

THE ADVANCE
DAILY AND SEMI-WEEKLY

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JOSH-PROOF MEN

Way back in fourteen ninety two Columbus with his nerry crew set out from Sunny Italy to take a sail across the sea.

"You are a nut," the people said, "and even now as good as dead; we have no faith in all your schemes for they are wild and foolish dreams."

But heeding not their slams and knocks he left them gaping from the docks, and yelled, "Who says the world is flat is batty underneath the hat."

So we are now sojourning here because Columbus did not fear the ridicule of those he knew who scoffed at what he strove to do.

Thus Robert Fulton plowed the stream aboard his hobby, run by steam, while on the banks at either side the crowds came down to laugh and chide.

But this man did not heed or quit for he was well supplied with grit and soon the mobs had ceased to jest for he had won out in the test.

Thus someone had to pioneer each benefit that we have here and those were safer as a rule who were immune to ridicule.

—N. A. LUFBURROW.

BETTER A MILLSTONE

As the member of the Board of Education have themselves refused to offer any explanation of the hostility that has developed with the Board of Education to Superintendent Preston S. Vann, the matter is left to conjecture.

The Advance has considered everything coming to its ears that members of the Board have let fall in public utterance or private conversation and for a long time found itself totally unable to discover any satisfactory hypothesis upon which to account for the Board's sudden determination that Vann was not the man they wanted.

But we believe that now we are beginning to see the light. The Pasquotank County Board of Education is out of harmony with Mr. Vann's aggressive campaign for bigger and better schools in the county. They were possessed of the idea that is frequently an obsession of school committeemen — they had hired this man and therefore he was to come and go at their beck and call. But a teacher knows more about teaching than a school committeeman, and it would be no sort of teacher who would submit to the dictation of school committeemen as to his methods of teaching. So a superintendent of education in any county is, or at least ought to be, a man of more education and ability than the board of education, and it would be a poor sort of superintendent, who was merely a catspaw to his board.

The Board has not been averse to letting it be understood that Superintendent Vann has not devoted himself to the duties of his office. The Advance ventures the opinion that he was doing more and accomplishing more than the Board wanted to see come to pass. This is only a guess, to be sure, but this newspaper is persuaded that it's a pretty good guess. Does not the

record of W. G. Cox in his own community show that he has always been opposed to consolidated schools? Is it not a fact that J. M. LeRoy has stated that he hoped the special tax election in the Weeksville community would not carry? Did he not predict that there would be a lawsuit contesting the recent special tax election in Mount Hermon township and has he not been seen cheek by jowl with those who opposed the special tax since the election? Is it not a fact that with the County Superintendent planning for new schoolhouses all over the county the Board of Education has made no provision for funds for the construction of these buildings? To sum it up, are not the members of the Board of Education striving to bring to naught all that has been accomplished for better schools by Superintendent Vann since he has been in office? Are they not against his work rather than for it? Have they not, therefore, abused their office, and if they do not resign, do they not deserve impeachment?

This matter is now with the people of Elizabeth City and Pasquotank County. The Advance feels that it has said enough. Everybody knows how the people stand, but nobody knows what the people will do. The editor of The Advance is no lawyer, neither is he versed in the law. There may be doubt as to whether the people can do anything. But one thing is certain. If the Board of Education succeeds in robbing Pasquotank of the services of Preston S. Vann, this newspaper and the people will not forget it. And the man who must bear the burden of blame will be J. M. LeRoy.

The statement in these columns yesterday that we would support an enemy rather than a friend if we believed the enemy a better man for a public office was purely hypothetical. If The Advance has an enemy in these days of peace and harmony, we do not know it.

Not by his system of book-keeping but by his work for and in the schools of the county is Superintendent Vann's work in Pasquotank to be judged. This is not the job of an office man but of a school man—a teacher and a teacher trainer.

The teachers and the school-children of the county are the ones best qualified to judge Superintendent Vann's work and his fitness for his position. Where do they stand?

ALKRAMA TONIGHT

"The Spell Of The Yukon"
—Also—
PEARL WHITE
—IN—
"LIGHTNING RAIDERS"
—TO-MORROW—
GEORGE WALSH
—IN—
"I'LL SAY SO"
"MONEY TALKS"
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AGONY COLUMN

EVER SINCE THE NEW CITY administration WENT INTO OFFICE MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL HAVE BEEN ASKING ME FOR SUGGESTIONS

AND THEY OUGHT TO KNOW WHAT THEY WANT BETTER THAN ANYBODY NOT EVEN EXCEPTING SAUNDERS HIMSELF

BUT SAUNDERS WITH HIS own innate modesty WANTS ME TO BE MODEST ABOUT SUGGESTING THINGS TO THE NEW BOARD BECAUSE I DIDN'T VOTE IN THE LATE ELECTION HAVING FORGOT IN THE PRESS OF MANY MATTERS TO PAY MY POLL TAX BEFORE MAY 1ST

THE FACT THAT ALL THE CANDIDATES IN MY WARD WERE FOR A REAL CITY MANAGER AND AN OPEN MARKET DOES NOT EXCUSE ME BUT I THINK THAT'S WHY I FORGOT AND I DON'T BELIEVE I SHOULD HAVE FORGOTTEN IF I HAD HAD A CHANCE TO SAY WHO SHOULD BE ALDERMEN FROM SAUNDERS WARD

BE THAT AS IT MAY THE ADVANCE IS A NEWSPAPER AND PUBLIC MONITOR AND AS SUCH WILL CONTINUE TO OFFER THE ALDERMEN OR SAUNDERS HIMSELF SUGGESTIONS AS IT SEES FIT REGARDLESS OF MY SINS WHETHER OF OMISSION OR OF COMMISSION

BUT I CAN'T HELP REMINDING THE BOARD AND SAUNDERS HIMSELF THAT THE ADVANCE HAS OFFERED THE BOARD NO SUGGESTION ABOUT WHAT IT SHOULD DO FOR OR AGAINST "BLUE SUNDAYS"

THIS IS A MATTER AS TO WHICH THE ALDERMEN HAVE NO RIGHT TO DICTATE AND AS TO WHICH THEY SHOULD BE GOVERNED AND DOUBTLESS WILL BE GOVERNED BY THE POPULAR WILL

AND I WAS ONLY CONCERNED BECAUSE I SAW FRIENDS OF THE OPEN Sunday WERE MAKING themselves heard AND I WANTED THE OTHER SIDE TO BE SURE TO DO LIKEWISE

AND BY THE WAY SPEAKING OF MODESTY I HAVE JUST READ THE INDEPENDENT'S LEADING EDITORIAL IN WHICH THE EDITOR ASCRIBES all his early difficulties TO A HABIT AND PASSION FOR TELLING THE TRUTH REGARDLESS AND I AM WONDERING IF HE STILL THINKS HE WAS TELLING THE TRUTH WHEN HE ACCUSED ME OF PREACHING social equality OF THE RACES OR WHEN HE CALLED SPENCER CHAPLIN A quasi quondam hydrocephalous preacher

IF HE DOES HE WASN'T ON THE SQUARE WHEN WE SHOOK HANDS AT Burke Culpepper's meeting

AND ANYWAY IF SOMEBODY HAS GOT TO CHIDE ME FOR LACK OF becoming modesty I DON'T THINK SAUNDERS HIMSELF OUGHT TO BE THE MAN TO CAST THE FIRST STONE

I THANK YOU

COL. ANSELL'S SPEECH
(Continued From Page One)

of war and see if it is one which appeals to your intelligence and of which you at this day are proud. John Adams relates that in the early days of the Revolution, iron discipline at one time came to be thought necessary, and that inasmuch as the Roman system of military justice, which had been adopted word for word by Great Britain, had succeeded in carrying by force arms those two military empires farther than any other had ever gone, he favored the adoption of it here under the emergency, little expecting to get it. The Continental Congress with little debate and less understanding

adopted it; it is with us to this day. Discipline Without Justice

And there are those in high military authority who would retain it unmodified. All the major generals of the regular army who recently testified before the committee of the American Bar Association testified in effect that military justice and military discipline can not co-exist; that is, that justice and discipline are incompatible terms and that discipline can not be achieved through justice. Of course this is anarchy in any institution. It is government by the whim and caprice and power by a commanding general. It is government by a man and not by law. It places the stamp of approval upon the harshest brutality and the most oppressive, spirit-crushing penalties. Such is the ultra-military view.

That view has its supporters in Congress and throughout the country. Every reactionary view has its supporters and they can be overcome, not by force of logic but by force of public opinion and action. The army of the United States belongs to the people and is to be governed upon principles which the people approve, but, in fact, it has heretofore been largely self-governing, self-sufficient. The reactionary view will best be found expressed in an editorial from a Chicago paper read into the Congressional record of February 27, 1919, by a gentleman who today is chairman of the House committee on military affairs, in opposition to my own efforts to modernize and liberalize this system. The text taken was the statement made by the Roman centurion as he apologetically introduced himself to Christ at Capernaum as a man having absolute authority over his soldiers. The text is that absolute personal control by a commanding officer is an essential of military discipline. In this connection the article proceeds to say:

"An army to be successful in the field must from the moment it begins to train at home have absolute control of its discipline. The commanding general is everything. He must hold the three keys. He must have final control. He must be the judge, the legislator and the executive. If he were not, he would not have an army. He would have a collection of armed individuals."

That is the whole argument upon the other side. That editorial was read into the Record at the request of the present judge advocate general of the army, whose views it voices. It only concedes that there should be no limitation upon the power of the commanding general; that the Roman method is the method which does obtain and ought to obtain in our army. Under the Roman system the word of the centurion, of the legion commander, and finally the emperor was the law. By a word the most barbarous penalty could be imposed and a sentence of death pronounced, unreviewed by any law worthy of the name; and many of the old Roman principles are still practiced with us. Trials for capital or other most serious offenses have been had which, when judged by common fairness and decency were trifling travesties, and if the ultra-military mind could have had its way the penalties awarded would have been executed. Innocent men, victims of this system of injustice, have been languishing, and are still languishing in military prisons. Much of the resultant harshness and cruelty has been assuaged only by extralegal interposition of strong personalities bent upon defecting the system from its inevitable end. If a commanding general is to make the law and then is to become the judge of the law and is to pass the sentence and execute it, how can you expect justice regulated by law?

Officer Prosecutes Boy

"I say it is not a system of law. I had the other day one case that is typical of many. The military authorities set a trap for a boy. A young officer prepared the trap. Whether the enlisted men were guilty or not certainly can never be known to any just mind as a result of such a trial. This young officer was, of course, the prosecuting witness. He drafted the charges and pushed them through. Then he was appointed the judge advocate of the court and as such prosecuted the defendant; as such also he became the legal adviser of the court-martial. Then to make matters worse he was assigned as counsel for the accused. He functioned in all capacity. That is, he was the prosecutor, the legal adviser, the judge, and he was the counsel for the accused whom he prosecuted. When I pointed out to the commanding general that such trial was a farce, he contended with great emphasis that all this was, as truly it is, permissible under the system. As though I were touching something sacrosanct, he exclaimed, "The acting judge advocate general is attacking our system."

In another case the accused was an orphan waif. He knew not his own true name nor father nor mother. All his life he had been the inmate of an orphan asylum. Leaving the asylum, he fell into the hands of a wicked family and was put to wicked pursuits. This was in the far west. At last he escaped and came east into Maryland and enlisted in the army the latter part of 1917. He had served but a short while when he went absent without leave for two hours, for which he was tried. It is difficult to say how long he was held in prison before he was tried or the period of imprisonment to which he was sentenced, but the facts are that he was still in prison for this one fruitless inquiry as to the reasons for his long imprisonment, giving up all hope of ever being permitted to perform his duty as a soldier, he resolved to escape from prison, and did so on the night of last Christmas. He was captured and was tried for the escape and desertion. He was convicted and sentenced to a long term of imprisonment. It turned out, after all, that this man was the same boy whom the world owed aught, it had given nothing, was mentally defective, and that fact was known to the government at the time of his last trial. Verily, the system must have its victims.

"If the spirit of the citizen is not to suffer, justice must be done him as a soldier. Discipline can be maintained only with justice. The spirit, the moral quality of our men, must be appealed to. We cannot afford to adopt the ideal recently voiced by an officer of the regular army in a published essay, which persuaded him to say:

"Hagenback, of Hamburg, has shown that there is no heat, on earth that cannot be made to believe itself in fear of punishment by a higher power. The same rule applied to all men."

It is not by such an ideal that discipline in the American army, in the correct sense of the term, can be attained. Justice must be established in the army. While waiting Justice sleeps. Wrong will continue to rule military methods. Never again must we let the great interest of the army depend upon the myriad of chances that sway military men. We have too many men in military prisons. We have too many men who have been expelled from the army in disgrace after a trial that was but a travesty. The people should be, they are, in-

terested in reforming this system. I, for one, am not willing to trust justice of any kind to a few selected men who, by reason of their positions, are constituted the judges of justice. Justice in the army will be established. I have that faith. I quote with Emerson:

"Whoever fight, whoever falls, Justice conquers evermore."

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