

## TO PATRIOTIC ALLIANCEMEN.

### Defending the Alliance against Political Tricksters.

*To my Alliance Brethren of North Carolina :*

LENOIR, N. C., Nov. 24th, 1890.

I was among the first to join the Alliance in Caldwell Co. Before I joined, I was assured that nothing was secret except the signs and passwords, which were necessary to protect us from imposters.

When I was initiated, I was solemnly assured that there was nothing to "Conflict with my political or religious views."

As far as interference was concerned, my religion and my politics were placed on the same plane, one was as sacred as the other.

I read the Constitution of the Order, and found no hint in it, that it was ever to be made a political machine. On the contrary its labors were to be "In a strictly non-partisan spirit."

It is a benevolent Protective Association to assist each other in trouble. "And to secure entire harmony and good will among all mankind, and brotherly love among ourselves"

These are the great objects of the order, and no one can deny that they are praise-worthy.

But our constitution has been violated, and our principles trampled upon, and as a consequence what do we see?

Instead of brotherly love among ourselves, there is a discord; instead of securing entire harmony and good will with our neighbors and other classes, the seeds of suspicion jealousy, and even hatred are sown; political tests are set up and every one in or out of the order compelled to submit to them on pain of political destruction and if any one refuses to bow down to those idols, no matter what his ability, experience and faithful devotion to the best interests of the farmer, and all classes, he is denounced as unworthy of confidence; office seekers seeing how the Order is being used as a political machine give up, for the time, their legitimate callings and force themselves in contrary to the letter and spirit of the constitution; the freedom of the press is threatened if it presumes to criticize those in the authority—threatened with the boycott, a copy of the odious 'ban of the empire' used by despots in the dark ages.

Freedom of thought and freedom of speech are threatened with the penalty of being "kicked out of the order."

And in addition to all this, there is evidence, amounting almost to a certainty, that an effort is being made through the Alliances to induce or compel the members-elect to the Legislature to violate their solemn pledges to the conventions that nominated them, and thus trample on their honor, and betray the people, both in and out of the order, who elected them.

This is the condition that confronts us. And now what will the conservative members of the Alliance do? Shall we call a halt and demand a return to the constitution and a cessation of this constant interference without political convictions? Or shall we remain silent and see our order drift to destruction?

This will be the inevitable result if we do not come together and enter a determined protest. Good men who are out will not join us, and all classes will band against us. But what can we do?

For one, I propose to stand by the constitution of our order, and offer this suggestion to my conservative brethren throughout the