

FROM THE HILLS OF HABER-SHAM.

Dear Sir: In The Atlanta Constitution, February 7th, 1916, on page 4, there appears an article from one Mr. Wright Willingham, of Rome, Ga. On the lawlessness of Georgians, I am like Mr. Willingham. When the life of any one is taken without due process of law, it is to be deplored. All men everywhere should stand for that. He says:

"A citizen of Milwaukee, Wis., with whom I have had considerable dealings and for whom my firm has handled and is now handling investments, writes me under date of February 1st, inquiring as to the extent of this disregard for law in our state; and at the same time inclosed to me a clipping from The Nashville, (Tenn.) Banner, which reads in part as follows.

The lynching of five negroes, who were taken from the jail at Sylvester, was a brutal and revolting deed, shocking to all civilized sensibilities. If the negroes were guilty of the crimes charged against them, there would have been no doubt of their conviction and legal execution. A white grand jury would have indicted them and they would have been tried before a white judge elected exclusively by white votes, by a white jury and under laws made wholly by white men. They were surely entitled to that much. So says The Nashville Banner. Now I can't give you all of Mr. W.'s letter. Just a part of it. But he says, "I read between the lines of the letter from my Wisconsin friend and client, a feeling of distress and alarm, not only from the standpoint of a prudent investor, who shrinks from the ultimate possibilities of such a state of affairs as exist in our state, but there is a manifestation of melancholia sentiment animating the mind and heart of this good American citizen, which though obviously repressed, nevertheless finds sorrowful expression through his pen."

My, my! Distressed, alarmed, and has melancholia. I suspect the poor fellow has indigestion or Dyspepsia. If so he should diet himself. I know by experience what these things will do for a fellow. The very thing to cause distress and alarm. Has melancholia, ah me. So bad that it is flowing out through his pen. Well, well, well. Pretty bad case. I hope he won't attempt to come down South, for Georgia has quarantined against that, done that in 1914, when cotton went down to \$30 per bale. Now I am fearful that our friend Willingham, has it too, I guess he has been fooling around up in Wisconsin with his friend and has caught melancholia too.

Friend W. says: "My own mental process in dealing with problems always impels me to drive at once and without circumlocution to the vulnerable spot in my humble opinion the trouble is in the lack of moral courage on the part of Georgia officials, not even excepting Senators and Congressmen and Legislators and Sheriffs, and last but not least, the governor of the state."

O ye Senators, Legislators, Sheriffs, Judges, and Big Nat. you hear it don't ye. In my opinion, there is not a state in the union that has a better set of officials, including the old war horse governor, than Georgia has. And no state has a better Code of laws than Georgia has.

Too Much Humbuggery.

Under this head our W—— tells us that there has been too much humbuggery in Georgia. That is the key note. That is the cause of most of our troubles in Georgia. If the laws were only allowed to take their course as they should, there would be very little trouble in Georgia. He says, (That men in high positions have been unwilling to make a personal sacrifice) I disagree with him. I don't think any state ever had a more sacrificing governor, than

Georgia, has had, John M. Slaton, sacrificed his friends, together with all the laws of his state when he commuted the sentence of Frank's.

Mr. Willingham, farther says, "they have been a little too much interested in getting the job, and not enough interested in discharging the responsibilities of the job. This responsibility should be discharged conscientiously, courageously and competently without regard to the cost.) No doubt Mr. W—— is correct in that Mr. W—— fears that the governor of Georgia, Hon. Nat. E. Harris, is lending a listening ear to someone in McDuffie County.

Some times I am conscious of a feeling which may or may not have real foundation that the present governor is attaching some little interest in the sayings of the man who is sometimes spoken of as the Sage of McDuffie, but who might be more appropriately designated as Red Eyed Scorpion of McDuffie.

I can't imagine who he has reference to, unless it is our Uncle Tom Watson. If he is the one, that beats me. I have never had the pleasure of meeting Uncle Tom, though I have heard that he had red hair, but I have never heard before that he had red eyes. He must be an Albino, or a Toper. I never heard of him drinking. If he refers to him perhaps he is judging the color of his eyes by his writings. He has been giving the people the truth, and you know a lot of people can't stand the truth. When the Apostles of the Lord preached the truth by the power of Holy Ghost, Acts 2. 13. (Others mocking said these men are full of new wine.) Then I should think according to Mr. W—— that the Apostles were red eyed then. There are thousands and thousands of people in Georgia and all through the South and many in the North as well as other parts of these United States, who think this red headed, red eyed, red blooded scorpion, one of the wisest and one of the most patriotic law-abiding citizens of this nation. Our Mr. Willingham, farther says, "For days and even weeks prior to the Frank lynching the air was full of Anarchy, the tread of it was plainly heard in the distance long before the successful execution of its plans. The governor did not have the moral courage to protect the good name of this state against the unlawful invasion of that contingent of Georgians who saw fit to take the law into their own hands."

That is strange, I live right here in North Georgia, have lived here many years, I have just as nice large set of saddle skirts as ever set on a man's gourd and can hear just as good as anyone, and I declare I could not hear the tread of any mob, and more. If there was anarchy, in the air I did not smell it, and I am sure I did not inhale any of it. The only anarchy I heard any talk of was when Slaton, mobbed the decision of the courts of the state and of the nation, and they did not call that anarchy but called it Monarchy. I don't think that my Brother Willingham, heard the tread of any mob, or smelt the anarchy in the air. It must have been the effects of melancholy working on him. I can't tell, it is running out of his pen too. Now let me say in conclusion, I don't know anything about Mr. Willingham, I should guess he is a nice man. I don't know what his profession is, perhaps a lawyer. I don't know what his politics are. Democrat I reckon. I know he is a Roman, he may not be a Catholic. I should think he is a Protestant Roman.

Bro. W—— seems to blame the state officials for not bringing to justice the lynchers of Mr. Frank and others. I did not know before, that a Senator or Congressman or a legislator, had anything more to do with the enforcement of the law than Mr. W—— or myself. Now in regard to what he says about our

Governor. Hon. N. E. Harris. I don't think that the governor or any one else could punish a criminal in any way unless he could get some evidence against him. It is true that Brother Harris is getting up in years and may not have altogether as much executive ability as he once had, but I think Georgia has today as good a governor as any state. And Georgia has a code of as good laws as any state in this Union. Wisconsin not excepted. Will Bro. W—— remember, that just a few hours before Governor Harris took the oath of office, that an act had been committed, that has no precedence in any state. When ex-Governor Slaton, set aside as thousands of people think, not only of the laws of Georgia, but the laws of the United States when he set his judgment up against all the courts of the land. When he commuted the sentence of Leo M. Frank, I believe that 90 per cent. of the people think he Slaton, committed a more heinous crime than Frank. So you see when Harris went into office the people did not feel that they had any laws, since they had been nullified and set aside. It is considered by most people of Georgia that if we have any laws at all, we have one for the rich man and the jew, and another for the poor white man and the negro.

Now let the governor of any state treat the people as Slaton has done in Georgia and the ultimate results will be the same. I am a Georgian, and I am proud of it. I feel that while Georgia may be humiliated, not because of the acts of violence on the part of the people, she still remains the Empire State of the South. It makes me sick when I hear a Georgian quoting some old Northern Jew or Catholic, who would like to spit their venom in the face of Georgia. They claim to be so very much interested in Georgia, but it is only for the dollars that they can get out of her. There has been a number of people lynched in Georgia as well as other states, and there was no great hue and cry about it except when came from one Northern paper who was so much interested in Georgia. But when it comes to executing a man who has money by the millions, it is something awful, and the

fair name of Georgia must be smirched, and her people Anarchist and mobbers, and some of her citizens to help out in the work of satan.

There is one thing you may see on, Georgians will protect the name of their women, against assaults of any brute be he white or black. If the law fails look for people. It is much better for you to be allowed to take its course, you will have no lawlessness. Let every Georgian go to work and see that the laws are duly executed and don't allow any man to spend your presence against the good name of Georgia. I resent, and expect to continue to resent, all such talk of Rot.

I remain yours, a citizen of the Empire State of the South.

R. S. SAUNDERS

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