism and asthma for twenty-five or thirty years. She was relieved from the first application of the pose, and has greatly improved beyond our most sanguine expectations. I recommend it to the afflicted. Believing it to be all that you claim for it, I am yours respectfully,
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