

State of North Carolina,
Executive Department,
Raleigh.

Copy.

April 10th.1894.

Hon. Z.B.Vance,
Washington,D.C.,

Dear Sir:-

Yours of the 7th. instant received.After due deliberation I signed and sent the letter you refer to,to a member of the Finance Committee,asking the confirmation of Mr.Simmons to be Collector of the Eastern District of North Carolina.

I was led,primarily,to ask Mr.Simmons' confirmation for services rendered the party in the last campaign;and,secondarily, that the failure to have him confirmed would be hurtful to the party in the State,in that the Republicans & Populists propose to make his failure of confirmation a basis of the conduct of the next campaign,involving the issue of fraud in the last election.

In writing such letter I was only claiming for myself a right I am willing to accord to the humblest member of the party-an expression of preference for a faithful party servant.Because of my endorsement of Mr.Simmons you are not warranted in asserting " I am taking sides with Ranson against you".

I deny also,most emphatically the existance of any machine in the party,save that of whose work you and I have been the beneficiaries-you oftener than I.I cannot withdraw the letter, tho' the request had been couched in more courteous terms.

With best wishes for your speedy restoration to health,
I am,

Respectfully yours,