

Look At This Trio.

[*The Wilmington Messenger*, October 21, 1898]

One with Dark Skin, the Others with Heart Just as Black

Besmirchers of the Character of Our Best People

Negro Editor Manly, Nonpartisan Judge Adams and Populist Senator Butler United in Uttering Foul Slanders on the Virtue of the White Women of Our State and Ascribing to Our Best Men Conduct that Would Make Devils Blush to be Accused Of.

In compliance with numerous requests, we publish below the full text of the famous and infamous editorial from the *Wilmington Record* (negro paper) of August 18, 1898:

MRS. FELTON'S SPEECH

“A Mrs. Felton from Georgia, makes a speech before the Agricultural Society at Tybee, GA, in which she advocates lynching as an extreme measure. This woman makes a strong plea for womanhood and if the alleged crimes of rape were half so frequent as oft times reported, her plea would be worthy of consideration.

“Mrs. Felton, like many other so-called Christians, loses sight of the basic principle of the religion of Christ in her plea for one class of religion against another. If a missionary spirit is essential for the uplifting of the poor white girls, why is it? **THE MORALS OF THE POOR WHITE PEOPLE ARE ON PAR WITH THEIR COLORED NEIGHBORS OF LIKE CONDITIONS AND IF ONE DOUBTS THE STATEMENT LET HIM VISIT AMONG THEM.** The whole lump needs to be leavened by those who profess so much religion and showing them that the preservation of virtue is an essential for the life of any people.

“Mrs. Felton begins well for she admits that education will better protect the girls on the farm from the assaulter. This we admit and it should not be confined to the white any more than to the colored girls. The papers are filled often with reports of rapes of white women, and the subsequent lynching of the alleged rapist. The editors pour forth volumes of aspersions against all Negroes because of the few who may be guilty. If the papers and speakers of the other race would condemn the commission of crime because it is crime and not try to make it appear that the Negroes were the only criminals, they would find their strongest allies in the intelligent Negroes themselves; and together the whites and blacks would root the evil out of both races.

“WE SUGGEST THAT THE WHITES GUARD THEIR WOMEN MORE CLOSELY, as Mrs. Felton says, thus giving no opportunity for the human fiend be he white or black. YOU LEAVE YOUR GOODS OUT OF DOORS AND THEN COMPLAIN BECAUSE THEY ARE TAKEN AWAY. Poor white men are careless in the matter of protecting their women, ESPECIALLY ON THE FARMS. They are careless of their conduct toward them, AND OUR EXPERIENCE AMONG POOR WHITE PEOPLE POOR WHITE PEOPLE IN THE COUNTRY TEACHES US THAT THE WOMEN OF THAT RACE ARE NOT ANY MORE PARTICULAR IN THE MATTER OF CLANDESTINE MEETINGS WITH COLORED MEN than are the white men with colored women. MEETINGS OF THIS KIND GO ON FOR SOME TIME UNTIL THE WOMAN’S INFATUATION or the man’s boldness brings attention to them and the man is lynched for rape. Every Negro lynched is called a ‘big, burly, black brute,’ when in fact many of those who have thus been dealt with had white men for their fathers, and were not only not ‘black’ and ‘burly’ but were SUFFICIENTLY ATTRACTIVE FOR WHITE GIRLS OF CULTURE AND REFINEMENT TO FALL IN LOVE WITH THEM as is very well known to all.

“Mrs. Felton must begin at the fountain head if she wishes to purify the stream.

“Teach your men purity. Let virtue be something more than an excuse for them to intimidate and torture a helpless people. Tell your men that it is no worse for a black to be intimate with a white woman, than for a white man to be intimate with a colored woman.

“You set yourselves down as a lot of carping hypocrites in that you cry aloud for the virtue of your women while you seek to destroy the morality of ours.

“Don’t think ever that your women will remain pure while you are debauching ours. You sow the seed—the harvest will come in due time.”

THE AFFIDAVIT OF THE CLERK.

An effort has been made by some of the politicians to fool the people by representing that this slander was a democratic trick or was garbled, but the following affidavit from the clerk of the superior court settles [sic] the question as to its accuracy:

North Carolina,
New Hanover County,

“I, John D. Taylor, clerk of the superior court of New Hanover county do hereby certify that the foregoing is an accurate and true copy of an editorial in The Daily Record, a paper published in the city of Wilmington, of date of August 18, 1898.

“I further certify that said paper has been published in said city at least eight months prior to this date; that Alex L. Manly, the editor is a negro, is well known as a republican, and has before this held the office of deputy register of deeds of New Hanover county by appointment from Charles W. Norwood, republican register of deeds of New Hanover county.

“I further certify that John N. Goins, business manager of D. Manly, foreman, Jno. T. Howe, general traveling agent, and F. G. Manly, general manager, are all negroes and are known as republicans and the said John T. Howe was a republican representative from New Hanover county.

“Witness my hand and seal this, August 24th, 1898.

“JOHN D. TAYLOR.

“Clerk Superior Court of New Hanover County.”

NOT IN THE PAY OF DEMOCRATS.

The recent defamatory editorial in the negro daily, The Record, of August 18th, in which poor white women were slandered, was such a blow to the “Fusion” cause that Senator Butler’s paper, The Caucasian, in desperation endeavored to bamboozle its populist readers by saying the democrats inspired the article. Some of the populist leaders have also tried to offset the effect of The Record article by saying democrats hired the negro editor to write the article for campaign purposes. These monstrous and debased liars get it rubbed into them by the following, head and all, which appeared in The Record of August 31st:

A MALICIOUS LIE REFUTED.

“The enemies of The Record, not being content with trying to damage our business, are now seeking to assail our personal character by stating that we were a party to an intrigue with democrats for the purpose of defeating the republican party in North Carolina. To all such we unhesitatingly say that the statement is a base, malicious lie, born in the brain of some worthless coward who dares not face us with the lying slander. The puerile resolutions of that executive committee has brought them into disgrace with every honest negro, by their vile statement that

we were not defending our race. We never have had, do not now, nor never intend to have any understanding with democrats on any account politically.”

NOW LOOK ON THIS PICTURE.

(Extract Daily Record, Negro Paper, August 24, 1898)

RESOLUTIONS.

The following resolutions were adopted at the regular session of the Ministerial Union, which is composed of the colored ministers of this city:

“Resolved, That the Ministerial Union, is in hearty sympathy with the efforts of The Daily Record in defending the rights of the race, and that, each minister inform his congregation of the present situation, and endeavor to sustain the paper, by swelling its subscription list, and urging prompt payment.”

AND ON THIS PICTURE.

Manly, the vile slanderer and defamer of the white women of our state endorsed by the District Conference.

The following appears in The Daily Record, of Wilmington, of the 10th September, 1898, the negro paper which recently published a vile slander against white women:

“To the Wilmington Daily Record:

“We, the members of the Wilmington District Conference and Sunday School convention in session at Lake Waccamaw, N.C., after seeing the bold yet manly stand that you have taken for our people, yes, our race, especially our ladies, we assure you that you have our approval and endorsement and pledge ourselves to ever stand by you to the hazarding of our lives. We think you a grand man; we think your paper is the paper that every negro should support as long as she stands forth in the protection of the ladies of our race. May you know that we, sir, have espoused your cause, and we purpose to a man to see that you and your paper shall have our support. Mr. Editor, continue your well begun work in the defence [sp] of our race, yes, the fair ones of our race, and this conference pledges to support you and your paper.

“REV. D.T. MITCHELL, P.E.

“E.S. SIMMONS, Secretary.”

JUDGE ADAMS' SPEECH.

From the Columbia News we take the following:

The August term of the supreme court convened in the court house here Monday morning at 11 o'clock, His Honor Judge [sp] Spencer B. Adams presiding.

His honor's charge to the jury, we will do him the justice to say, was the best (being the only) political speech we ever heard delivered from the bench. We have been reporting court proceedings here for about six years and in that time a number of judges have been here whose political affiliations differed from ours, but we have had no occasion [sp] to refer to any of them in uncomplimentary terms. We regret the necessity for doing so now. But when a man clothed with the judicial ermine takes advantage of a position on the bench to abuse and to vilify as good peoples as there are in the state and to mix his partisan rancor with his instructions of the law, we think it our duty as a faithful chronicler of events, to publish the fact.

The first point of his political speech was to pay his respects to folks who "were going up and down the country abusing people about the way they cast their ballots." This came under the head of "intimidating voters," and was evidently intended for the democratic speakers who are now canvassing the state, as neither of the political parties have begun their canvass yet.

His second political point was in the nature of a defense of the last legislature, saying that if it had done nothing else but pass the law in regard to embezzlement by public officers, administrators, executors, etc., which he was then discussing, it would have been worth all it cost to the state.

He reached the climax, however, when he came to discuss fornication and adultery. He said that "nine times out of ten if you will chase down the fellows who are going about trying to stir up race prejudice you will find them sleeping with a negro woman." When we consider that numbers of as good people as there are in the state are "going about stirring up race prejudice," as he would doubtless call it his statement becomes a most sweeping vilification, and one which cannot be properly characterized in temperate language. And he said this with a kind of a "remember the Maine" expression on his countenance which seemed to indicate his regret that there was not a law by which democratic speakers and papers could be stopped from telling the people of the foothold which negro supremacy had obtained under the present administration.

And this was not all. Proceeding to the question of rape, he argued to the jury that it was a lesser offense than seduction, because the only difference was, he said, that one was committed by force and the other by fraud. It required some courage for the former. He illustrated his position by saying he had rather his purse was stolen by a highwayman than by deception. We may not be surprised that assaults upon white woman by brutes—the lowest crime in the eyes of the law as well as of men to which it is possible for human depravity to descend—are so alarmingly on the increase when a judge on the bench attempts to minimize its heinousness and argues to a grand jury that it is less a crime than one for which the most extreme penalty is a term in the penitentiary.

We are informed that Judge Adams never practiced law, and was simply clerk of the court of Caswell county when he was called into our “non-partisan judiciary.”

His honor received just a few days ago from the republicans of his district a renomination for the position he now holds and this was, perhaps, his opening campaign speech.

MARION BUTLER’S VICIOUS CHARGE.

Marion Butler in his odious speech at Rocky Mount made the villainous charge that democrats hired worthless negroes to commit outrages on white women in order to make political capital; and about the time Judge Adams was delivering his “charge” against the patriotic white men of the state who are using their energy, their talents and their means at this time up and down and athwart the state, to restore honesty in public office and decency and safety in our commonwealth his negro political conferee—the Wilmington editor—was penning his “charge” against the “poor white farmers’ wives.”

Are these in the “hire of democrats” also?