

# THE HOME RULE.

EQUAL RIGHTS TO ALL—SPECIAL PRIVILEGES TO NONE.

VOL. I.

RALEIGH, N. C., THURSDAY, MAY 12, 1898.

No. 4.

The First Regiment is momentarily awaiting marching orders, and by the time we go to press, no doubt, they will be on their way to Chicamauga.

We hope our friends will send us the result of their county convention, all over the State, names of delegates, and whether for or against fusing with the Democrats, or uninstructed.

We want short articles of news from every county in the State; also the political news. Send all communications to the HOME RULE; also remittances for subscriptions to same address.

We are sorry to note the misfortune that has come to Sheriff Webb, of Burke county, who has lost his mind and is now an inmate of the Morgantown Asylum. We trust he will soon be restored.

We have received a great many responses from friends all over the State to our very liberal offer in sending the HOME RULE to clubs of five or more from this date until December 1st for 25 cents each. We hope the friends will spread themselves for the next thirty days. If each one will do his part the HOME RULE will have the largest circulation of any paper in the State.

We are glad to announce the appointment and commission of Dr. B. F. Dixon, of Cleveland county, as Major of the Second N. C. Regiment, United States Volunteers. With Col. Burgwyn, of Henderson county, who received his commission last week, the boys will have two true and tried soldiers to follow, that have seen service on many a battlefield in the last unpleasant war.

The man who sacrifices much to build for himself and posterity a house is wise, but he is wiser who seeks afterwards to protect, preserve and perpetuate that house. Such is the condition of the Populist party in North Carolina. We by our labors and sacrifices, in common with other allied forces, have built for ourselves a political house, and have dedicated it to the great common people. Now, shall we desert that house after having enjoyed it so much, and having sat around under our own vine and fig-tree? Or shall we place upon it a full insurance against the storms and wind, hail and rain, and destructive fire of Democratic treachery? Shall we again walk into the meshes of the arch-enemy of Populism, and sacrifice the hard earnings of the last six years? Don't let the little lamb lie down inside the great lion.

## THE PEOPLE KNOW SUGAR FROM SALT.

The *Caucasian* cannot, nor does not, pretend to try to answer our argument against co-operation with the Democrats. It just consoles itself with the belief that the people are too ignorant to see its flop to the enemy, and that it can boss the party in its old way. To all our charges its parrot-like answer is, "Wilson, *Hayseeder*." This method of defense reminds us of the ostrich, which, when it can run no further, sticks its head in the sand to hide from its pursuers, thinking that if it cannot see the hunter the hunter cannot see his game. But we warn that organ against the bull-pen, ballot-box stuffing Democracy. The people "know sugar from salt by the tasting."

## THAT DECEPTIVE PROPOSITION.

Senator Butler is approaching the Populists now in person and by letter, followed by a letter from Congressman Stroud in the Fourth District, and, we suppose, in some of the other districts where he can induce the Congressmen to write, that it will be good politics to at least make the Democrats a proposition for fusion, and, then, if they do not accept it they will be in a hole. Now, old Mr. Demy is not much noted for going into a hole, and especially when he is notified that a trap is being set for him, but whether he suffers himself to be led into this hole, or no, that is not the question with honest Populists, who claim to be sincere in everything they do. They have started out with an honest intention to bring about certain reforms, and no great reform can ever succeed by tricks and treachery, religious, political or otherwise. Suppose Martin Luther, John Knox, John Wesley, or any of the great reformers in the religious world, had resorted to tricks and strategy, they would have gone down in sorrow and in shame; and great political reforms should be held as sacred as religious reforms, for they affect the material welfare of hundreds and thousands of the poor laboring class, as well as millions of helpless women and children.

If Col. L. L. Polk, one of the grandest movers in this great reform movement, was living to day he would spurn the idea of resorting to trickery and chicanery in any way whatever, but would advise honesty, uprightness and sincerity in all our actions. Why should we resort to such methods? Our cause is just, and to pursue an upright course we will in that way command the respect of the whole world, but by resorting to treachery we would receive the contempt of all men, and justly so. If the conditions existed between the Democratic and Populist parties favorable to a fusion between the two, THE HOME RULE would advocate a fair and equitable proposition, and then when made it would stand by it if it took the last button on "Gabe's coat" to carry it out, but we know that the conditions are not such as to offer to enter into such a co-operation, therefore we are candid enough to tell them so, and are ready at all times to give our reasons for so doing.

## THE EIGHT-YEAR LEASE.

Now it is proposed to lease out the People's party to the Democratic party for a period of eight years. The terms of this proposed lease are about as follows: Populists to have all the Congressmen they now have for four years, and the Democrats to have the balance. The Populists to have their present Senator for the next eight years, and the Democrats to take the other Senator when a vacancy occurs. The Populists to have the same State offices—including Judges and Solicitors—which they now have, for the next six and eight years, and the Democrats to take what they now have, together with what the Republicans now hold. As to the county offices, no plan has yet been formulated, but we suppose the Democrats would be content with the legislature, and after that to draw lots for the rest of the county offices, provided they be permitted to do so

inside of a bull-pen or with a returning board manipulated by their own managers.

But after the Democrats shall have gotten possession of the next legislature they would not be careful about the agreement as to all the other offices, but would quickly convert the time into a ninety-nine years' lease to themselves. Now, if any one should suppose that this proposed fusion or co-operation between the Populists and Democrats is for office, or should hint that pie has anything to do with this combination, he is to be considered as untrue to his party. They further contend that to every unprejudiced mind it is clear that these two parties are actuated by the highest and most patriotic motives, based on principles. But we think the common people of both these parties will be slow to see it in that light.

## LOOKING FOR A SOFT PLACE.

The Populist organs of Democratic fusion have seen the handwriting on the wall and their knees are smiting together with fear and trembling. The eyes of the people are opened to the threatened danger lurking in their unpatriotic purpose to deliver the party over to the Democrats.

Being forewarned is being forearmed, hence the rank and file of the party, who are not looking for office, but prize very highly the right to vote, are being aroused and are giving out to these would-be leaders no uncertain sound. They are going to the State Convention on the 17th, and are going to back up their patriotism by paying out enough of their money to defray their own expenses.

This fact has disturbed the dreams of the *Caucasian* and called forth the admission that its friends will not so liberally attend the Convention. It is fair to construe this admission as a surrender of Democratic fusion, and as a preparation of a soft place in which to let it drop. So mote it be.

## SILENCE IS CONSENT.

We have repeatedly charged the Democratic fusionist with the purpose of disfranchising all the people who cannot read and write, or who do not give in three hundred dollars' worth of property for taxation. And we have as frequently charged them with the intent to erect bull-pens and returning boards at elections. And they are as dumb as oysters. They do not deny it. They cannot deny it.

If fusion does not mean this, the Democrats would not and cannot entertain the proposition for a moment.

Populists, are you ready to sell out to the Democrats and surrender yourself to serfdom, and consign your children and your neighbors' children to be hewers of wood and drawers of water? Your answer will be recorded at the State Convention in Raleigh on the 17th.

## LEFT THE BAG TO HOLD.

In 1896 Dr. J. J. Mott, B. F. Keith and I. H. Pearson, singly and alone, formed a new party in this State, and if they ever had another accession to their number we have not heard of it. Keith became discouraged and went back to the Democratic party. I. H. Pearson managed to get

into the good graces of Gov. Russell, and was appointed Railroad Commissioner at a salary of \$2,000 per year, and he can't come to the Doctor's meeting. So the Doctor is left with the bag to hold. But we admire his pluck. He held a meeting the other day, and, under the majority rule, issued a circular and hung out his shingle, telling the people that he is doing business at the same old stand.

## THE NEW PARTY.

After the conventions all meet, we would not be surprised to hear of a new party being formed, consisting of Marion Butler, Daniel L. Russell, A. C. Avery, and, probably, one more, and if there are any others who have signified their willingness to join they are yet to hear from. All being in high positions, this will be one party with all officers and no privates, and when asking a blessing they might use the same words dictated by Sam Jones to the old farmer who was too stingy to help his neighbors or the church: "God bless me and my wife Betsy, my son John and his wife—we four and no more. Amen."

## THAT EIGHT-YEAR LEASE.

The organs of the eight-year lease are putting forth all their energies to induce the People's party to sell out to the Democrats. Just give us another term, say certain of our office-holders, and you may take the People's party, body and soul, for eight years.

This the Democrats will do, of course. For well do they understand that eight years means ninety-nine years without further charge. One payment is all the Democrats will ever make. The next November election will end the existence of the People's party, and there will be no power to enforce the contract.

Returning boards and bull-pens will again be erected in this State, and elections will be a huge joke and a Republican form of government a farce. Never again will the voice of the people be heard protesting against the wrongs and oppression under which the great common people must suffer. A Cleveland Democrat will again receive the vote of North Carolina for President. The gold standard will be set up, and the combines and trusts will have full sway. All these evils must follow the effort to obtain the single good thing of free silver, and even that boon will be lost to the people by the suicidal policy adopted to obtain the same. Never before did any party have such a grave responsibility resting upon its shoulders as the People's party now has. The hope of the State is in this party, and it is proposed by certain office-holders to barter away her liberties for another term of office.

The patriotic heart grows sick and a freeman's nerve grows weak and faint at the thought of such a bargain and sale of the rights of American citizens. We are sadly in need of a leadership, unencumbered by big offices, of men who have not had greatness cast upon them, of men whose patriotism is not confined to themselves and the offices which they now hold; in short, we need men who are willing to take the party into their confidence, and, without bossism, to lead where the people are willing to follow.

## THE TRIUMVIRATE.

Little did we ever expect to see such a political combine as the *Charlotte Observer*, the *News and Observer* and the *Caucasian*, fighting side by side against the people.

They know that in order to succeed they must get together at least on some one thing.

The *Charlotte Observer* is an extreme advocate of the gold standard, favors trusts and combines, and is in favor of returning boards and bull-pens at elections.

The *Caucasian* set out against this position and gained much influence over honest people.

The *News and Observer*, the political scavenger which has for some months past engaged in cleaning up the back yards of all parties except its own, has now assumed the task of bringing these two extremes together, and has at last found common grounds upon which all their respective following are supposed to be able to stand, that is, opposition to a free ballot and a fair count, and to the right of local self-government.

The *Charlotte Observer* is opposed to the poor people's voting, because it interferes with the money power.

The *News and Observer* opposes the right of the uneducated white men voting, because the United States Constitution requires the same privilege for the negro, and so long as these elements have the right of the ballot there is little hope of getting the much-coveted offices.

While the *Caucasian*, run down at the heel, having squandered all its influence with its people, and having everything to gain and nothing to lose, says "me too."

The triumvirate is formed, the combination is nearly complete, minor differences will quickly be settled, and the new organization to be known as the "Joe Daniels Save the State" party is expected to be born on or before the 26th inst, if there is no mishap.

## AN IMPORTANT QUESTION.

Will the Democratic State Convention be controlled by the Ransom machine, the railroad attorneys and the Cleveland gold bugs, or will it be controlled by the friends and supporters of Mr. Bryan? That is the question.—*Caucasian*.

Now, our esteemed contemporary knows well, for it has often said so, that both the Democratic State Convention and the party afterwards will be controlled by the Ransom machine, the railroad attorneys and the Cleveland gold bugs. And yet it is making a most persistent effort to drag the People's party into an unholy alliance with it, seemingly indifferent to the fate of the Populist party in this State. And as for Mr. Bryan, he will never again be the choice of the National Democratic party for President.

## HUMBLE PETITION.

We, the repentant element of the once adored Populist party, acknowledging in "sackcloth and ashes" the folly of our former ways and the foolhardiness of our once boasted honesty of purpose, do hereby most humbly petition your most worshipful highness, the great and glorious old Democratic party, to be reinstated into the following and good graces of

your most royal and gracious party, for the following reasons and for the following purposes:

We most humbly confess our errors and sins political in ever having left the dear old party, and professing an allegiance to any other political party.

We most humbly present our compliments, and confess that always you have done the right thing towards us in abusing us in language fit only to be heard and appreciated by the King of Hades, and when in our wayward political ways your most excellent judgment led you to use that most polite method of rotten-egging our leaders back to the paths of Democratic royalty. And though we are all "tarred with the same stick," and are responsible, as you charge (to which, you know, we are compelled to plead guilty), for every crime of any nature which has ever been committed in this grand old State since our earliest inception as Populists, we, nevertheless, feel that the goodness of heart of your Royal High Priest, Josephus, will prompt him to forgive every wayward child of the Populist party and receive him in his fond embrace.

We have sinned, Father Joe, and we come to thee! We are not worthy to be received into the fellowship of the honest (?) d. o. p.; only make us tools of theirs, and allow us, as in your kindness you suggest, to take "back seats" in the Democratic synagogue, and if there are not seats enough we will be content to stand up. Recognizing the kind manner in which you have always treated us, we can do no other way than come back.

But when? Echo answers, when? We know we ought not to object to giving you another chance, for you always gave us such fair elections—no bull-pens, no counting out, no false returns, no ballot-box stuffing. And, then, we know you are so anxious to keep our present election law in force, and then you will give us no trouble or concern about any elections in future—no, not even so much as to REQUIRE us to vote.

Won't you please let us in, even though we get in at the back door?

## STATE AUDITOR'S REPORT.

Thanks to our very efficient State Auditor, Mr. Hal W. Ayer, for a copy of his annual report. It is plain, full and explicit, the report of a faithful servant, and shows much ability and strict honesty.

FAVETTEVILLE, N. C.,

May 3, 1898.

The Home Rule Publishing Company, Raleigh, N. C.:

GENTLEMEN: Herewith I hand you \$1.00, for which please send THE HOME RULE one year to my address. I am more than pleased with the sentiment of the paper as expressed by the sample copy sent me. I heartily endorse the position the paper has taken against the so-called Populists, who are attempting to make the People's Party an adjunct of the Democrats and to merge its identity therein.

Yours for success,  
HENRY E. KING.

The HOME RULE is a bright and ably-conducted paper just started at Raleigh. It is the organ of the simon-pure Populists of the State. It vigorously opposes fusion with the Democrats.—*Elizabeth City North Carolinian*.