

THE RECONSTRUCTION OVERTAGES IN SOUTH CAROLINA—Ex-Governor Moses Makes Some Revelations.—Ex-Governor Moses, of South Carolina, has written a long letter to the New York Herald concerning the doings of the republicans in that State under the reconstruction regime. He appears disposed to make a clean breast of his experiences whilst a prominent member of that party and sharing in the spoils. His revelations in regard to the knicker prosecutions throw a good deal of light on a subject that has never yet been properly understood by the general public. He says of the operations of Major Merrill, of the United States army, and his subordinates:

“Young boys just growing up, men in the prime of manhood, and old men tottering on the verge of the grave, were ruthlessly and without the least warning borne from their homes and families and hurried to a distant town to stand their trial, without the least preparation, before republican judges and juries composed almost wholly of colored men organized specially to convict. If by chance there happened to be on those juries any white men it was always found that they were the most rabid and partisan republican politicians, who had been placed there for the express purpose of keeping the colored men up to the mark in their work of hate and revenge. To such an extent was this practice of packing the juries carried that on two or three memorable occasions, when Judge Bryan, of Charleston, an honest man and an impartial jurist, presided, he solemnly adverted in many terms on the gross and palpable injustice which had been practised by the subordinate officers of the court. In many cases leading republican politicians were found to have been empanelled who were noted for their influence over their fellows, and who, it was well known, entertained the conviction that white men, charged with crime or injustice toward negroes, had no rights which they (the negroes) were bound to respect. While this reign of terror was dominating our State, casting its baneful shadow over many a pure and noble life, it was found to be utterly useless for any legal resistance to be made.”

For these services the sum of thirty thousand dollars was voted by the South Carolina Legislature, of which Merrill, although an officer of the United States army, was awarded twenty-two thousand. The bill was passed through the Legislature, according to ex-Gov. Moses, by bribery, ex-Gov. Chamberlain being the counsel and active agent of Merrill in the matter. For his share, as a consideration for signing the bill, Moses confesses that he himself secured five thousand dollars, and a further warrant for twenty-five hundred dollars was put in his hands, to be given to Bowley, the chairman of the committee of ways and means. The report of the committee appointed to investigate these and similar or worse transactions has yet to be published.

Two replies have been made to the Moses statement—one by Merrill, who confesses and avows. He does not deny that he received the sums that Moses charges he obtained, but declares that the awards were made by a board who examined and decided upon the validity of the claims, and distributed the sums awarded, and that Moses had nothing to do with the matter. The other reply, if reply it can be called, is by ex-Governor Chamberlain. His answer is summed up in the following words: “Moses is entirely beneath my notice.”