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## OUR PUBLIC PRINTER.



WHY HE IS BEING INVESTIGATED.  
(From the Budget.)

A new paper has been started in this city called the BUDGET. It is a six column folio, nicely printed and ably edited. In its issue of March 3, it has the following article on our Public Printer, Hon. T. E. Benedict. The BEE has reproduced the article because it is a good defence of a worthy man, although a democrat. Some democrats like some republicans can be fair and honest, and Mr. Benedict is one of those men:

"The Congressional Committee who are engaged in the so-called investigation of Public Printer Benedict and his management of the Government Printing Office, are rather tardy in their work. Probably this is because they have thus far failed to sustain any of the charges made against his management of the office. Since the above committee entered upon their duty it has been very amusing to any one who have heard the rumors originating from and circulated by the blackest types of Radical employes who are employed under Mr. Benedict. He is not aware of the large number of scheming rascals under his employ, and who, together with the aid of one or two local journals, have, to a certain extent, been the cause of this 'investigation.' The persistency with which they have clung to the forlorn hope that they could successfully carry out their well laid plans, is nothing more than an indication of the reluctance felt by them at surrendering the fat office enjoyed by them these many years. It is rather late in the day to call for an investigation of this office. There has been times under former administrations when such investigation would have been in order, and from which disastrous consequences have resulted. But now the office is conducted on a more clean and businesslike method. Hence the investigation.

Mr. Benedict is conspicuously fitted for the position to which he has been assigned, and his appointment as Public Printer won the approbation of all fair minded people. It must be admitted that Mr. Benedict has, in some instances, made discharges in the wrong direction, but of course he is not supposed to know the many wants of all who have lost their places. To the victors belong the spoils but THE BUDGET thinks there are many 'victors' out in the cold.

Make a little investigation yourself, Mr. Benedict, find out who your enemies are and punish them accordingly. Before closing we would say that it is proper for all disappointed office seeker—especially those former employes of the office who have tried to make known to Mr. Benedict their staunch Democratic principles—this so called investigating committee, and those of our contemporaries who have failed to grind a sharp edge on their very dull axe, to gracefully accept their defeat, and as a vanquished competitor in a combat, take the hand extended by the conqueror and both work in unison for the country's good.

And the BEE will add that a great number of the colored printers and employes in the Government Printing office were discharged on the recommendation of republican bosses without the knowledge of Mr. Benedict. A great number of these republican bosses were the tattlers on colored men, merely to gain favor with Mr. Benedict. There is no Public Printer, outside of Mr. Benedict, who has had a personal knowledge of the management of the printing office. We disagree

with our contemporary as to Mr. Rounds. In the opinion of the BEE he was honest. It is known that Mr. Round was not only a friend to the colored people, but to the poorer classes of whites. He was a just man; and if he made a mistake it was of the head and not of the heart.

For a democrat, Mr. Benedict is one of the best men a colored man needs to have. He knows no man by his color and a negro under Mr. Benedict has the same chance to succeed and to be appointed as a white man. The office under him is conducted like clock work and so long as Mr. Benedict is a friend to the colored man the BEE is a friend to him and a poor man or woman has the same chance to see him as a Senator or a member of Congress.

## PROF. LANGSTON.

### BEFORE THE EDUCATION AND LABOR COMMITTEE. HE SPEAKS FOR HIS PEOPLE

The House committee on education and labor met Wednesday morning and listened to a very able argument by Prof. John M. Langston in favor of the passage of the Blair bill. The members of the committee present were Messrs. Candler, chairman; Lane, Remington, O'Donnell, Taylor, Russell, Beldin, White.

Prof. Langston, in opening his address, stated that he came as the representative of the people of the state of Virginia, of which he was a native and resident. He also stated that it was a matter of serious regret that the committee appointed by the legislature of Virginia to advocate the passage of the bill was not with him, as they expected to be. He said that the feeling of the people, not only of Virginia, but of the whole south, was almost unanimous in favor of the passage of this bill. There were some few who objected to it, and among them, to his great astonishment, was one of the great educators of the state, Gen. Armstrong, president of the Hampton School. Gen. Armstrong, until lately, had been in favor of the bill, but for some unaccountable reason he had declared against it, his principal reason being that it took away from the people of the south the great ideas of self-help.

Prof. Langston's arguments in the main were in answer to this protestation of Gen. Armstrong that federal aid would cause the people of the south to forget that self-help was the great and moving principle in education as well as in all other things. He then showed very conclusively that in Gen. Armstrong's own school at Hampton, as well as in all the schools of the south, aid granted either to national, state, or charitable institutions or people did not take away the independence of the pupil or of the institution of the state. His argument on this point was absolutely conclusive.

Having disposed of this question, Prof. Langston then gave a history of the condition of the south as to education at the close of the war of the rebellion, when he was the general agent, traveling all over the south, of the Freedman's bureau, and of its condition at present. He showed that illiteracy was so great in most of the southern states that the men who could read the ballots they held the balance of power politically, and made a strong appeal to the committee for national aid to remedy this great and growing evil. He said that the states and the people were doing all that was possible for them to do, and it was the duty of the national government to supplement that work with its power and purse. After quoting from an address by Dr. J. L. M. Curry, the general agent of the great Peabody fund, Mr. Langston closed his remarks.

Mr. Pennington, a member of the committee from Delaware, put some questions to Prof. Langston about the right and power of the United States government to pass such a measure as the Blair bill—in other words Mr. Pennington raised the constitutional question. Unfortunately 12 o'clock arrived and the committee, under the rules of the House, had to adjourn, so that the questions could not be answered, though Prof. Langston professed readiness to answer them satisfactorily in the brief space of five minutes. The address was listened to with marked attention by the mem-

bers of the committee present and a few persons who had assembled in the committee room.

## THE CONDITION OF THE SOUTH.

WHAT BISHOP BROWN'S SON GEO. SEES IN THE SOUTH. HIS FUTURE TO BE MADE THERE. THE PLACE FOR YOUNG MEN FROM A YOUNG MAN'S STANDPOINT.

Mr. Geo. A. Brown, son of Bishop J. M. Brown, who recently returned from the South, on account of his father's illness, has decided to cast his future among his people in the South. He gives the following account of the South:

### OUR MEN.

We find in the south and west, openings that can and should be filled by our men and young men, in whose power it lies to elevate themselves individually, also their race, by so accepting. Our short time in Memphis Tenn., Marian, Crawfordsville and other little towns in Arkansas, shows us that there are positions for young men who are capable of filling them. There is a great work for us to do provided we as men, and not as society dudes, will work and not be afraid of our hands getting dirty and hard. True in Memphis we find hundreds of young men, but they have not had an opportunity to get the amount of education that they need, to carry on a business decently, and yet the few who have been fortunate, are engaged in at least, two or three different kinds of business; over in Marian, Arkansas we find a few industrious colored men. The county judge is a Negro, the county clerk is a Negro, the deputy Sheriff is a Negro, and while this place is not quite as beautiful and as large as our city, it is a place where more young colored men are needed to take these places when lost by these gentlemen and keep out the whites. There are positions in this place that could be filled by colored men, if we could get colored men who are willing to subject themselves to the circumstances, and work earnestly to help build up their country and their state. More newspapers are needed, more mechanics are needed, more education is needed and more teachers are needed. Right here in the city of Washington, we find young men who are fully capable of doing well, and starting different kinds of business if they can make up their minds to leave these departments (from which they are liable at any time to be dismissed) leave this society (for a year or two) leave these pool and crap games, that are swallowing up their money and monopolizing those thoughts, and that time, which might, if put to a good use, benefit them morally, mentally and financially. This is our object in writing; on our return we find one of our young men, whose fathers have given them an education, porters on the Rail Road, one third in the departments, the other third hanging around some bar-room or place of dissipation, waiting for positions, where they would have to bend their backs or soil their hands. We do not mean to say that there is dishonor in being porters, bootblacks &c., but we do desire our young men to strike out go where they are needed as men, go where they can grow, go where they are looked upon by the whites, as something more than a slave. If we were never going to use this education that some of us have obtained, why did we not stop years ago, and do this kind of work? why did we allow our poor old parents to spend dollar after dollar on us? It is true that we cannot make a fortune in a day, but at the same time, it is time that by sticking close to our work, going where our women are being insulted by white wretches, taking those positions that no white man has it in his power to say, you shall and you shant, by striking back when struck. We say it is true that we will in a few years have not only money, but a name and an independent race.

There are some young men in this town who want to be men, and are working for that place, but, it is sad when we look around, and see the majority of our young men nothing more than parlor ornaments fritting away their time and money, never once thinking

that they are members of a race, that has been for years, and is yet being oppressed by all other races. These are the young men whom we implore to leave this place, strike out, grow up with the country and be men. Knowing as we do, we advise our young men to come and help us to fight against those white men of the south whose minds are made up to keep the Negro down. Come south with us and teach our people to stay away from the theatres, where they are pushed off into a pit, and thrown out if they speak of it; come south and stop the white men from smoking in the cars, while our ladies are there. Some of us will say "they will kill us," fight earnestly, and if they mean to kill let us meet the same. We have but one time to die then prepare your selves. Could a Negro man leave a better name than that he died protecting his mother or his sister?

So let us urge you once more to come with us, grow with the country and be men of the Negro race.

## AGAINST RUM.

Congressman J. D. Taylor, of Ohio: I beg to state that I am, as a republican and as an American citizen, opposed to the saloon interest in politics and out of politics, and shall be glad to see the republican party an anti-saloon party, in state and nation, and am always ready to work for this.

Judge A. W. Benson, of Kansas: The question is not whether this matter should be taken into politics, for it is already there. But the real question for republicans is, which side of this question is our party on? If with the saloons, then with the saloons it must perish; if with the home, then with the home will it triumph. The party that gets right on this question, and maintains the right, will succeed. A mere passive policy will not do, for we will then be deserted by men of both sides, as we ought to be.

Ex-Chief Justice Noah Davis, at Cooper Institute: I have spoken from the inspiration of the occasion because my heart is wholly in it. I can see—pardon me, pardon me, if I appear to speak too much of myself—as clearly as is seen the sunrise of the east and the breaking morning of a June day—I can see that in this position to be assumed by the Republican party there is certain and eventual triumph. [Applause.] It may come slowly; I think it will come fast. I hear from all parts of the country the sentiment that is agitating the hearts of the people. In the hamlet, on the farm, in town and village, all over the nation—the sentiment that it is gathering to strike down the saloon. [Applause.] It is gathering like a storm. It will be preceded by perhaps a slight fall of rain. It will come then in the gusts of wind; it will grow to be the blast of a cyclone, and it will sweep the saloon out of existence, leaving our nation freer from vice, shame, crime, pauperism, infamy and misery than it ever has been. [Prolonged applause.]

Ex-Senator William Windom, at same place: As Republicans we believe in the principles, the purposes, and the mission of that old party which, with pen and sword, has written the proudest and sublimest pages of human history. [Applause.] Nor is it the object of this movement merely to vitalize and strengthen that grand old party, but rather to hasten the time when it shall bring the mighty force at its command into action, to curtail, restrict and destroy this evil, the most dangerous foe to the republic and the greatest evil which has ever afflicted human kind.

Hon. Theo. Roosevelt, at same place: I think that the Republican party should go ahead, and I think that it will go ahead in this manner [applause] as it did on the great question of slavery. We will with the rum power, as with the power of the slave barons, hem it in, in every way. We will cut it off in every way we can. [Applause.] As we advocated the doctrine of prohibitory slavery in the Territories, where we had the right and power to do it, so we will prohibit the sale of liquor in every place where a majority of the legal voters gives us the power to do it. [Applause.] We will try to restrict. It ams to minimize its evils to the very greatest extent that it is possible to go. [Applause.]

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