

Governor Carr

I am with you, and holding up both your hands officiously and otherwise in your "Dordanizing" the Education officers recently convicted by judge Timberlake. I hoped to be there at the time and was right in the mob as a looker on from beginning to end, and probably better qualified to give an unbiased account of the whole affair than those whose life and property was at stake. I state it plain for the judge benefit that it was a matter of life and death and but for the timely arrival of the military from Elizabeth City. The consequences would have been deplorable beyond description. When the Negro thief arrested in the act, resisted the officer.

to the extent of his ability to kill
the officer - it was simply a matter
of where pursuit it should be - But,
when the thief found himself in jail
figured death and tried to die, and
was so reported next ^{day} at ten o'clock

The negro masses broke loose in
a wild shout of "dynch the damned
white murder" "defend your race" -
and the negro women frantic with
the spirit of revenge congregating
in a wild disorder - and hallowing
out to the assembling negro - "you
take charge of the men, we will
attend to the white
women" - and strutting
the negro men made for (Spruil,) place
who was the deputy that arrested the
thief - headed by the Negro West - Spruil
had closed his door to keep them out
but they broke it in and commenced
the attack by throwing every thing
at him they could lay their hands
upon - when Spruil drew his pistol
and shot the leader West - just across

The counter of his store - then firing
in the crowd kept them at bay until
assistance of white men came to Spauld
relief through the back door - when
Spauld was taken and carried to jail for
safe keeping from the mob - Then after
a trial before the Mayor and magistrates
you his action in the matter of killing
Went acquitted, but advised to leave
the town to prevent a race conflict -
and he Spauld did so leave at once
selling at an^t, auction sacrifice
every thing he possessed -

Ask Judge Timberlake for me, if
this is the protection of life, liberty
and property guaranteed by our
constitution made sacred by the
valor of our fathers?

I look upon it as a travesty upon
jurisprudence and a disgrace to
civilization that turns the scales
of justice upside down -

You will leave the gubernatorial chair
with more honour than you entered
upon it, for your action in this
matter - Long live Governor Carr.

I was in New Bern three years ago at the
riot of the James City nullifiers of the state
courts - and for three days you ^{you} ^{policed} with
them about obeying the ~~law~~ of the land,
and they met you with the charge, "that
the supreme law of this country was
what they had and what they wanted -
Constitutions and courts to the contrary
notwithstanding - It was this ^{some} ^{specific}
in content that sought to depose a policeman
for arresting one of their race for stealing the
goods of a white man - and to be upheld
by the judge upon the bench is not only
compounding the felony but making an example
of us all - For one I am not in it -
There is an under law in this country
drifting us upon the shoals of disaster
we shudder to describe -

Respect & obedience,

O. R. Smith.

Box 600 -

Durham County.

N.C.

Jan. 4th 1897 -