

Mobile Ala
8 April 1876

My dear sir,

I must thank you for the strong and hearty expressions in your letter of the 3rd to the "Register." There may be many who would feel as you do, but few who would have had the courage to use the plain English that you did. The same considerations that induced [D?] to swallow, without a twinge, the first report of the committee's decision, and even commend it, would have polarized their peers. You have given my case a hearing before our people in a way it would not otherwise have had, and which will go a great way towards correcting any false impressions the committee's [?] may have caused amongst our people. I was chiefly anxious about that, for it pained me to be placed in the attitude of one who had fought for a fabricated cause, and of having simply sought to take advantage of a partisan majority. Your testimony counteracts that and I hope to be still further vindicated upon the floor of the House, when the proper time comes. I am really thankful now, that it was so ordered that Capt. Johnston should have come in to Washington, and briefed my case. He knew more thoroughly than anyone else its strength, and the magnitude of the principles involved, and can also defend me at home.

It is hard for me to account for all the zeal with which the committee champion Haralson, but it seems to me that at the bottom of some, is more of that spirit of [?], that has acted like a dead weight upon the majority in the House, and has enabled their political opponents to beat them in the regards of the people. The Democratic party seems to be completely emasculated of all principle. It presents nothing positive for the popular heart to attach itself to. It vegetates instead of actively living.

The committee's report, abounds in belittling statements, suggestions of falsehood, absolute untruth, and bad law.

It opens with asserting that the grounds are vaguely and indefinitely pleaded. You can judge the sincerity of that when you know that they were drawn or revised by Thos [?], Hamilton, and J. Little Smith of Mobile, and Capt. Johnston of Selma. The placing Haralson's 18 specification of lies and slanders, alongside of mine, supported by testimony as of equal weight and integrity, is an outrage upon judicial decency. The [?] exclamation on page 3, about Squire being attorney & witness, is the cream of [?]. The committee knew from the evidence that Squire's profession is that of civil engineer, and that he was no more attorney at law than any special agent of the government, who works up a conspiracy, even by joining it, and then turns witness for the state. The committee are silent about the peculiar laws of the state. The December registration showing 1637 reported, than votes cast in November, in Mobile City, and about [?] 110, and the Dallas vote of 1869. They put testimony into the mouth of Perez and Taylor, never entered by those witnesses. They say there was evidence shown that the population of Mobile had not changed since 1870, when there was not one scintilla. They say the evidence shows a heated canvass (speaking of Dallas) when there is not a word to that effect, and would not be, as the Democrats made a still [?]; that the troops were in the neighborhood of the polls, when they were at the polls; that Perrin's boast of controlling the negroes was "idle boasting"; when 20 witnesses swore to the fact. They indirectly misstate the English law upon bribery, they dodge "Bacon" in Dallas & Wilcox; and utterly ignore the 16th specification, which was deliberately added by Mr Little Smith for the purpose of having a congressional adjudication of the questions involved. In a word the entire report is a miserable, shuffling lying plea for Haralson, far beneath the brief of White, but [?]; in dignity, accuracy and law. And yet as you say, the House will accept it. I think the subject should be given to a special committee on account of its overlying issues, but have no expectation it will be done. With regards to Mr Caldwell.

Truly yours
Frederick Bromberg

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For Mr. Caldwell Ala

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