

THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER.

A CURIOUS ADDRESS.

Elsewhere we publish an address issued through the News and Observer and other Democratic papers...

But such has been the policy of the People's party nominee since the State Convention. It must be plain to all that the tendency of his speeches and interviews has, at all times since the Convention, been to alienate the hearty support of those who were expected to vote for him.

Maj. Guthrie knew when he was nominated that he could not be elected without the support of dissatisfied Republicans, and yet he started and continued his canvass in such a way as to mortify his Populist friends and drive away all hope of Republican aid.

A citizen has full privilege to kick against his party management if he wants to do so. When a citizen accepts a nomination for a high office he becomes more the servant of the party than before, and should obey the wishes and respect the combined wisdom of the party instead of running counter to it.

Major Guthrie advises the people to vote for Judge Avery, democrat, for the Supreme Court. It is well known that Judge Avery was one of the Judges who rendered the decision that enabled the democrats to count out the Populists and Republicans in 1892.

His reference to congressional and legislative candidates is un-called for, as he knew when he accepted the nomination for Governor that the "arrangement" now existing for Republican co-operation would be carried out, and he supported similar "arrangements" two years ago himself.

It is plainly evident that Major Guthrie intended to help the democrats, for ten thousand copies of his letter was printed and ready to be mailed out by chairman Manly before the letter appeared in the News and Observer, and other Democratic papers...

GUTHRIE'S ADDRESS.

THE DOCUMENT HE SENT OUT TO THE PUBLIC THROUGH THE DEMOCRATIC STATE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AND THE NEWSPAPERS.

To the Peoples Party Voters of N. Carolina:

Will you now, on the eve of the election, desert your party flag and the principles you profess to love? Will you be allured into the camp of Mark Hanna and politically

slaughtered? I use to believe it, and will not be convinced to the contrary until your votes shall be counted and returned. Will you take the earnest advice, and listen to the last appeal of him whom you honored with your confidence at our last state convention by nominating me as your choice for the office of Governor?

These are questions of vital importance to us as a political party which you can only answer with your ballots and your personal influence. I beg, I beseech, I implore you, as you love your party and the principles you profess, and which we have taught the people are based upon the sound principles of patriotic constitutional government...

Have you forgotten so soon the principles laid down at our state convention only two years ago relating to a non-partisan Judiciary? Are you mindful of the fact, that if you vote for Col. Douglas for a Supreme Court Judge you will do so in direct violation of that principle...

Unless you are prepared to renounce the wholesome principle of a non-partisan Judiciary, I ask you to vote for Mr. Manning and see to it that his name is on your ticket, or if not, scratch Mr. Spencer Adams and put it there. Let me caution you to be careful to read the names on your tickets before they are put into the ballot boxes. My Peoples' party friends, think on these things, and before it is too late, ask yourselves the question, what is the right thing for me to do? Then knowing what is right, have the manhood to go to the polls next Tuesday and do the right thing, honestly and fearlessly.

Holy writ and human experience both alike teach us that "a tree is known by its fruit," and "a man's acts speak louder than words." Let us prove our political faith by our political acts. (Signed.) Wm. A. Guthrie. DURHAM, N. C., Oct. 27, 1896.

AN ADDRESS

BY STATE CHAIRMAN HAL W. AYER

In Reply to an Address from Maj. Wm. A. Guthrie—the Peoples Party Nominee for Governor.

On the morning of October 28th the Democratic papers of this State were full of praise and laudation of Major William A. Guthrie, the nominee of the Peoples party for Governor of North Carolina.

The cause of all this was that the Democratic party hoped and believed that the man who had been nominated by the People party for Governor had given the Peoples party a deadly stab or struck it a fatal blow.

The incident is one concerning which there can be no temperate feeling among those who have the interests of the Peoples party and its objects at heart, however moderate may be the terms in which it is commented upon. The abuse of confidence is something that can command no respect from the person or persons abused; the betrayal of a trust calls for the unreserved condemnation of those betrayed.

These remarks are preliminary to some comment on an address which has just been issued by Major Guthrie and GLEEFULLY PUBLISHED by the DEMOCRATIC PRESS. That address comes at a time when the lines are drawn for the grand charge in a political contest, and when there was no thought that there was dissatisfaction or treachery in any one of those in whom the greatest trust had been reposed.

The address of Maj. Guthrie issued at a time when those upon whom may devolve whatever necessity there is of noticing it are wearied and worn with the arduous duties and work of a complicated and perplexing campaign—a campaign in which the representatives of the Peoples party have zealously striven with all their ability and power to make the road of their chief standard-bearer clear and his burden easy despite the fact that he, himself, persistently threw obstacles in his own path—and with duties of grave importance still pressing upon them, they have but little time or inclination to ramble among words for the purpose of collecting together a choice variety of them for the purpose of expressing a rebuke.

The first three lines of the address convey a gross and unparadonable insult to the Peoples Party State Committee and every member of the party who sympathizes with the efforts the committee has made and the course it has pursued. It would be superfluous here to recite the co-operative arrangements which the State Committee, by virtual authority of the State convention, has entered into with other political parties. One of them is a co-operation with the Republican party on State Congressional tickets. This is referred to by Maj. Guthrie in these words: "Allured into the camp of Mark Hanna and politically slaughtered."

He refers to his address as the "last appeal of him whom you honored with your confidence at our last State convention by nominating me as your choice for the office of Governor." And in this last appeal he "begs" "beseeches" "implores" the members of the Peoples party to vote for POPULISTS? No. For men who have shown Friendship and given aid to Populists? No; oh, no! But in the interest of a party which has cursed and slandered and maligned

the Peoples party for the four years of its existence, and who are doing it now with all the malice, hatred and malignity that the devil incarnate can inspire; Democrats who have no aim in this campaign but to win, if possible, by any and every species of fraud and corruption they can invent and devise, and then renew their Clevelandism, Ransomism, and use their power to accomplish the annihilation of the Peoples party so they will have nothing to fear in the reinstatement of their bossism and arrogance.

The term "non-partisan Judiciary" is introduced into the address and is followed by a plea that Populists will vote for Two Democratic Judges and AGAINST two Republican Judges. If a "non-partisan" Judiciary is sought earnestly and sincerely, why not at least plead that Populists will vote for one Democratic Judge and one Republican Judge. Why must everything for which Major Guthrie pleads be DEMOCRATIC?

If the general course which Maj. Guthrie advises should be adopted by the Peoples party, it would not be represented in Congress by a single member from this State. It would not have a single representative in the State government or on the judiciary. It would have little if any representation in the Legislature, and consequently no influence whatever. Is this what Major Guthrie seeks or desires? Does the man who was nominated by the Peoples party for Governor desire to see that course pursued which will utterly destroy every vestige of representation, influence and power the party can secure by the course it is now pursuing? Ah, what a riddle is here!

The address reaches its maximum of political folly and impudence when it advises Populists to "scratch" the name of Spencer B. Adams, who is on the Populist-Republican co-operation ticket, and put the name of James S. Manning, a Democrat, in its place. What would be the result of the adoption of this procedure? Republicans would "scratch" Judge Walter A. Montgomery. Would Democrats, for whom Maj. Guthrie makes such a strong plea, step in and replace the Republican "scratchers"? If not, what would become of Judge Montgomery, the Populist nominee for Supreme Court Judge? Now, let it be supposed that retaliatory "scratching" should be practiced by Populists and Republicans all the way through. The result would be a three-cornered fight in the State, and the end would be a victory for either the Republicans or Democrats, with no existing political influence for the Populists. If there should be a Republican victory, then the policy of Maj. Guthrie would result in a complete State domination of what he appears to dread so much—Republican gold-bugs. If the Democrats should win, there would be a complete return to Clevelandism and Ransomism, and the chances are just 100 to 1 that the Democrats would return Ransom to the United States Senate long before they would think of sending any one else there, no matter how desperate or wildly any one else may plead for the Democratic party now.

One of the specific requests made by Maj. Guthrie is for the Populists to support the Democratic nominees in the Fifth and Ninth Congressional districts. What is the logic of such a procedure as this, and to where does it lead? If a Democrat is good enough to vote for in the Fifth and Ninth districts a Democrat is good enough to vote for in the First, Fourth and all the other districts, if Democrats are good enough to be voted for for one office, they are good enough to vote for another office; and if this course should be pursued it would mean a complete surrender to the Democratic party.

This is something that will not be done by the Peoples Party in North Carolina, Guthrie or no Guthrie. When this man was nominated for Governor by the Peoples party Convention, he was not commissioned to plead the cause of the Democratic party. It was never, no never, for one instant supposed at that time that Major Guthrie thought some other party was better than the one by which he was honored with the highest compliment it could bestow. The Convention believed it was committing the interests of the party to a brave, fearless and valiant leader—not to one who would try to trail its banner just as the enemy is about to be met. He may momentarily pull down the party banner and let it touch the dust in the presence of the

Democratic horde who break into exclamations of irrepressible joy as they see the banner lowered, but up it goes the next instant and waves its defiance at the enemy without a break in the lines and without regret for the loss of its erstwhile bearer.

Much more might be said concerning this astonishing address, but its full purpose and meaning can safely be left to the insight and comprehension of the members of the party. They will easily understand that it comes with bad grace and gratuitous impertinence for their gubernatorial nominee to advise the "scratching" of the party ticket on which his own name appears, and which name can be as easily "scratched" as any other. The process of "scratching" is a weakening agency for any ticket, and no man who is intrusted with the interest of his organization or party has the right to advise a course which will weaken it. It is his honor-bound and sacred duty to do what he can to build it up and strengthen it.

Now, to conclude, Maj. Guthrie says: "It gives me little concern what the result as to my own election or defeat may be."

"Well, when a man who is honored with a high trust by a political party, and whose fate and fortune are to illustrate the fate and fortune of that party, becomes indifferent and unconcerned as to what becomes of him as a chosen leader, there is good reason to believe that he cares nothing for those who selected him to lead them forward. When this becomes apparent, if it is time to withdraw the confidence and recind the honors which have been so unworthily and unhappily centered upon him.

To briefly summarize the unauthorized surrender by Maj. Guthrie to the Democratic party, there is this to say:

First. He vilely insults his party and the members of the State committee.

Second. He bolts the action of his State convention in certain cases; he bolts the action of his own Congressional district convention, and also the action of his Judicial district convention.

Third. He pleads that Populists will vote for Democrats, but nowhere pleads that a Populist will vote for a Populist.

Fourth. He declares he cares nothing about the results of the greatest compliment and honor that the Peoples party State convention could bestow on any man, and this gives the members of the party a full right to care nothing about what becomes of him.

Fifth. He is vociferously applauded by strong, partisan Democratic papers as a patriot, &c., while praise from such a source is equal to the severest condemnation from genuine and trustworthy Populists.

Sixth. He ignores in State matters the firm determination and important principle of the Populists, that the State must not be again turned over to Democratic brigandage and spoliation.

Seventh. The course he has pursued as an ardent supporter of the Democratic party can barely be surpassed by the most intense Democratic partisan. It practically amounts to a withdrawal from the Peoples party.

Eighth. He advises as the nominee of his party, the "scratching" of his party ticket—a thing hitherto unheard of in political annals, and which must be instigated by some reason not fully apparent.

For these and other reasons which there is now neither time nor inclination to mention, it is the calm and candid opinion of the State chairman that Major Guthrie has forfeited all right to the confidence of the members of the Peoples party. He is, however, still the party nominee, and his name will appear on all the tickets issued from Peoples Party State Headquarters.

A firm conviction of the State chairman is that the course of Maj. Guthrie has been such as will make it impossible for him to receive the suffrage of the full membership of the Peoples party and here in advance of election day, it is declared that the number of votes cast for Maj. Guthrie, as the Peoples party nominee for Governor, must not and cannot be accepted as an indication of Peoples party strength.

The duty of writing this address has been painful and attempted under disadvantages; but it is hereby submitted for your earnest and careful attention.

HAL W. AYER, Chairman P. P. State Ex. Com.