

WILL THE SOUTH TURN REPUBLICAN?

The World's Events of Chicago prints an interesting article from the pen of Governor Gilchrist of Florida and entitled "Will the South Turn Republican?" By way of introduction the editor of World's Events says:

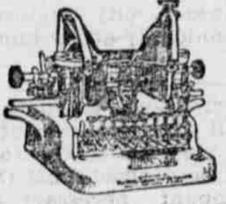
The interest aroused in the publication of the discussion on the southern problem last month leads us to publish another letter this month along the same line. The subject is rendered the more interesting

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when it is learned that at the beginning of 1909 the democrats had twenty-two of the governors of the forty-six states and the republicans twenty-four, as stated by Leslie's Weekly. This is a smaller number of republican governors than we have had in the last thirteen years.

The writer of the following communication, Governor A. W. Gilchrist, of Florida, has had a most interesting history. His father, General William E. Gilchrist went to Florida from South Carolina during the forties, settling at Quincy, Fla. He was one of the largest slave-owners and landed proprietors in that state. The same could also be said of his father, John Gilchrist, of South Carolina. The fortunes of war swept away the estate of Governor Gilchrist's father. He died about the commencement of the war. The governor therefore commenced life with nothing. He began on a modest income, became a civil engineer, and afterwards engaged with profit in the real estate business.

In the Spanish-American war he entered the service as a private, went to Santiago, Cuba, and was mustered out as captain, having served as acting major.

One of Governor Gilchrist's grandfathers was Colonel Joseph Ball, a grandfather of George Washington. Another of his grandfathers was Colonel Edwin Conway, the grandfather of James Madison. Still another of his long-ago grandfathers was also the grandfather of one who was appointed governor of Florida by President Jackson in the territorial days. It was natural for him, therefore to want the governorship.

Governor Gilchrist has traveled in all the states, except about five or six, and has made one trip to Europe. He has served four terms in the Florida legislature, being speaker in 1905.—World's Events.

Governor Gilchrist's letter follows: Editor World's Events: In reply to your letter, in reference to the reception tendered President-elect Taft, in which you ask if could infer that the south was turning republican, I take this means of replying to the same.

Mr. Taft is the president-elect of the United States, and as such he is entitled to all the respect due to such an exalted position. He was a visitor to the southland. Although not a stranger, yet entitled to all the courtesies due a stranger within our gates. In addition to being the president-elect, Mr. Taft has a pleasant personality. This, in itself, appeals to our people. He has been giving us taffy. Everybody likes taffy, especially if given in broken doses. I would prefer thinking of him as "Taffy Taft," than as "Acid Taft."

As to the south "leaning to new party affiliations," I can only answer for myself. As you know, we have a racial question, which permeates the political affiliations of the southland. Instead of discussing the race question, as seen here, I would invite your attention to it as it now exists in neutral territory—the far western states. As you know, there are few Japanese and Chinese on the Pacific coast. It is needless for me to invite your attention to the various bills, which have been introduced in the state legislature of, say California. Consider the indication of the feeling as judged from these proposed acts. Suppose that there was enough of this element in the state to represent one-third to fully one-half of the voting strength of the state of California. Suppose then, that with the combination of a few white men, styling themselves republicans, this element could control the election of practically every office within the gift of the people of California. Suppose this election would, as the negroes in the south, vote practically as a unit. Don't you think

that the white people of California would combine, so as to preserve their very civilization?

I would state that in the town in which I live and vote, Punta Gorda, in the democratic primary election, every white man votes, except the two republican federal office-holders. The men who are nominated for office are nominated by a majority of the white voters of every possible political element. The nominees of such primary are called democrats, although nominated by republicans, populists, socialists, prohibitionists, democrats and by members of every known or conceivable party.

Suppose that such a condition existed in California, and that the white people had such a primary system, do you suppose that the visits of a presidential-elect, even though banqueted on 'possum, would change the political conditions?

Here, recently, I have read of disturbances in Pittsburg, Pa., due largely to the unruly action of certain negroes. Suppose that the population of Pennsylvania was one-third to one-half colored, do you think that a few thousand, or even a few hundred white men, with the colored contingent, would rule Pennsylvania?

Much has been said in reference to the solidity of certain states of the south. Recently, I read an article in some paper, I think the Baltimore Sun, in which it was stated that the population of North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Alabama, Mississippi and Louisiana was less than the population of Pennsylvania, and that the combined vote of these seven states was about seventy per cent democratic. This paper also stated that the vote of Pennsylvania was fully seventy per cent republican. Pennsylvania has now no racial question. Why not let the south alone, and try to change the solidity of Pennsylvania? The same question might also be asked of Vermont, New Hampshire and other states.

Taking the question home to yourself in Chicago. If the conditions were changed, make your own deductions. In making your deductions, consider, judging from the riots, would the white people of Springfield, Ill., provided the negroes were nearly half the population, be willing for them to dominate its affairs?

There is no section of the union, citizens of which feel more kindly toward the negroes than they do in the south. I know of no law which has ever been passed, such as was introduced in the legislature of several of the western states, in reference to the Japanese and Chinese. Right here in Tallahassee, on the main street and in the best portion of the city, there are stores owned and managed by negroes. The Japanese and Chinese are industrious, law-abiding citizens. If the people of California and other western states feel that they are justified in taking such steps against a handful of such people, it may probably result in their having a more kindly feeling toward their white brethren in the South. I have read that "A fellow feeling makes us wondrous kind."

ALBERT W. GILCHRIST, Governor. Tallahassee, Florida.

A ROYALIST PRAYER

A royalist divine, during the protectorate, was in the habit of delivering the following quibbling prayer: "O, Lord, who hast put a sword into the hand of thy servant Oliver, put it into his heart also, to do according to thy word." He would drop his voice at the word "also," and, after a significant pause, repeat the concluding sentence in an undertone.—Christian Register.

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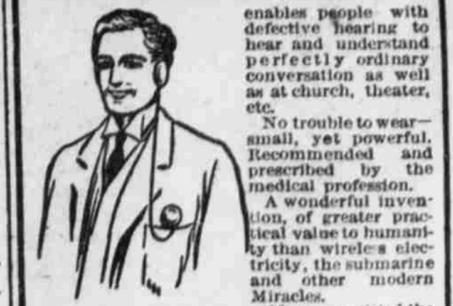
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