

One Collett Swanton was sent to Randolph county to hunt up conscripts and overawe the Union men of that notoriously loyal county. I have not the date and record of his appointment but am informed by an officer who served under him that he was a Brig. General of the Revenue Service - He is familiarly known in that county as "Dance's Brigadier" and "Dance's Bull-dog". This man established upon the waters of Back Creek an institution which has become infamous in the annals of the county and surrounding country as, ~~the~~ "The Bull-Den".

It was an enclosure in which the wives and children of men supposed to be violating the conscript law - the fugitive Unionists of the county - were confined ~~to~~ under guard, to make them disclose their husbands' brothers' and fathers' hiding places - upwards of forty

H

women were here confined, as I am informed, for about three weeks, subject to every ^{possible} indignity, allowed no privacy and not even permitted to relieve the demands of nature except under the eye of a "home guard" and within ~~reach~~ ^{reach} of his bayonet - women were taken from their nursing infants and for weeks kept there depriving their offspring of needed nourishment - But

Is this "woman-torture" or shall the brow of this infamy be gilded with a milder name?

Again, in the same county a squad
of "conscript-hunters" under the com-
mand of one Brent Pike seized Bill
Caven's young wife and after tearing her
young infant from her arms slapping
her face and subjecting her to other inhu-
manity - put her thumbs under the sharp
picks of a new mangle fence and
then mounted and cut upon the fence
to wring from her by this excruciating
torture a revelation of ~~the~~ her husband's
hiding-place - which she, poor woman,
did not know. Is this "woman torture"?

My authority.

I have derived my information in re-
gard to these facts, both from victims and
actors in these tragedies - In relation to the
"Bull-Pen" I also have the facts from

Judge Little and the late
Col. Wm. S. Scott, who, ^{as counsel} sought to procure the
^{the} release of ^{women} these unfortunates by writs of
habeas corpus. I have heard both of them
relate it ⁱⁿ public speeches upon the
stump, within a few miles of the place
where the "Bull Pen" was located, to crowded
audiences of victims and their relatives, friends
and neighbors who ^{to the letter} ~~repeated~~ their statements.

Is Dana responsible for these acts? Is he a "woman-torturer"?

S. Sewthrop and his House-Guards were the servants and Dana was the master. Did he ever disapprove the acts of his agents? Was Sewthrop or any other officer court-martialed for this infamy? Was he placed in arrest? Was he tried? Was he punished? Was he even rebuked?

Of course, I did not ^{intend to} say, and no one in the audience was ^{ought} fool to understand me as saying, that Dana went out with gun and dogs, himself to hunt correspondents, or personally applied the thumb-screw or the finger-vail to their ^{finger} ~~vices~~. I had no intention of saying that he - individually - ran the "Bull Pen" business in Randolph ~~County~~, but that his subordinates did, and he by not disapproving, censuring or punishing the same, endorsed ^{their acts -} ~~the same~~. The principle quis facit per alium, facit per se, is as true in politics as in law, and Gov. Dana can never ~~escape~~ ^{never} escape the odium of these acts ~~than a man can~~ by a ^{bare} ~~denial~~ ~~that~~.

I see in the Raleigh News of to-
day ~~the~~ reprint of a letter to the N. C.
Tribune in denial of certain statements by
Ex. Gov. Vance, in denial of certain
statements made by me, in reference to
Vance in a speech in Rochester N. C.
In the speech referred to I alluded to Vance
"as one of the chief managers of the Bal-
timore transfiguration scene and incident-
ally mentioned the following facts of
his record -

1 - That he was elected Governor of North
Carolina during the war, by the Union
men of the State, as an avowed "Peace"
candidate, in opposition to Johnson the
candidate representative of the "war to
the knife" and "last ditch" policy in
the State - That he was made the standard
bearer of Peace and Resurrection, by the patriots
of North Carolina, and elected as an
exponent of their views -

2 - That no sooner had he become sworn in
the Executive seat than he turned his back
upon those who had elected him and out-
heralded "Herald" in his zeal for the Con-
federacy, declaring that he would "fight
the Yankees until Hell froze over and then
fight them on the ice"; that he would
"fill Hell with Yankees till their feet
stuck out of the windows"; that he sold
out his supporters and caused the prolonging
of the Southern Unionist's misadventure
and the war to be greatly prolonged -

3 - That after being elected as a Union
man and a Peace candidate, he became
a conscript hunter and woman
torturer.

4 - That he said in a speech in the

I hope to be I must however, admit that I heartily concur in two of the ideas expressed by Gov. Vance in his letter - First that ^{the} ~~the~~ ^{public} ~~political~~ policy should not be ~~controlled~~ ^{based upon} by the falsehoods and fissions begotten of the wound of civil war" and this truth might be made more complete by adding - ^{controlled} ~~even~~ by the men who represent them* - The "falsehoods and fissions" begotten of civil war" should be buried in the graves of the ~~fallen~~ ^{immortal} for dead. The truths and lessons of civil war should be treasured in the memories of the patriots living - Thus it seems to me to be simple folly to place the shaping of our future policy ^{in any degree} in the hands of one who believes the words which ^{Gov. Vance} he uttered in May last before an immense audience in this city - "The Confederate soldiers believed they were right" and then after a pause slowly and deliberately - "and they were right!" The first member of the sentence ^{is equally} ~~is~~ ^{appreciated} ~~appreciated~~. The nation will hardly endorse the second - at this time.

He also says that my object in referring to these things was to show ^{what bold} ~~who were~~ ^{company} ~~the~~ ^{Mr. Greeley} ~~the~~ ^{at the} ~~South~~ - This is literally true - we have Mr. Weller's authority that "veal-pie is good and wholesome if one knows the woman as made it," and I wish the country to know who cooked the Baltimore hush -

Respectfully

Wm. L. G. T. G.

*Men who threaten political opponents with a fate worse than that of London and Governor and especially when the terrors of Kuhlman's follow the threat like a fulfillment on the heels of prophecy -

Gov. Vance and his political associates are
welcome to the cry of "carpet-bagger". I can endure
the epithet longer than they can afford to give it -
it is the outcropping of a spirit which belonged to an-
other era. "Carpet-bagger" and "Rascal" constitute the
stock in trade of the whilom "Chivalry" as did "Abolition-
ist" and "Purdell" in former days - The world has
moved since then epithets were more dreaded than the
mark of Cain - The Chinese wall which surrounded
this "Celestial Empire" of the South has been broken
down and "Chivalry" has been forced to bow to
"Pluck" - They have still to learn that a man may be
quite as proud of being born "North of Mason's and Dix-
on's as in the shadow of the Union-blessed blue-
pen and with quite as much reason - They have to
learn too, that such an one has an equal right to the
privilege of citizenship upon the "Sacred Soil" with those
who happen to be created out of "Old Time" - "Carpet-
bagger" is the rallying cry of an lost ~~cause~~ - the
final reflex of a spirit on whose brow no a-
mount of disappointed ambition or angry
spite can ever write "Resurgam". I pity the
weakness that can only sit and rail the ruin of his
blighted hopes and wrecked aspirations and yell
"carpet-bagger" but if it annoys him, he is as well-
come to it as a sick baby to a ^{broken toy} dumb kitten.

But Gov. Vance has not always been con-
tent to denounce me as a "carpet-bagger" sim-
ply - At the Raleigh and Blair Convention in 1868
he assailed me in a public speech as a "^{prison} ~~prison~~
contagious bird" who had served me on more terms
"in a Southern penitentiary". A declaration infu-
mously and maliciously false by whomsoever made,
and which Vance knew to be wholly without founda-
tion, for ~~no such great cause ever of a heated politician~~
~~campaign in which his party had trusted me to any~~
~~cause to find comment against me and had failed -~~
if proof had existed it would have been
adduced in support of the calumny he uttered -
Knowing that my judicial position deprived me
of access, ~~to the height of Chivalry~~ he breathed
the vile slander into the public ear, counting it no
the height of "Chivalry" and an honor to "Nationalists"
thus to defame and label a "carpet-bagger".

One word more apropos of J. B. Vance. In a public speech at the Legation and Blair Convention in New York City in 1868, Gov. Vance referring to me by name I believe, stated that "one of the Superior Court judges ~~of~~ of this State was a carpet-bag ignoramus who had never been admitted to the bar and had served four years in a Northern penitentiary" - I cannot give his exact words at this minute as I have somewhere mislaid the report of his speech, but this was the substance - This statement was an infamous falsehood and could only have been stated with the basest of motives. He either denied the lie himself or retailed another's ^{standing} without question. An hours inquiry would have settled its truth or falsity. So that in any case, Gov. Vance ~~stands self convicted~~ of an assault, "wilfully and maliciously false," upon the private character of a man prevented by his official position, from giving to such a slander the answer he deserved, to subvert a political end.

I passed it over at that time without special notice because I knew that time would one day brand its author as a liar and a slanderer - unless, as I hoped, when the rancour of political hate had somewhat cooled, he might have sufficient manliness to offer a retraction as public as the slander - I did not then know that this infamous and infamous course of assault upon me was part and parcel of the conspiracy which was to ripen ^{in a few months} into KKKK -

ism and then be heralded as its ex-
cuse: I desired to contribute oppo-
sitions and not to compromise my offi-
cial position by personal altercation.
I refer to it now merely to say that it is
certainly with an ill grace that ~~man~~^{one}
who has thus wilfully and maliciously
assailed the character of a judge, whom
he knew from his position to be without
recess - with aspersions "wilfully and ~~and~~
infamously ~~and~~ false" - cries out "wickedness"
and "falschhood" when the ~~same~~ man whom
he has thus traduced, ~~after four years of pa-~~
~~tient waiting for a ready retraction,~~
comments fairly, though possibly, upon
his ~~own~~ public acts and record a-
gain.

Gov. Vance is welcome to cry "car-
pet-bagger". I can endure the epithet longer
than he can afford to give it - ~~I care no~~^{and}
more for his "carpet-bag" than for
his "penitentiary" ~~and~~^{lies}. If however he
will show that I have misstated him
in the least - or having been misin-
formed failed to retract my error when
~~so~~ shown I am willing to be consid-
ered not only "as mean as the fattest
carpet-bagger" but ~~as~~ base as a man
who will slander a judge for political
effect -

A. W. Torrey

And now one word more apropos
 of G. B. Vance. In a speech at the Legman
 and Blair Convention, in New York, in 1868
 he said - referring to me by name I think
 that "one of the judges of our Superior Court
 was a carpet-bug ignoramus who had
 served a term in one of the Northern
 penitentiaries" - I have not his exact words,
 but give the substance - This statement was
 infamously and maliciously false and
 could only have been uttered with the
 basest of motives, namely, the securing
 a political end by the slander of
 private character - He either com-
 mitted the lie or uttered another's without
 inquiry - nay, knowing it to be
 false; for Gov. Vance knew that we
 had just come out of a heated cam-
 paign in which I was prominently
 engaged and a candidate, and in which
 it would have been worth some thousands
 of votes to his party, to prove such a
 charge - He knew that there was not a
 particle of proof nor the least ground
 for it ^{if there had been, his friends would have caught it out and}
 for this charge. He knew that the words
 which he uttered ^{hung pinned the charge upon me long before -} in the ear of the nation
 were a vile personal slander against
 one whose position debarr'd him from
 seeking redress - He thinks that as he suc-
 ceeded in foisting this slander upon thousands
 of credulous strangers - so his present de-
 nial - through my desire for peace
 may go unquestioned, & let that as-
 surt pass without especial notice because
 I sought to conciliate hostility and did
 not wish to become involved in personal con-
 troversies - Besides, I knew that Time would
 one day brand the man who uttered this

charge as a liar and slanderer, unless, as I hoped, when political passions had somewhat cooled, he might offer a retraction ~~an apology~~ as public as the slander. I did not then know that the incessant attacks upon me in every conceivable form, were of a part of the conspiracy which was to ripen in a few months into ~~conf~~ Ku Kluxism and the public opinion thus created, afterwards to be heralded as its ^{I do not feel bound to hear longer -} excuse. The cry of "wickedness" and "falseness" comes with a bad grace from Mr. Vance, after this, when I merely allude to the facts of his public record.

Gov. Vance is welcome to the cry of "carpet-bagger". I can endure it longer than he can afford to give it. If he thinks that he can keep up the old H. H. V. and "Mud-sill" distinctions by crying "Carpet-bagger" and "Native", he mistakes the decade in which we live - It may never have occurred to him that a man may be proud of being born north of Mason's and Dixon's line, as well as south of it, and with deference to his opinion, quite as justly so - And he is probably quite unable to comprehend that a Republican may consider his political associations quite as honorable as any to be found at Baltimore - And so I, poor carpet-bagger, had always thought it an attribute of chivalry ~~to retract~~ ^{to retract} of false statements when they are shown to be ~~so~~ erroneous, until he showed me the contrary -

A. W. Torrey