

To
Hon. Philatus Sawyer
— Chairman —

Sir: I understand that the nomination of Col.
A.W. Shaffer is contested before the Senate.

Nothing can be said by any one, in
the least degree derogatory:

- 1 - To Col. Shaffer's ability. He is an official of notable thoroughness, capacity, intelligence and zeal. No one questions that his administration of any office ~~will~~ ^{is} efficient, economical and honorable to the Government.
- 2 - No one will pretend to allege that there is the slightest danger that he will appoint a single incompetent, inefficient, or unreliable or disreputable subordinate.
- 3 - No one will question his personal or official integrity, uprightness or that he is of ~~unquestioned~~ ^{undoubted} the highest moral character.

the successful argument
the most bitter opposition
in need of the graded schools
of Raleigh was known to the
city, the State and the
whole South.

In a struggle lasting
through years, by the melting
of large sums and the per-
sistent appeal to the best
element of the city's life, he
not only secured public
approval and support but

4 - No one will doubt that he has
given more time ^{and} money and
care to ~~secure~~ ^{advance} the ~~cause of~~ ^{cause of} ~~public~~ ^{public}
~~education and~~ ⁱⁿ ~~welfare of the~~ ^{city of} ~~the~~ ^{Raleigh} ~~city~~ ^{than any other} ~~of~~ ^{city}
its graded schools ^{being} ~~are~~ ^a testimony not
only of his sagacity but of his indomitable per-
severance and unflinching liberality in a good cause.

5 - No one will question that he was a faithful soldier who soon merited distinction by shedding his blood on the side of the Union. It may be his misfortune but cannot be counted a fault.

6 - No one can deny that he has assumed greater liability and suffered more loss as a bondman for Republican officials in the state than any other man with ^{possibly} ~~any~~ exception.

It can be alleged against him ~~that he has~~

- 1 - That he has opposed the nomination of men by the Republican party whose election would be a disgrace to any party.
- 2 - That he has assumed the responsibility of asking investigation of officers controlled by corrupt and debased men ^{as U. S. Commissioner}.
- 3 - That he was most resolute and persistent in the prosecution of Ku Klux affairs at a time when in the whole South there were few men who dared take such steps.

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4- That as Supervisor of Elections, he is the most feared enemy of fraud and the most vigilant protector of the rights of the voter to be found in the state.

5- That his retention in office will tend to make Republicanism respectable and so impair the chances of Democratic success, while if many of those who are his opponents are to control and represent the party in North Carolina its resurrection probably would and most assuredly ought to be indefinitely postponed.

I can understand why a Democratic Senator, acting solely for his party's advantage, should ~~desire~~ ^{oppose} Col. Sheffer's confirmation. I can understand how a Republican Senator, anxious for his party's good name, could fail to support him.

I cannot see how any one, Republican or Democrat, looking ^{only} to the honorable, efficient and economical administration of an important office could vote against him.

I have known him intimately for twenty = two years and have never known an unmanly or dishonorable act on his part. He is an enemy of official malfeasance and the records of the courts show that he has good reason to ~~be~~ ^{be} so. He will oppose personal incompetency and moral foulness as the exponents of party character, and does not believe in the buying and selling of party strength by professional manipulators; ^{and professional "convention burners"} but for worthy candidates he is always a willing worker.

Whether there are proper qualifications for a Republican office holder, I do not profess to know, but I think there are a good many ^{throughout the country} who have a queer notion that they are. Sincerely yours —