THE MORNING SUN.

"IF IT'S RIGHT WE'RE FOR IT"

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CLAUDE L'ENGLE, EDITOR

EDITORIAL.

This news paper belongs entirely to the people of Florida. The expenses of its publication are met from a fund made up by the people of Florida.

This fund was turned over to me for this purpose—because in the fullness of their charity, the contributors confided in my humble capacity and limited experience to use it well, and in the integrity of my purpose to use it only for good, in strict conformity with the impulse that prompted them to raise it.

When asked to edit it, I said that I would be glad to do it, IF I WERE LEFT ENTIRELY FREE. I reminded them that the motto of The Sun was—"If it's right, we are for it," and that a paper sailing under this flag, carried NOTHING BUT TRUTH AND GOOD INTENT for ballast.

This accounts for the Morning Sun.

I ask all good men to help me.

CLAUDE L'ENGLE.

NOT THIS HONOR FOR LINCOLN.

For a second time, Governor Gilchrist has advised the Legislature to set apart Lincoln's birthday as a State holiday.

I had hoped that the Governor would not insist upon this to the point of again bringing it to the Legislative attention, but now that he persists in this effort to influence the Legislature to do an unnatural thing, I will contribute my little influence in the hope that the Legislatue will not do what the Governor suggests.

Abraham Lincoln was a great man. His rise from obscure beginnings to the greatest office on earth was a marvelous exhibition of brain force and energy. He was a broad-minded man, capable of extending the scope of his mental powers to reach beyond and above the wiles and tricks of unscrupluous politicians who hated the things they were not part of, and could not understand.

He was better than most of the politicians of his day. He directed the vast resources of a great nation to the one objective point uppermost in his mind, the preservation of what he honestly believed to be the paramount purpose of the founders of this republic. With an iron will, he kept his mind fixed on preservation of the Union, and with an irresistible force, he hammered those who differed with him into submission. At the end of the struggle, he showed a magnanimity of spirit worthy of a great man.

All of these things being known and admitted—Lincoln is yet NOT THE MAN to be honored by a Southern State by setting aside one day for men to rest from their customary employment to revere his name.

He was not one of us. He could not understand our Southern institutions. He could not place himself on the plane with the men of the South His heart while beating in unison with humanity, did not pulsate to the rhythm that regulated and moved Southern hearts.

It is NOT FITTING that a Southern State should so signally honor this man, great and good though he may have been, but who was still not in accord with Southern thought, feeling and tradition.

We of the South feel that our thoughts and our feelings are the best and the purest ever exerted in this country, and that our traditions are worthy of reverence by all men.

These are general reasons that occur to me why Lincoln's birthday should not be made a holiday in Florida.

Now, as I recognize the necessity to be specific, I will give two reasons why the name of Lincoln, although respected, should not be HONORED by Southern people.

He had it in his power as commander-in-chief of the armies of the United States to punish Ben Butler when he issued that order as military governor of New Orleans that would have disgraced Attilla and Alaric, those savage soldiers who were called the scurge of God.

I refer to the order that Ben Butler issued, which read: "Any white woman who resists the attentions of a colored soldier shall be treated as a common woman of the streets."

With the power in his hands to do it, Abraham Lincoln, if he had been worthy of the honor of true men, whether Southern or not, would have ordered Ben Butler shot the day after he heard of that order.

As commander-in-chief of the armies of the United States, Lincoln had it in his power to displace Sherman, who in his raid through the South, made war on the women and children.

A man worthy to be honored by Southern people would have prevented such a barbarian from doing these acts by taking his command from him as soon as the first word of his warfare on innocents reached his ears.

As a great American, Abraham Lincoln is worthy of the respect of Southern people.

He is not worthy to be honored by them.

I hope that the wishes of the Governor of Florida will not prevail.

JARRING THE IDOLS SOME.

Senatorial courtesy is a fetich. It is a nice kind of a fetich if you will, but a fetich none the less.

According to how it affects them, men have designated it as a beautiful custom or as a damnable outrage.

While willing to subscribe to the former, I am not willing to condemn the latter expression.

It will not do for a man in his quiet moments, unstirred by the loss of a cause in which he is interested, to go so far as to designate a custom preserved by good men in strong language.

In the literal acceptance of the term, Senatorial courtesy is entirely proper. Men should be courteous, be they Senators or street sweepers. This world would be a jungle in which the strongest arm would gather the most berries if it were not for courtesy. Therefore, far be it from me to write a disparaging word about courtesy in its true meaning.

Senatorial courtesy, however, is a different sort of a thing. It is a custom that has grown up in Senates to accord a Senator the right to pass through the Senate any bill or to kill in the Senate any bill that he might be respectively in favor of or opposed to, the merits of the bill not being considered.

With all due respect to men who may think otherwise, I do not believe that Senators should allow courtesy to a member to run riot. They should not follow this custom to the extent of permitting any bill that a Senator vouches for to pass the Senate without questiou.

When the bill is introduced into the Senate, it becomes public property. No matter if the provisions of the bill apply to restricted localities only, it is none the less part of the public business. Senators have taken oath to defend the constitution and the laws of the State, which affect the whole State, and every individual in every community in it. Therefore, when they permit Senatorial courtesy to stop their inquiry into a strictly local measure, they do not do their whole duty to ALL of the people, because it is their duty to protect individuals who might be affected by the bill, which they cannot do unless they go into the merits of the bill.

If Senatorial courtesy can be done without Senators failing in their duty to ALL the people, then the custom should not be broken: but when Senatorial courtesy denies the right of a large number of people to govern themselves as they wish, and as they would like, and as they HAVE A RIGHT TO DO, Senatorial courtesy should, beautiful as it is, be disregarded.

A man may be courteous, and must be courteous, in his personal relations to a fellow Senator; but he cannot be officially courteous to a member of the body, created to make laws, when this courtesy goes to the point of not heeding the voice of a large number of people crying aloud for free self-government.

It is apparent that Senatorial courtesy, although not insisted on by Senator McMullen, is responsible for the defeat of the Pinellas County bill.

I am thankful to one of my friends for the suggestion that I now make use of, as it coincides with my own thought, that county division fights should be cousidered by legislators in this manner: First, does an overwelming majority in the affected territory sought to be dis-annexed, want it? Second will the members in the new county be self-sustaining? Third, will the countythat is left be self-sustaining?

This seems to me to be the proper way to look at county division movements.

Senatorial courtesy, if I may be pardoned for differing with so many good men that have acted contrarywise, should not be permitted to deny to a large number of people the right to govern them-