

## **Incited Negroes to Assault.**

[*The Wilmington Messenger*, October 29, 1898]

### **The Infamous Speech of a Republican in Richmond County.**

(From The Raleigh News and Observer)

Laurinburg, N.C., October 21—Thee [sp] republican county candidates, in company with a white republican by the name of Henry Covington, are now making the county canvass.

Yesterday Covington spoke at Old Hundred and made a villainous speech. He told the negroes they were **THE BEST RACE OF PEOPLE ON EARTH.**

He also told them that when our white girls return from colleges and schools that the negroes are usually employed to look after them and drive them about over the country, and added:

**“IF I WERE IN YOUR PLACE I WOULD PUT MY ARMS AROUND THEM.”**

Today they were billed to speak at Mason’s Cross roads, near here. The best citizens of Gibson, Laurinburg, Laurel Hill and the community generally, resolved that they **WOULD NOT HAVE A REPITION** of the occurrences. So they were promptly met by three hundred of our most determined element and advised to make no more inflaming speeches in lower Richmond.

As for Covington, **HE WAS MADE TO STAND UP IN A BUGGY AND RETRACT**, saying he was sorry for what he said, and promising never to do so again. **HE WAS THEN PUT IN HIS BUGGY AND TOLD TO HIT THE GRIT**, which he did.

If men who call themselves white are determined to go round inflaming the negroes, and abusing good white men and women, the people are determined that they shall seek other quarters to carry on their nefarious business.