

His Eyes Opened.

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

W.H. Chadbourn, Postmaster, Now Sees the True State of Affairs.

ANOTHER LETTER TO PRITCHARD

In Which he Attempts to Put Himself Aright Before the Community. Possible Erroneous Impressions of His Former Letter Corrected. The Intense Feeling Against Negro Domination—Not the “Usual Political Cry,” But a Determination of Tax Payers, Property Owners and Business Men to Control the City and County.

Wilmington, N. C., October 18th, 1898.

Senator J.C. Pritchard,

Dear Sir: Since writing you on September 26th, events have taken place in this community which necessitates some further explanation on my part in order to put myself right before the community here and also to correct any mistaken impression I may have made in your mind.

For the sake of any fancied political advantage I cannot afford to make a one-sided presentation of the situation in this City and County, and my naming only the white officials and leaving out the colored doubtless some advantage has been taken, and a false color given to the actual situation, to which the business people and tax-payers regardless of party have made serious objections.

As a matter of fact, there are in this County thirty-six colored magistrates, and a colored Register of deeds and various other minor officials besides some Presidential appointees, and the property owners, tax-payers and business men seriously object to this state of affairs, and there now exists here the most intense feeling against any sort of negro domination.

There is a greater feeling of unrest and uncertainty about the maintenance of order than I have ever seen and many, even the most conservative, feel that a race conflict is imminent, than which nothing could be more disastrous not only to this City and County, but to our party in the State, and rather than have riot, arson and bloodshed prevail here,

I, Republican though I am, advise giving up the local offices in this County, as there are no National political principles involved in this contest.

I had thought at first that it was merely the usual political cry and the fight for the offices but I am now convinced the feeling is much deeper than this, as it pervades the whole community, and there seems to be a settled determination on the part of the property owners, business men and tax payers that they will administer City and County Government.

Your Friend,

W.H. Chadbourn.