

PUBLISHERS ANNOUNCEMENT.

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THE JOURNAL.

H. S. NUNN, Editor. M. HARPER, Business Manager. NEW BERNE, N. C., APRIL 4 1886.

VANCE ON CIVIL SERVICE.

Senator VANCE'S speech on the Civil Service Law is exhaustive and proves conclusively that it should be repealed. We have space now for only the closing paragraph which fully illustrates the workings of the great humbug:

Conceive of an old fashioned Democrat, who for forty years had stood by his party through good and evil report, because he believed in its principles; who battled for it when it had no offices to give; many times when it was buried beneath such vast majorities as left a scarce prospect of earthly resurrection; often oppressed by a weight of odium sufficient to cow the bravest spirit, under the influence of which the faithful became even as the "few names in Sardis, who had not defiled their garments"—when the very name of Democrat became a convertible term with that of copperhead, rebel, and traitor—fancy his unconquered and undimayed soul still working for his principles, still waiting with prayerfulness for the hope of his political Israel, thanking God for each town, township, or county victory which showed that his principles still lived in the hearts of his countrymen, and were growing because they were immortal—quicker and quicker throbs his heart, higher and higher rises his joy as stronghold after stronghold is carried, as State after State is captured in spite of unconstitutional laws and governmental interference, in spite of bayonets glittering at the polls, in spite of that gross and unblushing fraud which is the supplement of despair; and, lastly, imagine if you can the hot tide of triumphant joy with which he saw in November, 1884, the banners of Democracy full high advanced and successful over all the Union, and his party once more in control of the great destinies of his country. When the hope of his soul had thus been at last realized, and his old eyes had been permitted to behold the great salvation, when the bonfires kindled in a thousand cities and hamlets had burned down and the feasting had ended, and the oratory and all the elements of rejoicing had subsided, and the new administration had begun its career amid the prayers and blessings of all Democratic hearts, imagine, I say, this old, faithful, and honest man of principle coming to Washington, in the simplicity of his heart, bringing certificates from his neighbors of his character and services, and modestly asking for a position, naturally supposing that the king in making up his jewels would remember his faithful servants. But imagine that old gentleman's disappointment when something like the following occurs between him and the Government's representative:

Old Democrat—I have come to make application for some position under the Government which I am competent to fill.

Government Representative—You are too old; under the laws of the Republic men over forty-five years old are not permitted to take office.

O. D.—But I see men in places here who are over sixty years old.

G. R.—Oh, they were here when the law was enacted, and it does not operate on them.

O. D.—Well, if such be the law, I submit; it may be that I am too old. But here is my boy; he is young and active and well educated; give him a position.

G. R.—We can't do it; there is no vacancy.

O. D.—No vacancy? Well, make one. There is a rank Republican. That man has been our bitterest

enemy. He has denounced me and my party as traitors to our country again and again. Turn him out and put in my son or my neighbor's son.

G. R.—It cannot be, sir. The law forbids it. And, besides, if there were a vacancy your son could not get the place unless he stood an examination by the Board of Civil Service Commissioners and secured the favor of that board over many others.

O. D.—Well! well! Did all those Republicans in there have to stand such an examination and get their places in the same way? If so, and they were smarter than the Democrats, again I say, I will have to submit.

G. R.—Oh, no, my dear sir, no. You see they were all in when the law was enacted. They got in by that old corrupt method which we call the "spoils" system. But being in, you see they had a sort of vested right to their places, and the law does not disturb vested rights, that is Republican rights, except for very serious cause.

O. D.—Then it seems to me there is nothing here for me or mine, and that talk during the campaign about corruption in office and turning the rascals out was a trick and a lie. It appears that there were no rascals in, or if there were, you like rascals better than you do honest men, and so keep them.

G. R.—Old man, you had better go home; you are behind the times. This is an age of civil service reform. Man can no longer be rewarded by office for party work; that is, humble men like you and your son. The big ones may be paid that way; for that is true reform. But when such men as you confess that they want office they are spoilsmen, and that is what you are. I am ashamed of you! Away with you!

This final and insulting reply is the iron which enters his soul, and he retires crushed and wounded beyond recovery. The sense of disappointment, of injustice, of humiliation, the ingratitude of those for whom he labored, are too much for him to endure, and the enthusiasm of his life is quenched forever. The man who calls him a spoilsman, and charges that he served his party for the sake of office only, foully belies a better man than himself.

This, Mr. President, is no fancied picture. There are thousands and thousands of just such men, and we meet them or hear from them every day. They are the strength of the Democratic party today; they have been its refuge and its shield in the past; they preserved it from annihilation in its darkest hours. I am not quite sure that they will continue its champions in the future. I can well see that they might be willing to concede any fair and impartial distribution of the places under the Government on principle of merit or anything else that patriotism might demand of them, but they will not submit to the disfranchisement of themselves and their children. Mark what I say! And you will not improve the matter by impeaching the party of their motives and bestowing epithets upon them. They will not fight to win great Democratic victories for Republican benefit. They will not continue to rally to the bugles of the party and win hard-fought battles merely that their enemies may remain in possession of the field. They will not preserve the discipline and organization of their splendid line of battle and charge with their ancient courage if the epaulets and honors which they win are to be bestowed upon their adversaries, or the cowards who skulked in the rear, or the mercenaries who hung upon the flanks of the contending parties, alternately firing upon each host. The mass of the people on both sides demand an open fight and upright and downright dealing after the fight. They believe, too, in the common virtues of humanity, among the most noble of which is reckoned gratitude. And so do I. They believe that if a man's friends take him up and enable him after a great struggle to arrive at the point coveted by his ambition he owes something to them. And so do I. They believe that, other things being equal, in the bestowal of favors that man should give preference to his friends over his enemies. And so do I. They believe that the man who is lacking in the ordinary sentiment of gratitude may be likewise wanting in other kindred and cardinal virtues. And so do I.

And yet, Mr. President, I believe in reform—such reform as the people want and have been wanting for ten years or more. Between those who call me a spoilsman and myself there is perhaps only a difference of definition. They believe that "reform" consists in a Democratic administration operated by Republican agents; I do not. They believe in keeping Republicans in office by law after the people have declared they shall go out; I do not. They believe in ignoring the people and their representatives as far as possible in the selection of officials; I do not. They believe there can be no sincere reform unless Republicans are the chief beneficiaries

thereof; I do. And lastly, I believe that as good material for all civil officials to be found in the Democratic party as in any other, and that it is the right and duty of a Democratic administration to select that material and none other as the implementers of reform; they do not.

Let me warn men against those who assume to be above the homely virtues and common frailties of our race, and who affect to inhabit the untrodden altitudes of a world different from the one where our Creator has placed us, and deny being of the earth, earthy. A man too good in politics or religion is quite as reprehensible as one too bad, and I am quite sure he is a greater nuisance. For the most part they are men who have failed in securing the objects of their own ambition, and may be described either as political old maids whose blood has been turned to vinegar by a failure to secure lovers before their unappreciated charms had fled, or as the grass widows of politics who have failed to retain the lovers they had won by artifice and fraud. They are men who desire to conduct politics without the aid of the politicians; who believe that the most successful way to operate mechanics is to work without implements.

Let such in God's name on fine wheat be fed. And let us honest Democrats eat barley bread.

A CURIOUS DODGE.

The Pamlico Enterprise publishes the river and harbor bill as completed by the House of Representatives with the following remarks:

We fail to see any appropriation for Bay river, notwithstanding the fact that the Legislature has memorialized Congress relative to this matter, as well as the citizens of Pamlico county, joined with a statement of facts from every captain of a vessel and every pilot who navigates this river. Now if the Legislature has the right to instruct our members in Congress to tax her citizens three dollars for the privilege of saying we will give you back one-third of it for educational purposes, and they feel bound by these instructions, when the taxpayers have not asked them to do so, how much more ought they to feel themselves bound by the instructions of the Legislature when memorialized by the taxpayers. As our members of Congress may not be able to answer the question, will our esteemed contemporary, the New Berne Journal, please answer for them?

To get at the gist of this matter and to show the reason why the Enterprise puts such a question to the JOURNAL, it is necessary to refer to the position assumed by the Enterprise some two weeks ago in regard to the BLAIR bill. In its zeal and anxiety to outstrip its contemporaries in denouncing the educational bill now before Congress, the Enterprise declared the bill dishonest and corrupt and declared that every Southern Senator and Representative who voted for it would be held responsible for treason to his party. The JOURNAL thought it right and proper to remind the Enterprise that if the Democratic party of North Carolina was thoroughly committed to anything it was National aid to public schools. The Convention of the party in which there were representatives from every county in the State, fresh from the people, endorsed it by a large majority. The General Assembly, overwhelmingly Democratic, also fresh from the people, passed resolutions, by a unanimous vote we believe, requesting—not instructing—our Senators and Representatives to vote for such a measure. This being the case we thought it very unjust and unwise in the Enterprise to charge our Senators and Representatives with treason to the party when they were simply carrying out the wishes and demands of the party in North Carolina. The Enterprise evidently saw that it had gone beyond the bounds of prudence, but instead of manfully acknowledging its error and trying to correct it, propounds silly questions for the JOURNAL to answer.

We have not the least doubt that Senator RANSON and Congressman SKINNER are giving attention to the matter to which the Enterprise refers, and will do all they can to secure an appropriation for Bay river. But if we were ever so strongly opposed to river and harbor improvements we certainly would not charge our Senators and Representatives with treason to their party if they voted for it.

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