

LIBERTIES OF THE PEOPLE IN DANGER.

A Secret Political Organization Equaled Only by the Union League—S. Otho Wilson, Chairman of the People's Party, Chief.

ASHEVILLE, N. C., Oct. 7, 1892.

DEAR SIR—I have your recent favor enquiring about my connection with the order known as Gideon's band, and in answer would say: S. Otho Wilson initiated me in the order of Gideonites at Goldsboro in August, 1891, on my return from the state alliance which met at Morehead. He kept the obligation I took and I do not know its exact terms, but will assure you it was a regular "raw lead and bloody bones" affair. I was ashamed of it as soon as I found out what it was, and have had nothing to do with it since. If I had known beforehand what it was I would not have joined it. But Wilson told me it was a good thing and would aid the alliance cause, and being an earnest alliance man I joined.

As soon as I thought about it after having learned what it was, I saw it was a dangerous thing, and no honest man could have anything to do with it.

Tom Long told me the other day I was the cause of the third party being a failure up here. I reckon he had reference to my failure to work and fight in Gideon's army.

The plan of the Gideon's band, as I remember it, is about this: There is a state chief, who was at that time, as I understood, S. Otho Wilson; there is also a chief in each congressional district; and a sub-chief in each county, whose duty is to obey and have executed the orders of their immediate chiefs, they getting their orders from the state chief. A failure to obey is made in the obligation a very serious offence. There are three hundred members of the band in each congressional district—the number in each county I have forgotten.

I am thoroughly impressed with the idea that this is a dangerous order if it is being worked in North Carolina. About this I don't know, because, as I said, I concluded to have nothing to do with it as soon as I learned what it meant, and as I came out strong for the democrats soon after I was initiated by Mr. S. Otho Wilson I suppose they became afraid of me. At least, Wilson did not send the papers he said he would send to me. Yours truly,

(Signed) M. L. REID.

HON. F. M. SIMMONS,  
Raleigh, N. C.

BELL CROSS, N. C., Oct. 12, '92.

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

MY DEAR SIR—Answering your favor of recent date, in which you ask me to give you for publication what I know about the existence in North Carolina of an order known as the "Gideon band," I would say, at Gatesville, in Gates county, in December, 1891, Mr. S. Otho Wilson, in the presence of Mr. James B. Brinson, of Pamlico county (district lecturer for the First district,) I being then state lecturer, proposed to me that I should become a member of the said order. I replied to Mr. Wilson that I could not consent to connect myself with the band unless he would first reveal to me the character and purpose of the order. This he consented to do upon my promising secrecy. Mr. Wilson then read me the obligation which he wished me to take, and outlined the general objects and purposes of the order.

The obligation was a very rigid one, and according to my best recollection the penalty of disclosure of the secrets of the order was death.

The plan of organization was as follows: A national chief, a state chief, a district chief and a county chief. The state chief received his orders from the national chief, the district chief from the state chief and the county chief from the district chief. The membership in each congressional district was 300, and in each county, I think, no more

than thirty. This thirty were to be especially selected for their efficiency and influence, true and tried men who could be relied upon under all circumstances, in all meetings, etc.

It was the duty of these chiefs and members to obey and execute all orders emanating from their superiors. Mr. Wilson stated that the object of the organization was to aid and promote the reform movement. The initiation fee was \$2.00. This conversation took place after Mr. Wilson's return from the Indianapolis alliance council.

After Mr. Wilson had revealed the whole thing to me, I told him I regarded the movement, as outlined by him, as being a very dangerous one, and that I thought it would result in the destruction of the alliance and the defeat of the reform movement then proposed, and I positively refused to have anything to do with it. Mr. Wilson then bueened in my presence the obligation which he had read to me, and pretended he was merely considering the advisability of organizing the order, although I have since learned he had initiated Mr. M. L. Reed, of Buncombe, during the previous August, appointed him chief in the Ninth congressional district.

During this conference Mr. Wilson stated to Mr. Brinson that he had selected him to be chief in the First congressional district.

Yours respectfully,

(Signed) J. S. BELL.

MR. EDITOR—Through the medium of the press I desire to lay before the people of North Carolina two letters recently addressed to me by Mr. M. L. Reed, a member of the present house of representatives and a prominent member of the alliance, and Mr. J. S. Bell, a member of the present state senate, and recently state alliance lecturer, disclosing the existence in this state of an unlawful and dangerous secret political society, whose chief is S. Otho Wilson, the official head of the people's party in North Carolina.

The letters show conclusively that this society did exist in this state but recently, and if it has ceased to exist, the duty of showing this fact rests upon the men who, it is shown, introduced it.

In exposing this dangerous scheme to the liberties of the people and the peace and good will of society, these gentlemen but discharge a plain duty of good citizenship. The facts which they have disclosed clear the mists from the present anomalous political situation in North Carolina, and explain many things connected therewith, otherwise unaccountable because so radically at variance with all the known characteristics of our people. It accounts for the refusal on the part of many of those supposed to be under the influence of this society to bear discussion upon important questions affecting vitally their highest interests; it accounts for their refusal to read literature not having the stamp and sanction of the leaders in this movement; it accounts for their bad temper and the absence in their political conduct of that independence and conservatism which has ever been a distinguished characteristic of the North Carolina "breed" wherever found; it accounts for the automatic and subservient manner in which in their political evolutions they move and act; it accounts for the remarks we frequently hear coming from the simpler but more honest of these people to the effect that they cannot do what they know and admit to be their political duty because they are sworn to do otherwise; and it accounts for the humiliating fact that a people hitherto brave and free have apparently surrendered their independence fettered, their consciences and ceased to act as free men.

There have been many rumors and whisperings of the existence here of this "dangerous band," but until the letters of Messrs. Bell and Reed there was no tangible evidence; and I now submit these proofs with full confidence that the conservatism of our people will not be slow to repudiate it, and fittingly rebuke the desperate agitators and demagogues who dared introduce it.

F. M. SIMMONS,

Chairman Dem. State Ex. Com.

The Episcopal Convention.

The general convention of the Episcopal church, now in session in the city of Baltimore, is perhaps composed of the most intellectual body of men that has ever convened in this country. It meets triennially, and consists of the house of bishops and the house of deputies, the house of deputies being composed of four clergymen and four laymen from each diocese. These two houses are similar to the senate and house of representatives of the United States. No law can be made by either house without the concurrence of the other. The Rt. Rev. John Williams, Bishop of Connecticut, is the presiding officer of the house of bishops and the Rev. Dr. Morgan Dix, Rector of Trinity Parish, New York, is president of the house of deputies. Dr. Dix is a model presiding officer. He is a man of sound judgment, never loses his head, is very courteous and as firm as a rock. One gentleman who as it seemed to me, spoke rather feelingly upon the subject, remarked that Dr. Dix ruled the convention "with a hand of steel inclosed in a glove of velvet." As a parliamentarian Dr. Dix is said to be not inferior to James G. Blaine, Henry Clay or Thaddeus Stevens, confessedly three of the ablest parliamentarians that this or any other country has ever produced. In private life Dr. Dix is one of the gentlest of men. To know him is but to love him. Bishop Phillip Brooks, of Massachusetts, attracts much attention. He is a man of imposing presence of great personal magnitism, and preaches with a wealth of thought and words that is almost bewildering to the ordinary hearer. Perhaps no clergyman of any body of Christians is so widely and so favorably known as the great Bishop of Massachusetts of world-wide sympathies of purest life, of devoutest consecration to the Master's work. Bishop Brooks is probably the most useful man of his age, and is greatly beloved by the members of every communion. One of the most remarkable men in either house is Bishop Sessums, of Louisiana. He is but 34 years of age, and looks like a boy, and a dudish boy at that. But he is a giant intellectually. He graduated with the highest distinction at the University of Sewanee, studied law at University of Virginia, and afterwards graduated at the General Theological Seminary of New York. On Friday evening of last week, he delivered a lecture on "Christian Unity," which for depth of thought and purity and vividness of diction could hardly be surpassed. A brilliant future is before him. Bishop Kinsoloing, of Virginia, is another giant, physically as well as intellectually. He is 6 feet and 4 inches high, and weighs 225 pounds. He is a great preacher, and withal, a great walker. His walking feats in the mountains of Virginia are said to be equal to those of Weston the pedestrian. Bishop Kinsoloing has the highest opinion of North Carolina soldiers. "You Tar Heels," he said, "had more go and stay about you than any other troops in the confederate service—except the Virginia troops. I can't go back on my own state. But I will say this: "You were equal to the Virginians and I could pay you no higher compliment than that." The time of the convention so far has been mainly occupied with the revision of the prayer book and of the hymnal. It is claimed that both of these works will be greatly enriched and improved by the revision. I hope so, and I hope further that they will remain untouched for the next 100 years. The proposed canon on divorce excites no little interest. The present canon per-

mits a minister to "solemnize the marriage of the innocent party in a divorce for the cause of adultery." This canon, in my opinion, should be altered. The marriage fit is indissoluble. "For better, for worse" "until death do us part." These are the words of the marriage service, founded upon our Lords own words: "What God hath joined together, let not man put as under. They twain shall be one flesh." Other matters affecting the discipline and worship of the church will come up for consideration during the present week. The growth of the church for the past 3 years has been simply marvellous—especially in the great west. There our church has done her most effective work. At the present rate of increase she will soon possess that imperial land. J. A. W. Hickory, N. C., Oct. 20, '92

HE DREAMED A DREAM.

Joseph Keaton has Dreamland Visions on Elections.

A telegram from Greenup, Kentucky, tells of the remarkable dream of Joseph Keaton about presidential elections and how he has hit it every time with wonderful precision Eight years ago, just before the presidential election, he dreamed of crossing a high and very narrow bridge. He says he had a rough journey, but reached the end. Just as he did he lost one of his shoes. He interprets it by saying the bridge represented the journey Cleveland had to the white house and the lost shoe the death of Hendricks. Four years later he had a similar dream, in which he found himself passing through a deep forest whence he never emerged. This he interpreted as presaging the defeat of Cleveland, which occurred later.

Last week in dreamland he says he was crossing another bridge much higher than the first and so narrow that he was afraid to walk, but sat astride and "cooned" it along. Near the middle of the bridge he discovered a hatchet, which he carried with him. He had not traveled much farther until he found a use for it in removing nails he found partly driven in the woodwork, after which he proceeded in safety to the end, when he found a beautiful green field filled with sweet flowers and heard bands of music playing and tuneful voices singing loud hosannas. Mr. Keaton says he cannot yet see what the hatchet and nails represent, but he is fully assured that Cleveland will have a safe journey to the white house and some good things will grow out of his administration.—[Durham Sun.]

A Damnable Sentiment.

We would be shocked or astonished at nothing which we might read in the National Republican, published at Washington, D. C.; but, straightout Republican as it is, we are surprised at this paragraph from the Philadelphia Press:

"If the Democrats had never been allowed to regain control of the State governments of the South Northern capital would never have embarked in the development of Southern coal; and the surest and speediest way to put a stop to this competition from men who are our political enemies as well as our commercial rivals is to carry through and enforce measures like the Lodge election bill."

This is a brief paragraph, but it is as full of meaning as an egg is of meat—of hideous, cruel meaning.

Crisp in Michigan.

DETOIR, Oct. 19.—The democrats had their demonstration last night. Speaker Crisp was given an enthusiastic welcome. He spoke at great length on the tariff question, and made a good impression with his logical discussion of the subject.

A SAD FAREWELL.

The Farmers' Alliance Entreats Third Party Men to Return, if not, Farewell.

At a meeting of the Leachburg farmers' alliance, No. 85, Johnston county, N. C., the following resolutions were adopted October 15, 1892:

Whereas, The farmers' alliance of North Carolina, and of other states, has, under the influence of designing men and demagogues, perverted the original intention of the order, and contrary to the constitution thereof, has formed itself, in part, into a new political party; and

Whereas, The majority of the members of this alliance have strenuously opposed such a political movement from its inception; therefore be it—

Resolved 1st, That the farmers' alliance is, under the constitution, non-partisan.

2. That the forming of a new political party is violation of said constitution, destructive to the order itself and injurious to the best interests of the country.

3. That the principles of the alliance in the true sense of the word are of democracy and indentical.

4. That we shall support the democratic ticket, as heretofore, believing it to be the only party of tariff reform, economy, justice, and the proper administration of the government.

5. That we regret the chism in the alliance, believing that if we had steered clear of politics and worked in the old parties as heretofore, great good would have been the result.

6. That we are still proud of the constitutional element of our order, always true, conservative and abiding.

7. To the members of the alliance who are "third party" men, we would say: Farewell, we cannot affiliate with you; you have been miseducated; you are fatally injuring the order and your own selves personally; come back if you will; we will forgive you and receive you as brothers; if not, a sad farewell.

Lastly, that a copy of these resolutions be sent to the Progressive Farmer, STATE CHRONICLE, News and Observer and the Smithfield Herald with the request that the democratic press of the State will publish the same. Adopted unanimously by a rising vote.

H. B. BRADY, Sec'y.

Oct. 15 1892.

Gen. Sickles Defends Cleveland.

From a Speech in Utica

Now as to President Cleveland's record in behalf of the soldiers. They charged that he has vetoed a good many pension bills. So he has. I have read his vetoes. I am a soldier. I love my soldiers. Had I been president and a congress had passed such bills for my soldiers, I should have vetoed every one of them, too. They were mostly all frauds and shams, and I had no frauds under me. Any right-minded man, sworn to discharge his duty, would have signed these vetoes as president Cleveland did.

Chairman Simmons says that post-office officials have been guilty of robbery of the mails in their desire to serve the republican party. Mr. Simmons specifically states that September 23rd he sent each county chairman a sealed letter, containing instructions in regard to registration under the new election law. Having reason to believe his mail had heretofore been robbed in transit, he addressed a letter to each chairman inquiring if he had received the letter of above date. About fifteen replied that they had not; the remainder acknowledged receipt. Chairman Simmons says he is now in possession of direct information that a number of those which failed to reach their destination are in possession of Chairman Eaves, of the republican state committee, who, being pressed to tell how he obtained them, said some of the democrats to whom they had been sent had proved traitors and forwarded them to him.