

SELMA, ALABAMA, June 11, 1874.

Dear Sir:—As the time is again drawing nigh when the Republican party must make another grand and glorious move to defeat Democracy, and when we must select our standard-bearers in the coming election, I deem it not improper to address you this letter.

We have many pretended friends, now seeking office, who claim to be true Republicans, some of whom, in the hour of danger, deserted our ranks and tried to defeat our party, the glorious principles of which have cost so much toil and hardships, and I do not think you will allow the soft words and smooth tongues of such to deceive you and get your support. I desire to call your attention to one man in particular, whom our party has once trusted and placed in high position, and who has in the hour of battle played traitor to our party, deserted the cause, and attempted to defeat every right which the Republican party has won for us. I refer to George H. Craig, Judge of the Criminal Court of Dallas County.

The object of this letter is to prove to you that George H. Craig is politically unworthy of your trust and confidence, that he has betrayed the Republican party, and has loaned the official position which you conferred upon him, to destroy your rights, your liberty, your freedom, your all; and, as he is now a candidate for another high judicial position it is proper for me—and he dare not complain—that I expose his unfitness; and though you may be, as I am, personally friendly to him, yet you will acknowledge that I not only have the right but that it is my duty to assist you in saving Republican principles, which have cost so much, and which are so dear to you and all lovers of freedom, from the designs of such men.

Let me ask you the following questions, and as you read them over give me your answer.

First. If I prove to you that since he has been in office he has tried to defeat your party and liberty, will you again trust him?

Second. If he has acted partially in his official capacity, between the colored and the white man, discriminating in favor of the latter, will you again trust him?

Third. If he has diregarded the findings of your grand jurors, and turned loose a white democrat who shot and attempted to murder a colored man, and let the white man go free without trial, without a jury passing upon the case, will you trust him?

Fourth. If he has made the records of his Court speak a lie, so as to show that a white man was tried and found not guilty for shooting a colored man, when in fact there was no trial, will you again trust him?

Fifth. If I show you that he was the cause of M. DeCamp being appointed Sheriff, against the wishes of the Republican party, who made a house of prostitution out of the County Jail, and abused and insulted your wives and daughters who came to see you while confined in jail, then will you again trust him?

Sixth. If he has done all the above things will you again trust him?

Seventh. If he has done either of the above things, then will you trust or support him for any place whatever.

Eighth. If he refuses to meet me on the stump, before you at your public meetings, and deny these things, will you dare speak for him?

Ninth. If he goes about by himself, denying these charges, when the records of his court, the clerk, sheriff, and a dozen other witnesses know and will prove the charges to be true, then will you believe, speak for or trust him?

Now I know the above charges are severe, and require nerve, and the consciousness of truth and candor to make them, and I do it at my peril, and if I do not prove them to you to be true, then I deserve condemnation at your hands—unless you shut your eyes and ears and refuse to receive proof. Mr. Craig has already employed Judge Brooks to prosecute me for telling some of the above things on him, but the truth will triumph, and I defy his attempts to keep down exposure of his acts. He is judge of a court, and while we owe him respect, and are compelled by him to obedience, we have a right to discuss his public or official acts, and expose whatever he does that is wrong.

Now, to prove the first charge above made, I refer you to the Selma Times newspaper, dated August 23, 1872, where his celebrated Greeley letter is published, from which I give him the name of *Greeley II.* in place of George H. Craig. You can see this paper, either at the Selma Times office, at my office, the Circuit Clerk's, or Register's office, should you not have preserved a copy yourself. He also had this celebrated letter published in North Alabama, in the Talladega Reporter, of August 21st, 1872, where it was used to great advantage by his brother democrats to attempt to defeat the Republican party and General Grant. Now let's look for a moment to see what there is in this letter. I will not set it out, because its too long. You can all see it for yourselves, but I suggest that each beat, church or neighborhood appoint one, two or three of your number to come to Selma and receive proof of these statements. And when you come don't come to Craig, or those supporting him (if there is any such), but come to myself, the County Solicitor, the Sheriff, or any other not pledged to him of your own party, or General E. W. Pettus, or Col. S. J. Saffold of the opposite party.

In 1872 the Republicans of the United States re-nominated General U. S. Grant for president, and all true Republicans who were not afraid of democracy, but were in favor of liberty, freedom and justice sustained and assisted to elect him. At the same time Horace Greeley and Gratz Brown (as strong a democrat as ever marked the earth's soil), were nominated by the democrats, and all opposed to freedom, Republicanism, negro suffrage and negro rule as they called it, were trying to elect them, and George H. Craig was one of the number and can't deny it, though feign he would. You all, or most of you, know that he went about, big as life, establishing "Greeley and Brown Clubs." Didn't he? Now, if a man ever fools you once, "goes back" on you once, betrays you once, will you trust him again? But suppose he now claims that he went for "Greeley and Brown" through ignorance, which I think he will do, then is he the kind of a man you want for a judge? Will you give him a still higher place than ever? Just think of it! The Judge of the Criminal Court going about "getting up Greeley and Brown Clubs," and writing Greeley letters!! Trying to defeat the Republican party and General Grant!!! Who fed him, and where did he get his money from while doing this?—Out of the County Treasury, from the tax you helped to pay. You helped to give him the prettiest, roundest, fattest office in the State; one any young lawyer on earth ought to be proud of, with a salary of \$3,000 00 a year, or \$250 00 per month, and right in the midst of this, while drawing this money, while every right you hold dear to you and your children was not only at stake, but in great danger, while democracy throughout the United States were making one grand, powerful, terrible effort to overturn the Republican party, and take away from you your right to vote and hold office, while we needed every man in our party, for one time and a few days, to stand firm and defiant. Just at this time he showed his true colors, and attempted to overthrow all, and go with the democrats. Men of liberty, men of right, think of it! Remember it!! Learn a lesson from it before it is too late.

No, it was not ignorance, but I will tell you what it was, it was this: He thought the Radical party was gone, that it was beaten, and that the democrats would carry the day, and he wanted to hold on to his office, and hold up his "Greeley and Brown letter," and his activity in forming clubs for Greeley and Brown to show what a good democrat he was just at the right time.

Why, what did the democrats of North Alabama say of this Greeley letter while reading it at public meetings, attempting to turn our friends up there against us. They argued this way: "Judge Craig lives down there among the colored people. They elected him. He knows all about them and their party, and right now, in the midst of his office, he boldly comes out for democracy. He can't trust the Republican party. He can't live in it with a fat office and the honors of a judge, and now will you, away up here where you know nothing of their ignorance, corruption and unfitness to hold office, trust and act with them?"

The above is some of the points made on Craig's Greeley letter in North Alabama, and perhaps in other States. But happy and fortunate for you and for me, the brave, noble, true Republicans scorned Craig and his letter, and true as the needle to the magnet, battled for Republicanism and right, and to-day we are a success and a free people. Craig now says he is a good Republican, but remember, he wants another and a larger office. Will you give it to him? Will any man who is not bought with a price sustain or advocate him, with all these facts before him? An old friend from the country a few days ago, while speaking about letting Craig go for a while, said: "Changing pastures makes fat calves," and I thought he hit the nail right on the head. Would it not be well to let Craig go out of office for a while, and see if he will remain as true a Republican as he now says he is? If he is "true blue and dyed in the wool," he won't leave us even out of office. Did you ever see him tried out of office? If so, when? Perhaps he can say what many other rank Democrats can, that "he played marbles with you when you were both boys," &c. Try him out of office awhile, and see how the Grant harness fits him. It takes good grit for a Southern boy to be a "Rad" out of office in this State, but any sort of a man can be one while drawing \$3,000 a year. Craig's desire to get out of this into a higher office, puts me in mind of the white man and Indian, who went hunting together and agreed to equally divide all they killed. Well, they killed a turkey and a buzzard, and when they went to divide (we will suppose Craig to be the white man) the white man says, "Now you take the buzzard and I'll take the turkey, or I'll take the turkey and you may take the buzzard." The Indian said, "Hum, you never said turkey to me nary time once."

There is much more I will tell you about in my next letter, or when I see you; but I must stop now to tell you an anecdote about "The Crenshaw case." It is this:

THE CRENSHAW CASE.

At the March Term, 1873, of Judge Craig's Criminal Court, the grand jury indicted Clarence or Bud Crenshaw, for an assault with intent to murder a colored man (whose name, I think, was Jim Lane). B. J. Fort, at Marion Junction, or Mr. Joseph Mosely, below Orrville, can tell you all about the shooting of this man by Crenshaw. I am told the colored man (Lane) died from the wound. Now, I am told, and do not doubt it, that Mr. Crenshaw is a nice, clever gentleman, and I do not blame him for getting out of this scrape the best he could. I am told he is very rich, and his money done him good this time, but what I object to is the way Judge Craig disposed of the case. Now, did you ever hear of a colored man, or Republican, being indicted for a penitentiary offense and getting off without being arrested, or giving bond, or going to jail, or to the Courthouse, or being tried? Did you ever hear of one being tried for such an offense, when "he wasn't there?" Do you think you could get off without being arrested, or giving bond, or going to jail, or being tried by a jury if you were indicted for an assault with intent to murder? Do you think it is right to "make fish out of one and flesh out of another?" Do you think it is right that Judge

Craig's records should show that Crenshaw was acquitted of this offense, when in fact he was not tried, not arrested, not in the Courthouse, and not in the county? Do you think it is right that Judge Craig's records should speak a lie, by saying that Crenshaw came in his own proper person and was fined not guilty by a jury? And if all this is so, don't you think I am right in telling you so? Ain't you at work in your fields, and know but little of what is going on here, and don't you expect the Republicans here who know, and ain't afraid to speak the truth about Judges or anybody else, to tell you of such things? Don't the Judge, when he is asking you stand up to him and give him another office, tell you that he lets you off as easy as he does a white man or a Democrat? If he talks to you one way and does another, don't you want to know it.

Well, when you come to Selma, if you will look (at the Courthouse, in the Criminal Court office) in Docket No. 4, page 551, dated April 2d, 1873, you will see where the record shows that Crenshaw was tried and found not guilty of this offense (assault to murder). You will see that the record shows that Joseph Rosser, a respectable merchant in Selma, and eleven others, tried the case, and you ask Joe Rosser if he ever heard of tried such a case? The record makes it look like the jury found him one hundred dollars, but no jury ever passed upon or tried the case. Ask W. A. Brantley, your sheriff, if Crenshaw was in the Courthouse at the time, and if he did not, at that time, have a *capias* for Crenshaw's arrest? And he will tell you he did. Ask General Pettus if it ain't so? Then look and see if Judge Craig did not sign this record, and you will see that he did. Then look and see if the original indictment ain't stolen out or destroyed. Ask Solicitor J. S. Diggs if all this ain't true? Now, what excuse can the Judge give for all this? Will he say that I am trying to injure him? That you must give him another office? or will he try to have me indicted for telling it on him? Am I to blame for telling the truth? Is there a colored man on earth that can stand up before the people and ask that Craig be elected to another office? No, I have too much faith in your wisdom, your prudence, honor and fidelity to believe such a thing. Now I know he will try to plaster over these things, and say that I don't like him, and am running against him, and all like that; but suppose all that is so, is he to be excused for selling or trying to sell you out to Democrats? It is true, I am against him, and so I am against all the balance of the Greeley Democracy and worked against it when Craig was working for it, and I shall ever remain against him and Democracy, until I see him tried by a proper test and proven to be true. It is very easy for him to go about preaching that he is a Republican when he wants another and higher office; but you want to see men tried out of office as well as in it. Let him remain out awhile, and see if he is genuine true blue. See if he is a good Republican while out of office. We need not be afraid of losing, because if he is "true blue and dyed in the wool," he will stand to us. Ain't it best to try doubtful men sometimes, by seeing how they will serve the party while they are out of office? Our party is getting so down here, that every man in it, or who claims to belong to it, expects an office for his services; and I am told that Judge Craig says in private, that he has sacrificed all he had for the cause. Well, I want to know what he had before he claimed to belong to the party? Was he a Republican before that? No, he was not.

The time is coming this Fall, when we have got to select bold, fearless true men to carry our State. We want no Greeley or Herndon Kuklux Democracy. We want men who were opposed to Greeley, who were opposed to Kuklux Democracy, who would not give one Grant for a thousand Greeleys. Yes; men who will not sell out our party in the hour of danger, men who will not let off Crenshaw without a trial, after he shot a colored man. I wish that poor man whom Crenshaw shot had not died, so he could tell you the kind of men you want. His name was Jim Lane, but he is gone. He will be a witness against Craig and Crenshaw at the Judgment bar. I ask you not to forget this poor man's life. He was a true Republican. I am told that Craig has been saying that I am persecuting him; that he says I am telling stories on him; but I ask you to hear him deny these things where I am. Appoint a meeting, that he and I can each have a say, and see who is right. Now, I want you to answer me the following questions, viz:

Is it not my duty to tell you the truth, and if Judge Craig has turned loose a white Democrat, who shot down a colored man without cause, is it not my duty to tell you so? It is well known by those poor colored men who were in jail while DeCamp was sheriff, that the jail was turned into a den for abusing, insulting and prostituting their wives, sisters and daughters who came to see their husbands and friends; that these wives in many instances had to submit to the embraces of the sheriff and jailer, before they were allowed to go up to see their husbands. It is well known that Craig knew these facts and neglected to stop it, but tried by all means in his power to re-elect DeCamp in place of W. A. Brantley. What, I ask, do all these things mean? It is also well known by those posted, in Selma, that just before our last election, Craig tried to break Brantley's bond, so that the sheriff's office would devolve upon a Democrat—the coroner—who would appoint Democratic inspectors, and thus carry our county for the Democracy. But as good luck would have it, one of our old tried friends, who had a mortgage on Judge Craig's house, stepped in and stopped this little trick. When you come to Selma, call on me and I will give you the names, dates and all the circumstances.

Allow me to say in conclusion, that whoever may fail to receive your support, for your sake, your children's sake, your country's sake and that of Republicanism, and for God's sake, don't trust Craig in a high Judicial trust, until our party is able and willing to be sold to Democracy.

Respectfully,

JASPER N. HANEY.