

Dictated.

Personal.

Mayville, N.Y.

Feb. 17th 1890.

Hon. William Windom:

My dear Sir:

I learn from the public press that Col. A. W. Shaffer of Raleigh, N.C., is at war with some of the subordinates, or perhaps the head of the Supervising Architect's office, and that the endeavor has been made to draw him into collision with you as the head of the Treasury Department.

One of the best things ever done by a President, was the appointment of Col. Shaffer as Postmaster at Raleigh. I have known the man intimately since 1867. He is as true as steel, and as honest as a cold-chisel. He hates fraud and rascality of all kinds and will not be a party directly or indirectly to any misprision of trust. He is as pugnacious as a Norway rat and just as hard to drive. Nobody ever kicked him without getting a bitten foot, and probably never will. On the other hand, when he is trusted and treated like a man, he will do more work and better, in an office than any one I ever knew: will make money go farther, yield more and keep a tighter rein on subordinates. He never treats a man who is under him with discourtesy, but will strike in an instant at a superior whom he imagines to be either unjust or corrupt.

He is just the man who is needed at that very point where the local Republicanism has for many years been of a fragrant charac-

ter. I do not know anything ^{very} about the merits of the present controversy; but I would be willing to avouch that though Shaffer may be ^{particularly} turbulent, that he is right. Stewart Ellison is not a man one knows ^{do know the ins and out and the entire personnel of North Carolina politics, having lived there and been a part of} it until 1860, and familiar by careful following ^{of it ever since.} ing him would like to give the key even of an empty house.

Shaffer has been on the bonds of two-thirds of the prominent U.S. officials in the State for twenty ~~five~~ years, and has lost a

small fortune by their numerous defalcations. He is as proud and sensitive about his integrity and trustworthiness as a woman is of her virtue. Rather than let a man among his mail-bags, whom he could not trust, he would camp there every night of his term with a shotgun. He can be relied on to do his duty, and compel respect for any office he holds, while the more favor shown to the men who are opposing him, the worse it will always be for the Party in the State. The way to make Republicanism "respectable" at the South is to give it respectable representatives.

Yours very truly,

P.S. Please excuse this letter. Except that I ^{am} proud of the sturdy integrity of one who is both a Republican and a friend to be proud of, I have no interest in the matter. I trust you will excuse also, that it is typewritten, since it is necessity rather than inclination that compels it.

Yours,