

Gavice W. Maxwell

LEBIBOU.

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'60 THE NEW SECESSION. '79

IN the Republic of Letters there has never been any distinction save that of merit. From the blind beggar, Homer, down the ages through Aesop and Terence, the slaves, to Dumas, the mulatto, the only credential asked or given, was that of merit. A footing once obtained within its sacred bounds and all were alike—the slave and the prince, the beggar and the millionaire stood together on one platform and were joined in a noble equality.

It remained for the members of the North Carolina Amateur Press Association to demand that this ancient and noble glory sh'ld be cast aside and men be rated not by their degree of ability; not by moral worth, but by accidents of birth or fortune.

The editors of the *North Carolina Amateur* protest not only against our election to the 3rd. Vice Presidency of the N. A. P. A, but against our membership in that honorable body. They declare themselves insulted by the membership and election; impute sinister motives to the honorable gentlemen by whom we were unanimously supported

and finally give notice of their secession from the 'dom.

The N. C. A. P. A, backs up these declarations by a series of resolutions in which they assert that our election was a direct insult to the Southern members and they proceed to call a convention for the formation of a Southern Amateur Press Association and the cutting of all connection with the Napa.

We entered the 'dom in as good faith as either of the editors of the *N. C. Amateur* and are as sadly mistaken as they, to find that "Civil Rights" would ever be questioned. And to the credit of the last convention, "where the boy editors, from the great lakes on the North; from the billowy Atlantic on the East to the peaceful waves of the Pacific on the West;" we can say, that there was only one present who had ever dared to oppose the subject.

As proudly as any, we can boast that we have worked our way to to the front. Commencing with contributions to the puzzle departments of the *Boys of New York*, *Boys' Own* and *Wide Awake* and afterwards sending our journalistic productions to the *Juvenile Weekly* of Lexington, Ky, the *Amateur*

*Argus* and finally becoming completely enthused with the spirit, started the publication of our pride, LE BIJOU. During this career, we have never been met by any other demand than that of furnishing readable matter, that done, we were welcomed every-where and by everybody. LE BIJOU, while not the best paper in the 'dom, will compare favorably in manner and matter with any and we think far surpasses the *North Carolina Amateur* in every particular.

At a meeting of the Napa, at Washington we were nominated to the 3rd. Vice Presidency by a Southerner and although over two-thirds of those present, were Southerners we were elected *without a dissenting vote!*

This election was due, not as Holland and Carr falsely charge to any political motive or purpose of insulting the Southern members, but was a recognition of work fairly done in the 'dom.

As for us, we are *Americans*. Our ancestors, free colored men, fought with Washington at Brandywine and Germantown; others sailed with Perry at Put-in-Bay and marched with Harrison in Canada. Whatever glories were gained for the American name in those days and in those struggles, we share; whatever rights were earned, we inherit.

Had we stood as a slave and with bowed head stood the oppression of the imperious and despotic slave-holders until Lincoln's proclamation had set us

free, none the less would we demand the right to stand in the 'dom upon an equality with any.

To the amateurs, North and South, who have encouraged us in the contest which has arisen, we are deeply grateful.

We promise them that we will so deport ourselves that they shall never regret that they stood by the right in this case.

To Oldham, Carr, Holland and that most honorable association, (*for they are all honorable men*), we would say in the words of President Briggs: "It is time for the Southern as well as the Northern and Western people to begin to realize that this country is the land of the *free*; that slavery is abolished in spirit as well as reality; that civil rights is, under the law an established fact and that the negro is on the same footing with any of the five great races that go to make up this glorious republic." Therefore, cease your efforts to subject the 'dom to the abominable rule of prejudice and error. You have made a mistake, which you, (*mark our words*), you will regret at no distant day. It will be wise for you to let "the dead past bury the dead." Slavery is dead, and the conditions, which it produced must pass away with it.

Civil Rights are already accorded to all, in most of the states, ultimately they will be accorded in *all*. Accept the inevitable, you of North Carolina

and elsewhere, with good grace.

"Then let us pray, that come it may,

As come it will for a' that,  
That *sense* and *worth*, o'er a'  
the earth

May bear the crown, and a'  
that;

For a' that and for a' that,  
That *man to man*, the world  
all o'er

Shall brothers be, for a' that."

### HARK FROM THE TOMBS.

CIVIL RIGHTS IN AMATEURDOM.

Ever since our entrance into this mimic world we have attempted to steer clear of everything which might possibly stir up sectionalism between Northern and Southern amateurs, but now we feel it our duty to broach a subject which we think is for the good of our cause, namely that which heads this brief article.

As yet it has not assumed a serious aspect, but if we allow it to continue on unnoticed we may yet see the day when Amateurdom and the National Association especially, will regret it.

A Southern boy, when attending Northern conventions, would feel slightly out of place to find alongside of him colored members. This is the main thing, it matters not so much about their running amateur journals, this we cannot object to, but when it comes to their being admitted

into active membership of our principal associations then it is time for Southern amateurs to raise a hue and cry to prevent it.

We of the South know more concerning the creatures who were once in slavery, than do our brothers of the North, and it is our advice and request that something be done against their admittance into our National association at least. If admitted after all, it will ultimately result in severing Northern and Southern Amateurdom.

Herbert A. Clarke of Rodney, Miss., and Chas. R. Uncles, of Baltimore, (who contributes to puzzle departments under the *nom-de-Plume* of "Randolph") are to our limited knowledge on the subject, the only two colored youths who have thus far been attracted into our mimic world.—*Odd Trump.*

THE THIRD VICE PRESIDENCY.

For this office there were two candidates proposed—Louis Schliep and Geo. M. Carr. Neither attended the convention but a negro—one Herbert A. Clarke, who did attend was elected.

Louis Schliep is a true amateur and deserved the office, but, while we recognize that Clarke is a smart mulatto, we will not place Schliep *in such a low position* as to compare him to a negro!—Away with Civil Rights in Amateurdom! Let the negroes have a separate organization but

we are opposed, bitterly opposed to the idea of electing a negro to an office, when there are a score of white boys who could fill the office more acceptably.—*Our Free Blade.*

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THE THIRD VICE PRESIDENT OF  
THE N. A. P. A.

While we have no personal objection to Clarke as a boy, still we have a serious objection to him as third Vice President of the N. A. P. A. When we entered Amateurdome we were of the opinion and conviction that none but the white boys of our land were to be allowed membership in the different press Associations. Little did we think that civil rights would be practiced in in our ranks; but in this we find that we have been sadly mistaken, for at the last meeting of the National Convention of Amateurs, where the boy editors, from the great lakes on the North, from the billowy Atlantic on the East to the peaceful waves of the Pacific on the West, all met in one grand union for the purpose of extending the great influence of embryo Journalism in this country, H. A. Clarke, a negro, was actually elected to the position of third Vice President.

This, in our humble judgment, is a stinging and perhaps a death blow to the dom. At least, it is a disgrace to our calling. It will certainly cause a division in the ranks that should be so closely united, for no true

southern boy can tolerate such an insult. The great printers' union prohibited any negro from joining with them, but the representative Amateurs of the United States recognize them in the National Association as their equals and even superiors socially, by placing *one* in authority, who will perhaps preside at the next meeting. (*Would to God that he may!*) Why was it done and by whom? It was done to accomplish some political end, by hot-headed yankees, who are to say the best, no better than the negro himself. We entertain the best feelings for Clarke or any other negro who is trying to raise himself above the level of his inferior race, but when it comes to social equality and even to placing one of African descent in a position of authority over the Anglo-Saxon race, we are at once disgusted. The negro is the inferior race and cannot expect to rank with the white man. He may at the North, but never will he at the South. We have no objections to negroes publishing amateur papers, but would be glad to see more of them of the same spirit of Clarke; but they must not expect membership in the same associations with the whites. They have separate churches and schools, and why should they not have separate Amateur Press Associations? We are willing to give them due honor, but would die rather than they should rule over us in our Asso-

ciation. We say as Southern Journalists that we are anxious to see the negro improve, because if he improves, it will necessarily improve the South, where he abounds in such numbers. From to-day onward we declare ourselves seceded from the National Amateur Press Association(?) and do earnestly hope that all who coincide with us will lend their assistance to establish a white boys' Amateur Press Association and let the negroes and their equals have the one which they have already taken possession of.—*North Carolina Amateur.*

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**VOICES OF FREEDOM.**

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CIVIL RIGHTS.

—It is time for the Southern as well as Northern and Western people to begin to realize that this country is the land of the free; that slavery is abolished in spirit as well as reality; the negro is on the same footing with any of the thousands of the five great races that go to make up this glorious republic. Therefore when a proposition so inhuman as Edward A. Oldham makes to the N. A. P. A. is accepted by our amateurs, they are committing a criminal act. But we *know* the amateurs of this country would never disgrace the noble cause of junior journalism by even intimating such a thing as excluding our colored co-la-

borers of the quill from the fold. Justice is too prominent a characteristic of the mimic press to be ever sacrificed to satisfy the fastidious muttering of a Southern, Northern or Western despot. Brains and honor are the two coveted treasures in this miniature world of ours, and be they to be found in a body as black as night's plutonian darkness, they will be none the less dear. Go hide your head in shame, Oldham. And to think that you, *you* who harbor such antagonistic, and God-forsaken feelings against the colored race, have the impudence to run for the second highest office in an association which claims the proud title of NATIONAL.—*Imp.*

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Oldham's article in the "Odd Trump" regarding "Civil Rights in Amateurdome," was promptly squelched, and in a manner entirely unlooked for by the author thereof. Immediately upon its publication quite a number of prominent Northern amateurs made disparaging comments thereon, and condemned in no measured terms the ignorant writer of the article. This raised a howl from one or two Southern editors who asserted that the Northern editors who denounced Mr. Oldham were Republicans prejudiced against the South and that they knew nothing of the ignorance of the colored race in general. Now we will not endeavor to champion the whole colored race, but

give these same Southern editors to understand that Mr. Herbert A. Clarke, one whom Oldham endeavors to run down, is the superior of either of them (Mr. Oldham included,) in education or as a writer. We are personally acquainted with Mr. Clarke, and have always found him the very soul of honor and a gentleman in the truest sense of the word. Let it be understood that we do not say this from any political motives, as some of the Southern editors will maintain, for we are a Jeffersonian Democrat of the olden school and are honorable enough to award honor to whom honor is due: hence this defense in Mr. Clarke's behalf.—*Composing Stick.*

In the last number of *Old Trump* (called odd because it isn't odd) we find no elaborate schemes, but in their place we find an "idee" regarding "civil rights in amateurdom." In it Oldham objects to the admission of negroes into the National Association—objects to Herbert A. Clarke because of his color! Whatever can be said against Mr. Clarke, one thing is certain, he is as far above Oldham in every particular, as Oldham is above the brute creation. Comparing Oldham to Clarke, is like comparing a singed cat to a Bengal tiger.—*Rounce.*

In the last *Old Trump*, Oldham, the editor, has an editorial on "Civil Rights in Amateurdom"

in which he gives us another taste of his bitter Southern spirit, by the assertion that colored amateurs should not be allowed seats in the National convention. He gives no reasons, except that Southern amateurs would not like to associate with them, and threatens disruption if the colored boys are placed on an equality with them. The National, while it has power to permit the attendance of colored members, has not power to retain any ones wishing to separate themselves from it. In this situation we feel sure the better class of amateurs will unhesitatingly say by their votes, if the matter is brought before them, that the colored member shall stay, though the South should "secede". Let them go, and joy be with their dear little bigoted souls! We might contrast *Le Bijou*, which is published by Herbert A. Clarke, a full-blooded negro, with the *Old Trump* or any other Southern publication we have seen, to the advantage of the former, but space will not permit. We are personally acquainted with Mr. Clarke, and know him to be a fine young man. We predict a decisive defeat to any move Mr. Oldham may make to carry out the narrow-minded ideas promulgated in the editorial mentioned.—*Young Aspirant.*

Aside from the bigotry and rebel-like narrow mindedness he thus exhibits, Ed. Oldham can

hardly with consistency advocate the expulsion of Clarke from the National. Clarke is a colored boy, but for all that, he knows more and is a better writer than three fourths of the editors in the ranks to-day, and has forgotten more than Oldham ever knew. This fire-eating Southerner could with much better sense advocate the expulsion of dissipated boys with whiskey blossomed white faces, a class which we have good reason to believe would include Mr. Oldham himself.

The Southern fire-eating rebels whom the North condescended to whip several years ago and of whom the brilliant youths of North Carolina are fair samples, have not yet lost their ideas of "chivalry", and probably with all the persistency of bigots and with all the characteristics of the fool will adhere to them, until the Yankees or the Yellow Fever thin the population to the children, who can be brought up to think aright—and 'twould be a blessing to the world if one or the other of the "scourges" did so. In particular we have a grudge against the Southern people as a class, because their ignorance, their arrogant pride, their laughable ideas of chivalry, their general insignificance are not worthy the exertion to form a grudge, but when a set of ass-like youths who haven't brains enough to stick a pin in and whose boast is that they are natives of North Carolina—a state whose only characteristics are barren-

ness of intellect and plentiful growth of political demagogues and "moonshine" distillers—attempt to dictate to the NAPA as to distinctions in color when admitting members, we feel like sitting upon them with considerable force. Carr, Daniels, and the other *ignorami* of the contemptible state they seem proud of, may consider it "chivalry" to exclude from the association a boy who knows four times as much as any of them, simply because he is not of the same color. But it is the same kind of "chivalry" which shoots a man in the back for a fancied insult, the "chivalry" of a coward, the "chivalry" of a man as mean as he is contemptible. And while the National is sorry to wound the "honah" of these young men, it will go into the business of wounding "honahs" if by so doing it can drive such as the Carrs and Daniels from its fold and admit the Clarkes—for there by in exchange for demagoguery and lack of brains, it receives sense and energy. The Southern people haven't forgotten their old-time theories yet; they still think their poor little brains the highest of intellects and still think themselves the lords of all creation; and these wrongful notions they will hang to with all the persistency of fools until another union army forcibly demonstrates that they are not the kings of the universe.—*Stylus.*

Ed. Oldham should receive the

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denunciation of every sensible amateur in the fraternity for his unwarrantable insult to Herbert A. Clarke. Why, lad, Clarke has more brains in one inch than could be found in half a dozen such noddles as that which you possess.—*Tatler*.

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We consider "Civil Rights in Amateurdom," in the *Odd Trump* a direct insult to H. A. Clarke and when Mr. Allhog can raise himself from the miserable sheet he publishes to the position occupied by Clarke, he will have accomplished more than ever mortal being dreamed of.—*Little Pearl*.

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Clarke is the gentleman whom Oldham spoke so desparagingly of in the last *Old Trump*, because he is a negro. Clarke is, however, able to cope with him every time. He was born in Cincinnati, there received his education and there is probably not a boy in the N. A. P. A, who has a better. He teaches school in Rodey, Miss.—*Plain Dealer*.

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The EXPONENT has always been conducted on a strictly impartial plan as far as sectionalism is concerned, but when a set of bigots raise and back such a question as that of Oldham's, then we get right up and howl for the division of the North and South, for then amateur journalism will die in the "sunny summer clime," and we will be no longer digraded.

We have not, as yet, more than heard of the St. Louis bigot's remarks, but if we were, as we once was, a resident of the Mound City, we'd punch his head.

For the benefit of the St. Louis bigot we will say that we *have* taken Mr. Clarke to places where we call and *have* introduced him to respectable young ladies of our acquaintance.—*Exponent*.

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#### PRICE LIST FOR '80.

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