ALBERT TAYLOR GOODWIN

By

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University, Alabama
1936
Chapter V

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Chapter I

BACKGROUND AND BOY

"My son, what is the greatest thing in the world that a man can possess?"

Almost the writer's first recollection of her grandfather, Albert Taylor Goodwyn, is that of hearing him ask one of her brothers that question. The question having been propounded many times before, the expected answer was always promptly delivered:

"His own self-respect!"

"That's right," he would say. "Always remember that, my son."

The "Cap'n", as he was known to the darkeys, not only taught that tenet to his sons and grandsons, but he firmly believed in it himself and lived accordingly.

The background from which a person springs, the early environment by which he is surrounded, and even the inherited traits and ideas all help to form his character. In order, therefore, to have a real understanding of Albert Taylor Goodwyn we should delve somewhat into his antecedents.

Of the early Goodwyn family we find recorded in the family Bible that the family name originated in Wales, some member, or members, of the family crossing to Virginia
during the colonial period. The first of whom there is any definite knowledge was Thomas Goodwyn, great-great-great-grandfather of the subject of this sketch. He resided in the county of Surrey, Virginia. His son, John Goodwyn, moved to South Carolina about 1760. John's son, Robert Goodwyn, born in 1741 in Virginia, went with his father to South Carolina. Robert settled in Saxgotha Township where he was collector of taxes and justice of the peace before the revolution.

Robert's son, John Goodwyn, was born in South Carolina in 1760. He was a Revolutionary soldier, serving as a young lieutenant in the company commanded by Captain James Taylor, also of South Carolina. The dashing young lieutenant won the heart of the captain's daughter, Sarah, and in 1786 the two were married. They resided near Columbia, South Carolina, and were the parents of a large family, Albert Gallatin being the thirteenth child.

Albert Gallatin Goodwyn was born on November 29, 1807, in Richland District, South Carolina. He attended school at South Carolina College in Columbia, South Carolina, where he received his A.B. degree at the age of

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1. Family Bible Record, now in possession of R.T. Goodwyn.
2. Ibid.
3. Ibid.
4. Ibid.
5. Ibid.
6. Ibid.
7. Ibid.
nineteen. He then studied medicine at the Jefferson Medical College in Philadelphia. Not long after leaving school he moved southward through Georgia, settling in Alabama about 1829. It is not hard to understand the motives behind this move. A younger child in a large family, he was lured by tales of new lands and new openings for a young doctor.

He settled first, somewhat southeast of Montgomery, having bought some land in that region. Before very long he was courting the daughter of one of the wealthiest (in point of land and slaves, at least) planters in Alabama. This young lady was also the niece of Alabama's first two governors. She was Miss Harriet Bibb, daughter of Peyton Bibb and his wife Martha Cobb.

The Bibb family, like the Goodwyn family, came originally from Wales. Benjamin Bibb was the founder of the family in this country, crossing from Wales to Virginia during colonial times. His son William Bibb continued to live in the Virginia Colony as did William's son John Bibb, who resided in Hanover County, Virginia. One of John's sons, William, is the most important in this record, being

2. Record made by A.T. Goodwyn, on file at State Capitol in Montgomery, Alabama.
3. Deed in possession of A.T. Goodwyn II.
5. Loc. cit.
the father of Peyton Bibb and grandfather of Harriet. William served as captain of cavalry in the continental army during the Revolutionary War. After the war he lived for a time in Amelia County, Virginia, but he determined to go to Georgia. Taking his family with him, he moved southward along with his brother, James, and settled in Elbert County, Georgia.²

Among the children of William Bibb and his wife, Peyton is the most important to this record since he is the direct ancestor of Albert Taylor Goodwyn. Peyton's two older brothers, however, are much more prominent in history. Their careers had a great influence upon Peyton's life and for that reason are important.

William Wyatt Bibb, the oldest child, was only fifteen when his father died in 1796, leaving the widowed Mrs. Bibb with eight children.³ William Wyatt was able to complete his education at William and Mary College. He then began life as a physician at Petersburg, Georgia.⁴ As soon as he reached his majority he began his political career by serving four years in the State Legislature. Later he served in the United States House of Representatives (1816-1819) and Senate (1819-1816).⁵

Thomas seems to have been the first of the family to

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2. Loc. cit.
3. Loc. cit.
4. Loc. cit.
5. Loc. cit.
become interested in Alabama lands. He obtained extensive acres there in 1811. Later William Wyatt and other members of the family became interested. On May 24, 1817, a large tract of land in Alabama was put on sale at the land office established at Milledgeville, Georgia.

"The most coveted bit of land that was disposed of at that time lay within a wide bend of the Alabama River and upon a bluff which formed the opposite bank. The soil in the bend was of the best quality, and the bluff afforded an excellent site for a town."

Members of the Bibb family, including Peyton Bibb, younger brother of William Wyatt, were anxious to purchase here. It was also desired by various others. A land company, of which William Wyatt Bibb was a member, secured the tracts, and the town of Montgomery was founded on the bluff in 1817.

Peyton Bibb obtained a large plantation in this coveted region of which his brother also had a lion's share. Peyton immediately removed his wife, Martha Cobb Bibb of Georgia, to his newly acquired estates and established a plantation home near Coosada about 1817.

In the same year William Wyatt Bibb was appointed by President Monroe as Governor of Alabama Territory. Two

3. Loc. cit.
4. Loc. cit.
5. Loc. cit.
6. Family traditions and records.
years later when Alabama became a state, he was elected the first governor while Thomas Bibb became the president of the state Senate. Thus it happened that when Governor Bibb died in July, 1820, as a result of a fall from a horse, his brother, Thomas, succeeded him in the gubernatorial chair, becoming the second governor of Alabama.

We have no records which show that Peyton Bibb had political aspirations. He was a planter and seems to have devoted himself to the management of his numerous acres and slaves. His family was a large one, Harriet being the sixth daughter.

The courtship of young Dr. Goodwyn was successful, for on February 31, 1832, Harriet Bibb became his wife. He was at that time twenty-seven years of age and Harriet was eighteen. The young couple, however, had reverses and lost their land, Dr. Goodwyn having endorsed the bond of a friend who defaulted. Whereupon, Peyton Bibb, Harriet's father, gave over to them a part of his plantation lying near Robinson Springs. Here a few miles from the Bibb homestead, they built a house. It was a one-story, wooden structure, not a pretentious place; but it was built on the crest of a slight hill, was surrounded by trees and was pleasant and comfortable. Here they lived until 1869.

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3. *Family Bible Record*.
4. Ibid.
5. *Family tradition*.
when their house burned, destroying along with furniture and other valuables, a great many family records and papers.

Dr. Goodwyn was, as has been stated, a physician; but he was also a planter. He practiced medicine in the then thriving little community of Robinson Springs. At the same time he was overseeing the cultivation of the land that he held, adding to the amount, whenever possible and increasing the number of slave hands from time to time. Of this large family, Albert Taylor was the sixth child and second son. The oldest child, a boy, John Peyton, had died at the age of seven years. It was, therefore, a great joy to the family when, two years after this great loss, there was born, on December the seventeenth, 1842, a son. He was named Albert Taylor and he was very carefully nurtured and anxiously watched and guarded, since already, not only a brother but also a sister, Sarah Maria, had died in 1836, having lived only a little over a year.

The boy's childhood was spent at Robinson Springs. He attended school there, and later in Montgomery, which city lay about twelve miles south of the Goodwyn home.

There are several anecdotes of his childhood which have

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1. Interview with Mrs. A.T. Goodwyn, September, 3, 5, 1935.
2. Deeds and bills of sale in possession of A.T. Goodwyn II.
3. Family Bible Records.
4. Ibid.  
5. Ibid. 
been preserved. As some of these serve to throw some light upon his character, they seem worth recounting.

When he was a very little boy, he went, one day, to church with his father and mother. When church was out he ran ahead and climbed upon the back of the carriage. The horses started forward abruptly and little Albert was thrown off. He immediately sprang up, rubbed himself, and gazing around, said, "That was a mighty good jump, wasn't it?"

He was about seven when an evangelist came into the neighborhood and was entertained at his home. This preacher made very long family prayers. Albert was not at all interested and after what to him was a sufficient period of prayer, would leave the family group and play in the open air. The preacher bribed him with a pen-knife to stay in. Albert wanted the knife and tried to keep the contract, but it would not do. He got up, and passing the kneeling preacher, said, "Here, preacher, take your knife, I'm going out." 1

When he was nine years old a very serious fall interfered somewhat with his activities in school and play. He went into the stable loft where he stepped on a loose plank and fell to the ground. The end of the plank struck

1. Goodwyn, Mrs. A.T., MS., in possession of Mrs. J.D. McKeel, Birmingham, Alabama.
2. Goodwyn, Mrs. A.T., op. cit.
his head and left in it a splinter as thick as a man's finger. He was carried to the house and a swift team was sent to Montgomery for a surgeon. This surgeon was Dr. Marion Sims, who later became world famous for his surgical and research work in the United States and abroad. When the doctor arrived, the little boy was placed upon a table. No anaesthetic could be employed and several strong hands were called in to hold him firmly while the operation was performed. But the boy rebelled. He made a bargain with his father whereby he was to have a pony and a gun if he would lie still without being held. And the bargain was carried out. He lay perfectly quiet while the operation was performed without anaesthetic. It was quite successful. For a number of years he wore a tin plate fastened on that side of his head and was restricted in many ways. The splinter which was taken from his head, he always kept as a memorial of his narrow escape from death in childhood.

Perhaps these restrictions were in some measure responsible for the fact that he never really knew how to play. He had a quick wit and a keen sense of humor but games did not interest him. He could never understand the fascination which baseball and football have for the aver-

1. *Encyclopaedia Americana*: Dr. J. Marion Sims.
2. *Goodwyn, Mrs. A.T.*, *ibid.*
age boy. Neither did he enjoy card games nor chess. He
did, however, like to ride and hunt and was tremendously
proud of the first duck he ever shot.¹

¹ Author's recollections of her grandfather.
Chapter II

The Young Soldier

When Albert Goodwyn was seventeen years of age he was sent to South Carolina, his father's old home, where he enrolled as a student at South Carolina College. Here he spent two years. He was a member of the Euphradian Literary Society and in 1860 served as recorder and librarian of the society.¹ He father who had attended the same college had been a member of the same organization.²

One of his classmates has stated that he stood first in his class in Greek and mathematics but he himself stated that he was second.³

As a cadet in the military corps of the college he was learning along with his academic studies to be a soldier. These years of college were those of 1860-1861 which marked unrest in north and south and a continuous widening of the breach between the two sections. In South Carolina, indeed, in Columbia, the capital of the State, the young student found himself in the veritable center of the discussion.

Then came the election of Lincoln; following swiftly

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³ Goodwyn, Mrs. A.T., op. cit.
on that event, the secession of South Carolina from the Union; the secession of other southern states, including Alabama; and the formation of the Confederate States of America with its capital in Montgomery. Then came the call for volunteers from the college cadet corps to move to Charleston. Union troops occupying Fort Sumter had not withdrawn. There was a rumor that help for the garrison was being sent by sea. General Beauregard had only a small troop. The cadets were sent down to help in case of trouble. In the actual firing upon Fort Sumter the cadets took no part but they were there in the midst of the excitement, saw the bombardment of the fort, and felt themselves a part of the Confederate cause.

Eighteen year old Albert, with his fellow cadets thus saw the beginning of the terrific war which was to last for four long years. Long afterward he described the events at Charleston in the following manner:

"I was a soldier and present at Fort Sumter when the first gun was fired on Friday, April 12, 1861, and now recall clearly the impressive incidents of that eventful day. I see vessels with troops and supplies for the besieged fort, at anchor in the bay, just beyond the reach of our shells. I see and hear the thundering cannon, continuously all day Friday and Friday night until noon Saturday, when flames began to leap from the smoking fort, greeted by cheers from the Confederate forces - for they knew the end was near. In a short while the guns ceased their horrible roar and we heard loud cheering as the white flag waved over Sumter - succeeded by a more cheering as the wonderful news was heard that not a drop of human blood had been shed on either side. Terms were arranged where-
by the commander was to salute his flag before hauling it down — and he and his garrison were to be transferred to the vessels in the bay. On Sunday the 14th when the flag was being saluted, one man was killed and a few wounded by the bursting of a gun. As the steamer with the garrison on board moved from the bay — the Confederates along the shore stood in line with hats off in acknowledgment of their gallantry in defense. General Beauregard gave orders that the body of the man killed should be buried in the grounds of the fort and the wounded sent to the hospital in Charleston. 1

Afterwards the cadets were dismissed to their homes. Albert returned to Alabama, anxious, if cause should arise, to fight for the Confederacy. Almost immediately it was perceived that war had actually begun. Troops began to mobilize. The young cadet, who had already had his first taste of war at Shiloh, was eager to volunteer. He enlisted as a private and became secretary to Colonel William Goodwyn of the 45th Alabama Regiment of Volunteers. 2 His father had arranged for this secretaryship with his cousin, Colonel Goodwyn, and had sent along with the young soldier a body servant, Jerry, whose duty it was to take care of his young master and see that he was always well provided for.

Albert liked to tell how one Thanksgiving, he and some of his friends lamented the fact that there would be no turkey. When dinner was served, however, Jerry had a

2. Record made by A.T. Goodwyn, on file at State Capitol, Montgomery.
splendid roast fowl for them. And he always laughed when he told how Jerry could never be prevailed upon to tell how or where that turkey was obtained.1

At the battle of Chickamauga, however, Jerry disappeared and Albert did not learn until long afterward what had happened to him. Some years after the war was over Albert saw Jerry again and learned from him how he had been frightened by the cannon and had hidden behind the tent. A shot had hit the tent and it had fallen upon the negro. Although unhurt he was so frightened that he started running and did not stop until he was far from the scene of battle.2

For three months Albert remained as secretary to his cousin. He was not satisfied, however. This was not war, this was not glory such as he had seen at Charleston. He was finally transferred to Cox’s Battalion of sharpshooters and in 1862 became first sergeant of Company B of that battalion, the same company of which his brother-in-law, Sam Oliver, was captain.3 Later in that same year he became a full fledged officer in the Confederate army when he was promoted to be a lieutenant in the same company.4

1. Interview with R.T. Goodwyn, October, 20, 25, 28, 1933.
2. Ibid.
3. Company roll in possession of A.T. Goodwyn, II.
4. Record made by A.T. Goodwyn, on file at Capitol, Department Archives and History.
In 1863 Company E was transferred to the Nineth Alabama Battalion, which afterwards became the 58th Alabama Regiment, while the former Company E became Company K of that regiment.

As a lieutenant he fought with his company at Missionary Ridge in November 1863. He was captured by the enemy during this bloody battle and as a prisoner of war was sent north to Johnson's Island on Lake Erie, where he remained until the end of the war. He himself felt that the war would surely continue for several years. He wrote his sister in June, 1864:

"I expect to be at home about January 1864. The war I hope will end by that time and then I will be exchanged."

His letters during this period of imprisonment were filled with the homesickness of a boy shut away from people and scenes which had always been dear to him. He swam in Lake Erie, and it inevitably reminded him of the pleasant streams near his home in "Dixie" where he swam as a boy. He anxiously waited for any news from the southland and when once five letters actually arrived at one time he was overjoyed. At least a portion of this abundant mail

1. Record made by A.T. Goodwyn, on file at Capitol, Department Archives and History.
2. Letter from A.T. Goodwyn to Mrs. Sam Oliver, June 20, 1864, written as a prisoner of war.
3. Ibid.
was from certain "lady correspondents" in Kentucky. These kind persons, he wrote his parents, not only wrote to him constantly but sent boxes of good food as well. One of the privations of a prisoner of war to which he objected was not being allowed to see and talk with ladies. In one of his letters to his sister he complained that he had not heard the sound of a lady's voice in six months.

It was during this imprisonment in the North that he was given the rank of captain in the Confederate army. In spite, however, of his earnest desire to be with his comrades, and share "the dangers and privations" of war, he remained a prisoner until the end of the war.

In June, 1865, he was finally released and returned to find his beloved Dixie in a sad condition. Many years afterward he recalled his journey home in this manner:

"I found myself with hundreds of others, marching afoot from Chattanooga to Atlanta, and marching afoot from Atlanta to this beloved city of Montgomery, the railroads having been destroyed, while the whole route was marked by desolation. I vividly recall the pathetic scenes of this march. Among them, my one legged comrades on their crutches moving along slowly, and in spite of their disabled condition, and signs of desolation on all sides, greeting, with smiles, their fellow soldiers. Nor can I forgot the sight of Atlanta in ashes and

2. Ibid.
3. Ibid.
her helpless people in their agony and despair, victims of the vandal spirit of destruction.\(^1\)

His father he found in a situation similar to that of many other planters. He had lands aplenty but no slaves to work them. The plantation was denuded. Mules, cattle, sheep, and hogs, nearly everything was gone. Even the carriage horses of the home were stolen.\(^2\) His father was utterly overwhelmed by the changed conditions and Albert had to take the responsibility of the large family upon his own shoulders.\(^3\)

Three days before Lee's surrender at Appomattox, Dr. Goodwyn had sold to a cotton broker in Montgomery a hundred bales of cotton for sixty thousand dollars in Confederate money. The cotton was piled up outside his gin on his own plantation and no money exchanged hands. It was entirely a verbal agreement. When Albert returned not long after, travel worn, ragged, half starved he felt somewhat cheered at the sight of these bales, since cotton was as good as gold in exchange, now that the blockade was lifted. His father, however, explained to him his agreement and made it very clear that he felt as firmly bound to carry it out as if a written contract existed. The cotton went to the broker and the now utterly worthless Confederate

\(^1\) Goodwyn, A.T., Memorial Address of General A.T. Goodwyn, April 26, 1936.
\(^2\) Goodwyn, Mrs. A.T., op. cit.
\(^3\) Ibid.
bills to Dr. Goodwyn. This is an example of the heritage of absolute honesty which Albert had to maintain.

The father, however, still nursed the desire to send his son to college. Albert's education had been interrupted by the war but somehow he must start life as a college graduate. The money was obtained after much struggle and it was decided that he should go to the University of Virginia to complete his undergraduate work. There he spent the years of 1866 and 1867, graduating in '67 with an A.B. degree from the School of Moral Philosophy. While at the University he became a member of the Delta Xi fraternity.

1. Griffin, Mrs. Frank H., MS., Uncle Bill Mack of Alabama.
2. Diploma in possession of A.T. Goodwyn, II.
3. Certificate of membership in possession of A.T. Goodwyn, II.
Chapter III

LOVER, HUSBAND, AND FATHER

In June, 1867, Albert returned home to find conditions on the plantation not much improved. Like most other planters his father was "land poor". Albert now undertook to aid his father in bringing about some degree of economic rehabilitation. It was a hard time for nearly all in the South and all were poor together, which somehow made it easier to endure hardships and poverty. The Confederate cause was lost but pride in having had a part in it remained. Thus we find that Albert and his father, as did many others, went about the difficult tasks before them with this pride still glowing in their hearts.

All week the young man labored to place the plantation again on a paying basis, but the end of the week often found him in Montgomery enjoying the company of the young men and also that of the ladies, which he had so sorely missed while a prisoner of war. 1 In spite of the desperation of the times there were simple parties and entertainments where an otherwise serious minded young planter might enjoy light conversation and refreshment. It was at some such affair that the young captain met two young

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1. Letter written by A.T. Goodwyn to Mrs. S.D. Oliver, October 24, 1864.
ladies who bore a most distinguished name. They were the Misses Tyler, Letitia and Elizabeth. Gardner Foster, a close friend of his, was courting Miss Elizabeth and one evening suggested that they call upon the two young ladies. Nothing loath, Albert agreed and, that evening, lost his heart to a brown eyed miss who kept it ever after. She was Miss Priscilla Tyler, sister of the two young ladies already mentioned, and at that time just twenty-one years of age.

Priscilla's background is interesting and her name, Priscilla Cooper Tyler, an historic one. Her mother was Priscilla Cooper, daughter of Thomas Apthorpe Cooper, eminent Shakespearian actor. It was in Richmond during a Shakespearian revival when Priscilla Cooper played Virginia to her father's Virginius that she first met Robert Tyler. Robert was the son of John Tyler, former governor of Virginia and United States Senator. Robert Tyler woof and married the young actress. When, in 1841, John Tyler became President of the United States on the death of President Harrison, he made Robert his secretary. Because of the illness of his wife, the president asked his young daughter-in-law, Priscilla, to act as hostess in the White House. It was during this period in the White House that Letitia, the oldest child of Robert and

2. Interview with Mrs. A.T. Goodwyn, September 3, 5, 1933.
3. Tyler, op. cit., p. 177 (footnote); Wharton, Anne R., Social Life in the Early Republic, p. 228.
Priscilla, was born.¹ When the President married again after the death of his wife, the younger couple moved to Bristol, Pennsylvania, not far from Philadelphia, where they lived until the outbreak of the War Between the States.² There were five other children born after Letitia, namely: Julia, Priscilla, Elizabeth, Grace and Robert.³

When the war came Tyler found himself most unpopular in Pennsylvania because of his well known southern sympathies. He was finally forced to flee after a mob attempted to attack him at his home. The mob was only kept from destroying the house by a shower which fortunately dampened both their skins and their spirits.⁴

Left with her children in a hostile community, Mrs. Tyler was forced to sell two family portraits in order to obtain enough money to remove herself and her family to Georgia.⁵ There she had relatives to welcome her. Here her husband joined her, and finally it was decided to move the entire family to Mt. Meigs, not far from Montgomery, Alabama, where Mrs. Tyler's sister was then living.⁶ Priscilla, though only a child herself, served as school mistress to the younger children, both her brother and sisters and her cousins.⁷ Robert Tyler held several positions in

¹ Wharton, op. cit., p. 228.
² Tyler, op. cit., pp. 694-695.
³ Interview with Mrs. A.T. Goodwyn, September 3, 5, 1933.
⁴ Ibid.; Tyler, op. cit., p. 646.
⁵ Interview with Mrs. A.T. Goodwyn, September 3, 5, 1933.
⁶ Ibid.
⁷ Ibid.
the Confederate Government and after the war became
editor of the Montgomery Advertiser. ¹ None of these posi-
tions paid very well and the family continued to suffer
financially. An aunt of the young Friscilla who ran a
school for girls in the East offered her a place as assist-
ant to the younger girls and she accepted. ² After a year in
this position she became governess in a private family, as
already mentioned, and returned home only on the day of
the visit of Captain Goodwyn and his friend Gardner Foster. ³

When the callers were announced she did not at once
descend to the living room with her sisters, but, urged by
her mother, she did finally agree to go down. She did so
just as she was, clad in a gingham dress which she had
donned before beginning the task of unpacking. As she
herself later expressed it, she was "massed" but so annoy-
ed at having to go down that she did not bother to do any-
thing about it. ⁴ On her part, she was not very much im-
pressed by the straight young man with the military bearing
who was introduced to her as Captain Goodwyn. She straight-
way began a laughing conversation with Gardner Foster,
with whom she was well acquainted, and was seemingly ob-
livious to the presence of Albert. He, however, was very

¹. Interview with Mrs. A.T. Goodwyn, September 3, 5, 1933; Tyler, Lyon G., op. cit., pp. 646, 694.
². Interview with Mrs. A.T. Goodwyn, September 3, 5, 1933.
³. Ibid.
⁴. Ibid.
much impressed by the young ex-governess. Having taken
his leave of the ladies and departed from the Tyler home
that night he turned to his companion and remarked that he
had just met the woman he was going to marry.¹

And the very next time he saw her, which was the next
weekend, he proposed.² She refused him. Nothing daunted,
he tried again, and was again refused. This was only the
beginning of a long siege. Whenever possible he was with
her and practically as often he asked her to marry him.
She told him she did not love him. She told him she would
never love him. Finally in desperation she told him she
loved someone else. The siege, nevertheless, continued.
He wrote to her mother, telling her of his love for Pris-
cilla, of how much she meant to him and of how happy he
would make her if she would marry him.³ Thus he enlisted
the mother on his side and finally won out. She agreed to
marry him, and did.

The wedding took place December 22, 1869, in St.
John's Episcopal Church in Montgomery, the ceremony being
performed by the Reverend H. Stringfellow, then rector of
that church.⁴ At the point in the ceremony where the groom
repeats the words "with all my worldly goods I thee en-

¹. Interview with Mrs. A.T. Goodwyn, September 5, 5, 1933.
². Ibid.
³. Ibid.
⁴. Record by A.T. Goodwyn, on file at State Capitol, De-
   partment Archives and History.
dow"; his best man, Gardner Foster, hissed, loud enough for the bride and groom to hear him:

"A horse and buggy!'"¹

Often in after years on passing that church, Albert would turn and with a twinkle in his eyes, say to his wife: "Dear, do you remember what happened there?"²

The young bride never saw the home of Dr. and Mrs. Goodwyn in which her husband had spent so much of his boyhood. About three weeks before the wedding it burned and the family was forced to seek a home elsewhere.³

By this time the number living at home had greatly decreased. It has already been mentioned that an older brother and sister of Albert had died in childhood. Two other little girls were born only to die in early childhood.⁴ Two sisters had married⁵ and left the parental roof. During the war William Bibb, three years younger than Albert, and most beloved of all his brothers and sisters, had run away to join the Confederate army. Although only fifteen years of age, he enlisted. In 1863 he was slightly wounded. Not long after, while still weak from the effects of this wound, he caught pneumonia and died in a Confed-

¹ Story often repeated by A.T. Goodwyn in presence of author.
² Interview with Mrs. A.T. Goodwyn, September 3, 5, 1933.
³ Ibid.
⁴ Family Bible Record.
⁵ Ibid.
crate hospital in Mississippi. 1

Albert and his bride resided in the town of Montgomery. Here they lived for several years and here were born to them, first, a son, Robert Tyler, 2 and two years later, a daughter who was named Adele. 3 It was while Adele was still a baby a year or so old, and his wife was away on a reading tour in the east, 4 that Albert decided to move back to Robinson Springs. It was midsummer and very hot and the baby suffered from the heat. Albert wrote to Priscilla that he had stayed awake most of the night trying to make her partially comfortable by keeping her at the window. The mother replied by asking him to find some kind of dwelling in the country without waiting for her return. He succeeded in renting a house at Robinson Springs, and Priscilla's return found the family ensconced in the country. Not long after this Albert bought a small house near the site of his childhood home and he and his family moved into it. This house was later remodeled and enlarged until in most respects it resembled the home that had burned. It continued to be his home to the end of his life. To him it was perfect in every detail. He himself planted a grove of elms in front of the house. These grew

1. Family Biblb Record; clipping found behind tintype of W.B. Goodwyn.
2. Ibid.
3. Ibid.
4. Mrs. Goodwyn was a talented reader inheriting the histrionic ability of her mother and her grandfather, Thomas Cooper, the actor.
5. Interview with Mrs. A.T. Goodwyn, September 3, 5, 1933.
through the years until they clothed the one-story, sprawling farm house in real beauty and furnished the name for the place, "Elm Hill".

In addition to Robert Tyler and Adele there were three other children born later, Albert Gallatin, Gardner Foster, and Priscilla Cooper. Albert and Priscilla were devoted parents and both were determined that their children should have every advantage possible.

Devoted as he was to all his children it was his daughters upon whom Albert showered the larger amount of his affection. In a letter to his wife in 1877 he said:

"It is true that there is no love on earth so pure as that of a father or mother for daughter. It is more so than that of a husband for wife for in that comes desire - more so than father to son, for in this is associated worldly ambition - for daughter is nothing but a pure, anxious, heavenly love."

Money was scarce. Crops were not always good and the plantation lands brought small profit. There were few luxuries in the Goodwyn household but there were always books. The mother read the classics aloud and all learned to know and love them. While the father was more interested in current affairs, political and otherwise, he also was often a part of the family group gathered to listen.

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2. Family Bible Record.
to tales from the pen of Dickens or Sir Walter Scott. Albert himself read a great deal of history and philosophy which he preferred to fiction. He was much concerned too that his sons should have a thorough grounding in mathematics.

By dint of such planning and some degree of sacrifice the oldest child, Tyler, was sent to Virginia when he was thirteen years old, to attend the famous McCade School for boys, and later to the University of Alabama, which was at that time a strictly military college. Ready cash was scarce indeed. At Christmas in the year 1866 Tyler was given the choice of coming home for the holidays (about 150 miles) or of taking the price of a ticket for spending money and staying at school. That was to be his Christmas present. He chose to come home. That same Christmas Adele was allowed by her father to sell two turkeys to obtain spending money. This was poverty, yes, but a genteel and cultured poverty such as existed in many places in the South after the war. Even when the crops suffered from lack of labor the boys were never allowed to work in the fields. Albert believed that to labor with the hands in the fields was degrading. He had grown to manhood in a social condition which left all manual

1. Griffin, Mrs. Frank H., op. cit.
2. Letter from Mrs. A.T. Goodwyn to Robert Tyler Goodwyn, 1886, in possession of A.T. Goodwyn, II.
3. Ibid.
labor to slaves and he could not quite readjust himself to the new era. In his later years he often voiced a regret that he had not allowed his sons to work on the farm. He himself, although a farmer all his life, never did manual labor.
Chapter IV

PLANTING AND POLITICAL

We have said that the years 1869 to 1894 were hard years financially. They were years in which Albert Goodwyn worked his plantation, bought more land at times, often at great sacrifice, always trying to fight off debt of which he had a growing dread, and to care for his family. When it is stated that he worked at farming, it does not mean that he worked physically, plowing, hoeing, picking cotton. He did not. But he saw to it that others did. Negro shacks were built, negro hands and "share farmers" moved in, and overseers were employed and guided.

There was a series of disasters. There was the year 1886 when the Alabama River broke out of its bounds and flooded all his rich river lands. Houses, cattle, hogs, crops, mules and people were washed away. He and other rescuers took boats and saved many of his frightened negroes from the roofs of their submerged houses. Other years there were the army worms or drought. At last he found himself forced to sell the river lands, consisting of about 25,000 acres, in order to keep the other farm.

1. Interview with Mrs. A.T. Goodwyn, September 5, 1933.
2. Ibid.
3. Author's recollections of reminiscences by A.T. Goodwyn.
4. Griffin, Mrs. F.H., op. cit.
5. Ibid.
lands going. He made efforts, indeed, to save his lands. He attempted to borrow money on the next year's crops but without success. The banker to whom he went, an old friend, explained that it was no reflection upon his integrity that the loan was not made, but that it was the condition of the time. There was little money in circulation. A loan was impossible, and so the river lands were sold and the plantation became a farm of 250 acres, the planter became a farmer.

Goodwyn was not satisfied to allow conditions to remain as they were. He looked about and saw other farmers suffering as he did. He believed some change was necessary. Something must be done to aid the agriculturist who received so little for so much expended.

He had always been interested in politics. After the war he had been active in trying to restore white supremacy in the South. He had seen the negro carpet-bagger legislatures ruining the state and together with other leaders had labored to get a foot-hold in the government as an opening wedge to drive the riffraff from the State Capitol. He was, naturally, a Democrat. Practically every self-respecting white man of the South was a Democrat in the period following the war.

1. Griffin, Mrs. F.H., op. cit.
2. Interview with Mrs. A.T. Goodwyn, September 3, 5, 1933.
3. Griffin, Mrs. F.H., op. cit.
5. Interview with Mrs. A.T. Goodwyn, September 3, 5, 1933.
South the Republican party in power meant negroes, scalawags, and carpet-baggers in control. The "Solid South" was indeed an actuality.

Finally, by 1875, the state government was again in the hands of the southern white people. The troubled times had not wholly vanished but the power of the carpet-bagger was broken, the negro placed again in the political background. The Democratic party was in power.

Albert Goodwyn shared in the Democratic triumph for which he had labored. He was appointed State Inspector of the Convict Department in 1875 and held this office until 1879, that is, during two Democratic administrations.

In 1885 he became a candidate for the state House of Representatives from Elmore county. He was successful and in 1886 when the legislature convened, he was present as a representative of his native county. It was he who nominated Thomas G. Jones of Montgomery county for Speaker.

1. Fleming, op. cit.
5. Record by A.T. Goodwyn on file at State Capitol in Montgomery.
Jones having received all the votes cast and having been duly declared speaker, the young representative was one of a committee of three to escort the newly chosen speaker to the chair. 1 Goodwyn was appointed to serve on the committees of Penitentiary and Criminal Administration, Mining, and Manufacturing, and on Enrolled Bills. 2 The first bill which he introduced was one "for the relief of soldiers maimed or disabled during the last war" 3 This bill with some amendments was passed with no dissenting votes, and was signed by the Governor. 4 Other bills introduced by him in this session were of local nature. One of them was a bill to authorize the court of County Commissioners of Elmore County to erect a bridge across the river at Wetumpka (the county seat) and to issue bonds to pay for same. 5

The four years following 1887 were years during which he became more and more acutely conscious that legislation was necessary in order to cure the ills of the agriculturists of the state and of the country. Many others in the state were coming to the same realization. Outside the state, the nation was awakening to the demands for more money and better prices. 6

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2. Ibid., pp. 64-65.
3. Ibid., p. 100.
4. Ibid., pp. 348-352.
5. Ibid., p. 111.
Farmers had begun to organize into "granges" or Patronage of Husbandry as early as the seventies, but by 1887 these were being supplanted by the Farmers' Alliance. \(^2\) This Farmers' Alliance was a national movement which had spread to Alabama. \(^3\) A central state Alliance was organized in 1889 \(^4\) and by the following year there were societies in every county. Although the Alliance was formed as a non-political organization \(^6\) it went rapidly into politics as a radical faction of the Democratic Party. \(^7\) It was not until 1892 that the movement took the form of a separate party organization. \(^3\) There was still too much feeling in the hearts of the white voters that only through a united, one-party front could repetition of the negro carpet-bag rule be prevented. \(^9\) That abhorred era was still too fresh in the minds of all for the people of Alabama to risk its return.


5. Loc. cit.


In 1889 a national meeting of Southern Farmers Alliance and the Northwestern Farmers Alliance was held in St. Louis. The Knights of Labor called a national convention at the same time and place and cooperated with the Alliance groups in drawing up a platform voicing the demands of the farmers and laborers. Eight Alabama delegates, including Reuben F. Holb, were present at this convention. The platform advocated among other things:

1. more paper money; 2. abolition of the national banking system; 3. laws to prevent cornering and trusts; 4. tariff reform; 5. free silver; 6. governmental ownership and operation of means of transportation and communication.

These principles were unacceptable to conservative Democrats. Strong arguments against the various provisions were advanced in Alabama, the Montgomery Advertiser leading the attack.

Three months after their adoption by the national Alliance convention, the St. Louis resolutions were adopted by the state Alliance. Among those taking active part in the Alliance movement was Albert Goodwyn. Whether or

7. Summersell, op. cit., p. 10.
8. Ibid., p. 12.
not he approved of all the resolutions adopted he did be-
lieve strongly that free silver and a lower tariff were 
necessary to alleviate the ills of the farmers. He be-
came an enthusiastic supporter of Kolb. In 1890 Goodwyn 
favored Kolb's candidacy for the governorship. Kolb at 
that time was trying for the nomination within the Demo-
cratic party. Such nominations were then made by a state 
convention rather than by primaries as they are today. 
When the Democratic convention met in Montgomery in 1890, 
Thomas G. Jones was nominated instead of Kolb.

Kolb and his followers, among whom Goodwyn was numer-
ed, declared that the farmer's candidate had been tricked 
out of the nomination.

Kolb began early in 1891 to campaign for the Demo-
ic nomination in 1892. The conservative press bombarded 
the Kolbies with accusations. It was said that the Re-
publicans and Greenbackers were joining the Alliance to 
rn the Democratic Party through it.

In 1891 the state Alliance adopted the "Ocala Plat-
form" which, it has been said, "embraced all the radical-
ism of the St. Louis Platform and then added a little."10

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3. Ibid.
4. Summersell, op. cit., p. 15.
5. Clark, op. cit., p. 103; Summersell, op. cit., p. 15.
7. Ibid. cit.; Summersell, op. cit., p. 31.
10. Summersell, op. cit., p. 32.
The newspaper fight on the Alliance men became more bitter than before. 1

In this campaign of 1892 Goodwyn was a candidate for the State Senate on the Alliance platform. 2 In the same year his oldest son, Tyler, also was a candidate for office. Although barely twenty-one he was making his first attempt to hold public office, running for the clerk of the circuit court in Elmore county on the same ticket with his father. 3

As the time for the State Democratic convention drew near the dissension became even worse. In several counties there were two groups of men each claiming to be the rightful delegates to the state convention, one group favoring Kolb, the other Jones. 4 Six days before the convention assembled the Democratic Executive Committee met to consider seating the contesting delegations. This committee was controlled by the conservatives and Jones received most of the contested delegates. 5

On the day before the Democratic convention was to meet the Kolb delegates and other of his friends held a caucus at McDonald's Opera House in Montgomery. 6 Plans for this meeting had been made in advance. Admission was by

3. Ibid.
4. Clark, op. cit., p. 129; Summersell, op. cit., p. 46.
5. Summersell, op. cit., p. 46.
6. Clark, op. cit., p. 150.
ticket and the session was secret. Goodwyn presided. Some three hundred persons were present. A resolution was adopted to appoint a committee to meet with a similar committee from the Capitol Convention, to work out some settlement of the differences in the Democratic Party. Chairman Goodwyn named P. G. Bowman, as chairman of the conference committee. The Capitol Convention refused to treat with the group. Goodwyn, with some of the other Kolb supporters, now attended the Capitol Convention. Why Goodwyn attended the Capitol Convention is not quite clear, but at least it did not mean that he had deserted Kolb. Subsequent events show that he still adhered to the Alliance and to Kolb, its leader.

The regular Democratic Convention at the Capitol proceeded to nominate Jones and a full Democratic ticket. A conventional platform was drawn up endorsing the state and national Democratic administrations and favoring states rights, economy and better schools. As to free silver the platform was somewhat vague. It advocated "a

1. Clark, op. cit., p. 130.
2. loc. cit.
3. loc. cit.; Montgomery Advertiser, June 9, 1893.
4. The regular Democratic convention met at the State Capitol.
5. Clark, op. cit., p. 130.
6. loc. cit.
7. loc. cit.
8. Ibid., p. 131.
9. loc. cit.
10. Summerville, op. cit., p. 46.
safe, sound and elastic currency". 1

The caucus at the Opera House was fast becoming a
party convention. Those meeting there, declaring themselves
the real Democrats, the true Jeffersonians, nominated a
state ticket of their own, headed by Reuben F. Kolb. 2
Calling themselves the "Jeffersonian Democrats", they pre-
pared a platform thoroughly aggressive. Based upon the
national Alliance platform, it advocated free silver,
popular election of the railway commission, and a national
income tax. 3 It opposed national banking, trusts and
monopolies, and convict leasing. 4 Thus in the state cam-
paign of 1892 there were two distinct parties each claim-
ing to be the real Democratic Party. Each sent delegates
to the national convention in Chicago but the regular
Democrats were seated. 5

The National Peoples' Party was definitely organized
early in that same year of 1892. 6 It has been said that
the Peoples' Party had its real beginning at the St. Louis
convention when the reform resolutions were drawn up. 7 At
any rate the demands made at St. Louis were embodied in the
demands of the Peoples' Party when it was organized. 8 The

1. Summersell, op. cit., p. 43.
2. Clark, op. cit., p. 132; Summersell, op. cit., p. 49.
4. Loc. cit.
5. Ibid., p. 132; Summersell, op. cit., p. 49.
7. Summersell, op. cit., p. 41.
8. Loc. cit.
organization of the new party in Alabama was begun shortly thereafter with J.C. Manning and George F. Gaither as the two chief leaders.\textsuperscript{1} The party grew rapidly and, when the Jeffersonian Democratic Party was organized, cooperated with the Kolbites against the regular Democrats.\textsuperscript{2} From that time it is not always possible to distinguish between the Populists and the Jeffersonians because they were often deliberately confused by the conservatives who used the two words interchangeably.\textsuperscript{3}

The campaign was a violent one.\textsuperscript{4} Partisanship ran high. The press was divided between the two parties,\textsuperscript{5} but probably the Democrats had the greater newspaper support.\textsuperscript{6}

On August the first, the voters went to the polls. Jones was declared elected as governor by some eleven thousand majority.\textsuperscript{7} The whole Jeffersonian state ticket was defeated and the Democrats also elected a majority of the legislature.\textsuperscript{8}

The candidacy of the Goodwys was more successful than most of the Jeffersonians. Albert was elected to re-

\textsuperscript{1} Clark, \textit{op. cit.}, p. 138.
\textsuperscript{2} Summersell, \textit{op. cit.}, p. 42.
\textsuperscript{3} Ibid., p. 50.
\textsuperscript{4} Moore, \textit{op. cit.}, p. 723; Clark, \textit{op. cit.}, p. 135; Cole, Houston, \textit{Populism in Tuscaloosa County}, pp. 63-64.
\textsuperscript{5} Ibid.
\textsuperscript{6} Clark, \textit{op. cit.}, p. 135.
\textsuperscript{7} Clark, \textit{op. cit.}, pp. 136-137; Miller, L.D., \textit{History of Alabama}, p. 538; Moore, \textit{op. cit.}, p. 723; Spearman, \textit{op. cit.}, pp. 41-42.
\textsuperscript{8} Ibid.
present the counties of Chilton, Shelby and Elmore in the Senate while his son also obtained the office for which he was a candidate.

The Jeffersonians and Populists declared that Kolb had been counted out at the polls. Goodwyn and other Kolb leaders denounced "this unpardonable crime." Even the conservative newspapers were not unanimous in denying the charges of fraud. There was, however, no law which provided for the contest of an election.

On November 16, Goodwyn took his place in the Senate chamber in Montgomery, and on the following day he introduced a bill,

"to authorize any qualified elector of Alabama to contest the late election, held on the first Monday in August, 1892, for governor, Secretary of State, State Auditor, State Treasurer, superintendent of Education, attorney general, and Commissioner of Agriculture."

This bill was referred to the committee on Privileges and Elections from which it was reported adversely. The Senate overruled this adverse report on motion of Goodwyn and decided to vote on the bill. Senator Goodwyn spoke eloquently in favor of the passage of the bill which he

1. These counties composed the fifteenth Senatorial District.
8. Ibid., p. 48.
had introduced. It passed in the Senate but only after one important amendment had been made, an amendment bitterly opposed by Goodwyn. On motion of J.C. Compton of Dallas it was sent back to the committee on Privileges and Elections after the said amendment was adopted. The committee again reported the bill adversely and this time the Senate concurred in the adverse report. Thus in spite of Goodwyn's efforts, the contest bill did not become a law. A similar bill originating in the House of Representatives met the same fate in the Senate.

As a sop to those who felt themselves defrauded in the election a joint convention of the two legislative houses was held to investigate. Over this convention the presiding officer was the Speaker of the House, Francis L. Pettus. Senator Goodwyn believed that Pettus impaired any real investigation by autocratic rulings. Accordingly he moved in the Senate.

"that the journal of the proceedings of the joint convention on yesterday, be amended so as to show that the speaker as presiding officer of the joint committee ruled:

"1st: that no member of the General Assembly had a right to enter a written protest against the counting of votes from certain counties.

"2nd: that no member had a right to appeal

2. Ibid., pp. 377, 379, 397. The amendment provided that the contestee must make bond to the amount of $5,000.00, no bond being required of the contestant.
4. Ibid., p. 399.
5. loc. cit.
7. Ibid., p. 65.
from the decision of the chair."  

The motion was not carried.  

Shortly after the August election the state Alliance held a meeting at Cullman. Here a resolution was passed denouncing the election frauds and demanding the defeat of Cleveland. The Ocala Platform was endorsed and provisions were made for a Jeffersonian-Populist convention in Birmingham to nominate candidates for Congress and presidential electors.  

This joint convention met on September 15. All the radical leaders were present and among the speakers were Kolb, Bowman, Adams, Goodwyn, Gaither and Manning. Even Weaver, the national Populist candidate, attended. Candidates for Congress were named for each district. Weaver electors were chosen and the Ocala Platform endorsed. Heretofore the Populist Party in the state had been in a hopeless minority and the Jeffersonian Party

2. Ibid., p. 67.  
5. Clark, op. cit., p. 143.  
6. Ibid., pp. 140-141.  
7. Ibid., p. 143.  
8. Ibid., p. 143.  
10. The Populist Platform. For full discussion of this platform see Buck, The Agrarian Crusade, p. 143.  
had been a temporary expedient. Now the combination formed
a definite third party. The Lily White Republicans, led
by Dr. R.A. Mosely, also agreed to support the fusion
ticket. The Black and Tan Republicans, under the leader-
ship of Bill Stevens, refused to support the Jeffersonian-
Populist candidates.

Democratic newspapers denounced the fusion as "the
major crime of 1892". The fusion group was not allowed
to forget that it had Republican support. The press at-
tack continued. On November 8, election of national of-
icers was held. Cleveland won overwhelmingly, his majority
over Weaver being nearly 55,000. All the Democratic
Congressmen were re-elected.

2. Clark, op. cit., p. 142; Miller, on. cit., p. 280.
3. Clark, op. cit., p. 142.
4. Loc. cit.
5. Sumnersell, op. cit., p. 60.
7. Miller, op. cit., p. 288; Clark, on. cit., p. 145; Cole,
Chapter V

THE CAMPAIGNS OF 1894

When the campaign for state offices began in 1894, Alabama was probably at the height of its period of discontent with existing conditions. The discontent of the small farmer class, which had made possible the Kolb movement, spread to other classes as a result of the panic of 1893.\(^1\) This panic was more severe than any ever before experienced in the South. Labor conditions were bad in 1893.\(^3\) The farmer's condition was growing even worse than it had been.\(^4\) Land, livestock, and farm products were practically worthless.\(^5\) Cotton sold for four cents a pound and potatoes for ten cents a bushel.\(^6\) To make matters still worse a yellow fever epidemic broke out in South Alabama in the sumer of 1893.\(^7\) These conditions naturally tended to strengthen the radical group.

Organization of the Populist-Jeffersonian party was being strengthened the year before the campaign of 1894.\(^3\) The two state executive committees met in Birmingham in

3. Ibid., pp. 290-291; Spitzman, op. cit., p. 19.
8. Summersell, op. cit., p. 63; Cole, op. cit., p. 60.
May, 1893. Goodwyn acted as chairman of the Jeffersonians. The populists apparently sanctioned what the Jeffersonian committee proposed. Chairman Goodwyn was authorized to submit the following proposal of peace to the regular Democrats:

"A primary election to be held in April, 1894 for the nomination of state and local officers, this primary to be participated in by Democrats, Jeffersonian Democrats, and those of the People's Party. All white voters of the state should be allowed to vote, and all must support the nominees. Measures for the prevention of election frauds must be adopted."  

The Democratic Executive Committee refused the proposal insisting that whether a person had voted for "Cleve and Steve" in the November elections should be the test. The Montgomery Advertiser opposed the Goodwyn plan saying that "it savors too much of radicalism." The "plan", said the Advertiser, "lets in every Republican in the state. It proposes to invite every enemy of the party into the party citadel, to put him in uniform and place him on the walls just so he is white." Other regular Democratic newspapers said it would demoralize the Democratic Party and put it in the hands of its enemies. The refusal of the Democratic Executive Committee was, however,

2. Loc. cit.
3. Ibid., p. 149.
5. Ibid., pp. 729-730; Clark, op. cit., pp. 149-150.
7. Loc. cit.
couched in a conciliating tone. It stated that the vote in the coming election was to be "the test of eligibility to participation in the Democratic primaries and conventions". The committee declared itself anxious "to enable every self-respecting Democrat to unite with his brethren in maintaining the principles and policies of the party".

In response to this reply, Chairman Goodwyn of the Jeffersonians said,

"Your committee has placed all hopes of reconciliation and peace beyond the reach of the Jeffersonian Democracy, except upon terms which require forfeiture of manhood and self-respect."

Following this exchange, the Jeffersonians attacked the regular or "organized" Democrats because the latter favored the disfranchisement of ignorant whites and because their test of party allegiance operated to keep thousands of white men out of the party and allow thousands of negroes to come in. They claimed that this would lead to negro supremacy again in the Black Belt. Goodwyn observed:

"It seems that holding office by colored votes has become so alluring and fascinating to the organized Democrats that they propose to embrace the colored brother, take him into their councils and share the honors with him."

All efforts for peace were checked. Progressives

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2. Loc. cit.
throughout the state were keyed to a high pitch by election frauds whereby "candidates who were clearly repudiated by the voters at the polls by large majorities, became the de facto officers of the state", and by the hard times caused by the panic of 1893.

The Democratic convention was to be held in Montgomery on May 22. W.C. Oates and Joseph F. Johnston were the two chief candidates for the Democratic nomination for governor. Newspaper support was divided fairly evenly between the two. Johnston stood for free silver and opposition to Cleveland. Oates endorsed Cleveland and "favored free silver at a higher ratio than 16 to 1". It became increasingly apparent that Oates would be the Democratic nominee. When the convention met, Oates was nominated on the first ballot and a noncommittal platform was quickly approved.

There seems to have been little doubt that Kolb would be nominated by the Populists. The regular nominating conventions of the Jeffersonians and Populists both met in Birmingham on February 3, 1894.

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4. loc. cit.
5. loc. cit.
7. Ibid.
10. Summersell, op. cit., p. 67.
11. Ibid., p. 68.
assembled in the Winnie Davis Wignam and the Populists met nearby, but later moved in with the Jeffersonians.\footnote{Clark, op. cit., p. 152.}
All counties except Baldwin, Wilcox, and Washington were represented by full delegations at the joint convention.\footnote{Sparman, op. cit., p. 15.}
Among the third party leaders present were Goodwyn, San Robson, Goither, Bowman, Adams and Manning.\footnote{Clark, op. cit., p. 152.} Goodwyn, the chairman, addressed the convention advocating free silver, low tariff, graduated income tax, "a free ballot and a fair count".\footnote{Sparman, op. cit., p. 15.} Kolb was overwhelmingly chosen as leader of the fusion party.\footnote{Moore, op. cit., p. 731; Clark, op. cit., p. 152.}
In harmony with the speech of chairman Goodwyn the convention adopted a platform advocating a free vote, an honest court, and the contest law for state officers; free coinage of silver and gold on the 16 to 1 basis, the expansion of money to $50.00 per capita and the elimination of control of money by corporations; a tariff for revenue and protection of labor; a national graduated income tax; better educational facilities for the common people; the removal of the convicts from the mines and debarment from the mines of children under thirteen years of age; lien laws and public inspection for the protection of the miners; a state inspector of weights and measures; and economy in public expenditures.\footnote{Montgomery Advertiser, February 9, 1894; Moore, op. cit., p. 732; Scroggs, op. cit., pp. 317-318.}
The Lily White Republicans endorsed the fusion ticket again. Bill Stevens, the Black and Tan Republican leader, attended the fusion convention and attempted to endorse the Populist Platform in behalf of his people but was unceremoniously put out.\(^2\)

The Birmingham News sarcastically called the convention "a day of rot and bombast, of cheap threats, dreams of leading regiments to the Capitol to beat Kolb; a day of vilification and abuse, a day of cheapest leaders and most easily led followers."\(^3\)

The Jeffersonian Party was made up chiefly of the poorest people of the state with some idealists and some political opportunists as its leaders.\(^4\) Much difficulty was found in financing a political campaign. At Populist meetings the collection plate was passed among the crowds.\(^5\) The Populist orators and the Populist papers asked for small contributions.\(^6\) Pennies were hoarded for the cause.\(^7\)

The Jeffersonian Committee of Pickens County asked farm women to contribute "chickens, eggs and butter" to the campaign.\(^8\) The Populists approached the Republicans, both state and national, for money, but it is not possible to

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2. Summersell, *op. cit.*, p. 71; The Democratic Party was then endorsed by the Black and Tan group. Several negroes even campaigned for Gates; Sparkman, *op. cit.*, p. 20.
say exactly how much was received.\textsuperscript{1}

The campaign was intense. The "crime of '93\textsuperscript{2}" was denounced by Kolb, Goodwyn and other Populist orators.\textsuperscript{3}

In reply to these attacks the Democrats declared that they favored election reforms as heartily as did the Populists, pointing to the Sayre Election Bill, fathered by the Democrats.\textsuperscript{4} This bill had been passed by the predominantly Democratic legislature early in 1893.\textsuperscript{5} It provided for an Australian ballot-system and for educational qualifications for disfranchising the negro.\textsuperscript{6} In these respects it was a step toward a more rigid election law but the law also contained a provision that a voter who could not read might be assisted in marking his ballot by one of the inspectors of the election, to be chosen by himself, or by a person selected for the purpose by the inspectors.\textsuperscript{7} This provision rendered many advantages of the Australian ballot nugatory and in some instances even made fraud easier.\textsuperscript{8} Goodwyn opposed the passage of the bill in the Senate unsuccessfully and, along with Kolb and other populist leaders, continued to denounce it after it be-

1. Summersell, \textit{op. cit.}, p. 72.
2. The "counting out" of Kolb in 1893 was called by the Jeffersonians and Populists the "crime of '93".
came a law. 1 In the campaign of 1894 this law was con-
stantly being brought to the fore, the Populists denounc-
ing it as facilitating election frauds and the Democrats
defending it as a "first step toward a free ballot and
a fair count". 2

As the campaign progressed the tension increased and
the candidates and press became more vituperative, bud-
slinging and threats were the general order. Populists
became so violent over the prospects of being counted out
again that they threatened to move the capital to Birming-
ham to get it "out of the hands of that Montgomery crowd". 4
Rumors were current that Kolb followers were preparing
for civil war if Kolb did not reach the governor's chair. 5
Fist fights were common. 6 "Vote for law and order" was
the appeal of the conservative press. 7

August the sixth was the day of the election. Through-
out the state there was a great deal of excitement and
not a little hard feeling. There was, however, little
actual violence. 8 When the returns were counted the of-
official count in the governor's race gave Gates a majority

1. Clark, op. cit., p. 146.
2. Loc. cit.
3. Summerville, op. cit., pp. 77-79; Sparkman, op. cit.,
   pp. 96-97.
5. Ibid., pp. 738-739.
6. Cole, op. cit., pp. 75-76, 32; Summerville, op. cit.,
   p. 79.
8. Ibid., p. 55; Moore, op. cit., p. 738.
of 35,766. However, many Democrats lost county offices.

Kolb and his friends declared that he had been counted out at the polls and threatened to inaugurate him anyway as the rightful governor. It is admitted today by Kolb's opponents that fraud was practiced in 1904 as in 1902 to defeat him. The election was held according to the Sayre Law which made manipulating votes easier. Incompetent, dishonest and even illiterate Populists were selected by Democratic officers to serve as Populist watchers at the polls. Democrats now admit that the vote was manipulated, but there is no way to determine whether enough fraudulent votes were cast to affect the outcome.

On November the thirtieth, the state legislature convened. The day before, Goodwyn and other Kolb friends had held a public meeting in Montgomery to discuss plans, but it passed off with no definite plan for seating Kolb.

A Democratic caucus in the legislature was held on the night of November 13. The caucus decided that a Democrat was a man who had voted for a Democratic Congressman in the recent November election and who himself voted

3. Sparkman, op. cit., p. 40; Summersell, op. cit., p. 32.
5. Summersell, op. cit., p. 80.
8. Clark, op. cit., p. 185.
for Gates or had favored Gates as against Kolb. 1 When
this rule was announced, ten senators, representing twenty-
two counties, only one less than one-third of the entire
senate left the room. 2 Goodwyn was one of those who left. 3

On November the fifteenth, Senator Goodwyn offered a
joint resolution in the Senate as follows:

"Resolved by the Senate, the House concurring,
that a joint committee of five Senators and seven
representatives, be appointed who are authorized
and requested to formulate a bill in the interest
of a pure ballot and a fair court, or such
amendments to present election laws as will better
secure honesty in elections in Alabama. The said
committee shall be equally divided in its member-
ship between the different political parties as
may be." 4

This motion was laid on the table by a vote of six-
teen to fifteen. 5

On November the seventeenth, a joint session of the
houses was held for counting and publishing the votes of
the August election. Goodwyn led the opposition for the
Kolb forces, but Gates and the whole Democratic ticket
for state offices were declared elected. 6

A great deal was still said among the Kolb supporters
of marching to Montgomery and forcing their candidate into

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2. Clark, op. cit., p. 156.
3. Loc. cit.
5. Loc. cit.
6. Clark, op. cit., p. 156.
the governorship. There seemed danger of violence. The Populist members of the legislature refused to be held responsible for any such violence that might occur. They met in caucus and passed the following resolutions which they had placed upon the journals of each house:

"Resolved, by the Populist senators and representatives of the general assembly in caucus assembled, the action of our state convention held in this city on the 21st, meets with our full endorsement and that all reports published by an unfriendly press to the effect that any violence or lawlessness in any form is contemplated on the 1st proximo, are absolutely false and are circulated for the purpose of bringing our party into disrepute among patriotic citizens.

A.T. Goodwyn, chairman
E.B. Langley, Secretary."

There was some talk but no actual violence took place in connection with the inauguration.

The election of national officers took place on November 6, 1894. Goodwyn had been nominated as the Populist candidate for Congress from the 11th Alabama District. He was opposed by Judge James E. Cobb, an anti-Cleveland Democrat. Goodwyn wrote to Cobb asking him to cooperate with him in "planning one election that may be

1. Atlanta Constitution, December 1, 1894; Clark, op. cit., p. 188.
3. Moore, op. cit., p. 739; After the inauguration of Gates, Cobb was "inaugurated" on the street n'th with some followers marched to the Capitol, only to be refused admittance; Clark, op. cit., pp. 158-159; Summerell, op. cit., p. 82.
5. Loc. cit.
absolutely above reproach". He also suggested that they "as respective candidates of opposing parties, canvass the district by jointly discussing the issues of the day at different places on equal and fair terms".

The second of these propositions, that of joint debate and discussions, Cobb accepted, but refused to interfere with the regular election system in any way, giving as his reason for this refusal his belief that the law adequately provided for regular appointment of election officials and that to take the law in their own hands could only result in confusion and trouble with no good accomplished. This refusal was considerably played up by Goodwyn.

In the campaign which followed Goodwyn based his candidacy upon the Jeffersonian Democratic Platform, and of all the planks in that platform the one which he brought most to the front, was that concerning election frauds. He printed his letter and subsequent wires to Judge Cobb and the Judge's reply, making capital of the fact that Cobb had refused to join with him in trying to hold a fair election.

2. Ibid.
4. Made in conjunction with the Populists and supported by the Lily White Republicans.
6. Ibid.
The two candidates, as agreed, stumped the district together. Their well known ability as speakers as well as the keen interest in politics brought large crowds out to hear them. Often the gathering would take place in the form of a picnic or barbecue when the people from miles around would come in wagons, buggies or on horseback, bringing probably the whole family and large baskets of food to be devoured when the speaking was over.1

Captain Goodwyn always enjoyed telling of one instance at such a gathering when he ventured his opponent, Judge Cobb, in his speech, said that he hated to tell on his honorable opponent on the platform with him, but that the truth was that everywhere Captain Goodwyn went he always made exactly the same speech. Goodwyn leaned forward and said in a stage whisper, "Tell the whole truth, Judge, tell the whole truth."

The Judge, bewildered, asked what he meant.

"Why don't you tell them the whole truth," replied Goodwyn, "that every night you pray to God that I'll change that speech!"2

On November the sixth when the votes were polled for the national officers, the official count in the congressional race in the fifth district gave Cobb 10,651

1. Griffin, Mrs. F.R., op. cit.
2. Ibid.
votes and Goodwyn 9,963 votes.¹

Goodwyn and his friends were thoroughly convinced that he had been counted out at the polls. Most of the other defeated Populist candidates felt the same way.² There was no legal way of contesting a governor's election but there was a legal way to contest a congressional election. Goodwyn determined that when Congress convened he would contest the legality of the election of his opponent. On December 11, 1894, Cobb was served with notice of the contest.³ This notice, written by Goodwyn, charged that,

"the apparent result of the election was procured by fraud, ballot-box stuffing, changing legal votes . . .; changing the returns by having the votes of illiterate persons entitled to vote marked for you when they were intended for me by the person voting them, and was so directed to be marked; and bribery and intimidation of voters."⁴

These charges were only the beginning of the long indictment set forth in the notice of the contest, in which Goodwyn claimed that he "was elected by more than 2,000 majority of the legally cast votes".⁵

To this notice, Goodwyn received a reply January 9, 1895. Cobb stated that the charges were "general, vague,

2. Clark, op. cit., p. 135 (footnote).
4. Ibid., p. 3.
5. Ibid., p. 7.
indefinite" and denied "every fact charged". He also made counter charges of irregularities in votes cast for his opponent.\(^1\)

There followed a long process of calling witnesses to testify for both sides. These were examined and cross-examined.\(^2\) The Fifth Congressional District included the counties of Autauga, Chambers, Clay, Coosa, Elmore, Lowndes, Macon, Randolph and Tallapoosa. The dispute over votes seems to have been centered in Lowndes, Macon and Autauga counties. It was in these counties that Cobb received his great majorities and these were the counties specifically mentioned by Goodwyn in his notice of contest.\(^4\)

On January 33, the first witnesses for the contestant

\[\begin{array}{|c|c|c|}
\hline
\text{County} & \text{Cobb} & \text{Goodwyn} \\
\hline
\text{Autauga} & 613 & 225 \\
\text{Chambers} & 1,195 & 1,733 \\
\text{Clay} & 806 & 1,063 \\
\text{Coosa} & 810 & 1,210 \\
\text{Elmore} & 1,066 & 2,115 \\
\text{Lowndes} & 3,276 & 139 \\
\text{Macon} & 1,035 & 150 \\
\text{Randolph} & 646 & 1,167 \\
\text{Tallapoosa} & 1,204 & 2,051 \\
\hline
\text{Total} & 10,661 & 9,903 \\
\hline
\end{array}\]

\(^1\) Contested Election Case of Albert T. Goodwyn vs. James E. Cobb, pp. 10-11.
\(^2\) Ibid., passim.
\(^3\) Ibid., p. 347.
\(^4\) Ibid., passim.

OFFICIAL VOTE BY COUNTIES FOR THE FIFTH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT 1894:


\(^5\) Ibid., pp. 4-7.
were called at Tuskegee in Macon County. 1 Cobb was duly
informed that the testimony would be taken at that time and
place and his representatives were present to conduct a
cross-examination. 2 By bringing several hundred witnesses
from beats in which the official vote for him was very
small Goodwyn attempted to prove that a much larger number
from those beats had actually cast their votes for him than
was officially recorded. He furthermore attempted to prove
that certain persons marked on the official list as having
voted did not actually cast their ballots at all. Witnesses
were also called to prove that inspectors in certain beats
were "extreme partisan organized Democrats" and Cobb's
political allies and friends and that no one was allowed
to have anything to do with the election except Cobb's
friends. 3 Testimony was made to the effect that many igno-
rant persons who had intended to vote for Goodwyn had
their ballots marked in favor of Cobb. 4 Through cross-ex-
amination Cobb tried to show that the witnesses were not
reliable and that their statements were false. Also, in
turn, Cobb called witnesses of his own attempting to show
that the returns for him were correct and that irregular-
ities existed in the voting for Goodwyn in certain places.

2. Ibid., pp. 13 ff.
3. Ibid., passim.
4. Ibid., passim.
particularly in Elmore County where Goodwyn's strength was greatest, that being his home county. 1

Witnesses were called in large numbers by both contestant and contestee in the counties of Autauga, Elmore, Lowndes and Macon. 2 Both Goodwyn and Cobb personally took the witness stand to testify for himself. 3 The completed record of these proceedings was printed for the Congressional Committee on Privileges and Elections it being some time in April, 1896, before all the testimony was completed. 4

The committee, after going over the testimony for both sides, as presented, decided that the Congressional seat representing the Fifth Alabama District rightfully belonged to Albert T. Goodwyn. 5 On April 21, 1896, the question came before the House as to whether Goodwyn was entitled to the Congressional seat but for lack of a quorum the vote was put off until the next day. 6 It had previously been voted 109 to 47 that Cobb was not elected. 7 On the next day, April 22, 1896, Goodwyn was given his seat in Congress by a vote of 135 to 45. 8

On April the twenty-fourth he applied for and obtain-

2. Ibid., passim.
3. Ibid.; passim.
4. Ibid.
8. Ibid., pp. 4271-4272.
tained a leave of absence from the House for a period of twelve days on account of important business. 1 This leave was later extended to cover the period up to June first. 2

On June 9, he was appointed a member of the committee on Claims and Reforms in the Civil Service. 3 What work he did in connection with this committee is not stated nor is his attitude toward civil service reforms mentioned. So far as can be found he made no speeches in Congress and confined his activities, during the short time he was present largely to voting on contested election cases such as his own.

During the second session he was again present for only a short time having been granted, by unanimous vote, a leave of absence for an indefinite period "on account of important business". 4

He was present, however, when the House voted on the Senate bill which provided that the

"United States should be represented at any international conference ... with a view to securing by international agreement a fixity of relative value between gold and silver as money by means of a common ratio between these metals with free mintage as such ratio." 5

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2. Ibid., pp. 4957, 5437.
3. Ibid., p. 6364.
5. Ibid., p. 2365.
The bill also provided that the President was authorized to appoint five or more commissioners to such conference and to call a conference himself "in his discretion".

This bill closely coincided with the Republican platform in the preceding election and was passed overwhelmingly in the House. Goodwyn voted in favor of the bill, this being at least a step toward "free silver" which he advocated.

2. Ibid., pp. 2367-2369.
3. Ibid., p. 2383.
4. Loc. cit.
Chapter VI

POPULIST CANDIDATE FOR GOVERNOR

Since 1892 the Populists and the Jeffersonians had supported the same state candidates and stood for the same general principles. It grew increasingly difficult to distinguish between the two groups even though they maintained separate executive committees through the campaigns of 1894. In February, 1894, the two party conventions had not jointly in Birmingham. An extended search has not revealed just when the two parties really merged and one executive committee was chosen to represent both groups. However, by 1896 they were one party. In available newspapers of the period there is mention of only one convention and one executive committee, generally designated as Populist.

Evidently the Populists had been building up Goodwyn as gubernatorial candidate all during the period of his Congressional contest, for when the contest came to a successful close on April 22, 1896, he immediately announced his intention of running for governor.

The Populist convention assembled in Montgomery on April 28. The state Republican convention was called for

2. Montgomery Advertiser, April 22, 1896. The Advertiser, which was decidedly hostile to Goodwyn, stated that it was Goodwyn's intention to run on a combined Populist and Republican ticket.
the same time and place. Fusion between the two parties was talked but there was opposition in both groups. The Populists met at the Opera House and the Republicans at the State Capitol. On the twenty-ninth, the Populist convention was called to order by the chairman, there being about two hundred and fifty delegates present. When the convention proceeded to the nomination for governor, "Goodwyn enthusiasm broke loose all in a thunderclap". Coleman placed the name of Goodwyn in nomination and in quick succession it was seconded with speeches by others including Reuben F. Kelb. The convention was now quite wild but Congressman Howard cooled it for several minutes when he nominated Dr. Gratton B. Crow of Bibb for governor. There was a faint applause followed by yells of "Goodwyn". Howard then withdrew the name of Dr. Crow at the latter's request. Goodwyn was thereupon nominated by a rising vote. He was forthwith brought into the hall by a committee and made a five minutes speech of acceptance.

The platform was then discussed. The chairman observed, "We want a platform not to stand on but to go in on."

The main planks as finally decided upon were: (1) free ballot; (2) fair count; (3) free silver; (4) limited pro-

1. The Montgomery Advertiser, April 28, 1896.
2. Loc. cit.
3. Loc. cit.
4. Ibid., April 29, 1896.
5. Loc. cit.
tective tariff; (5) and competent inspectors at all polling places.

The Republicans agreed to support the Populist ticket and two places thereon were given to Republicans. This agreement caused the Montgomery Advertiser to recall the old fear of negro rule. It stated that,

"the old danger confronts us again, because a large number of white men are acting in harmony with Republicans. If they have any of their old love for the Democratic party they will hesitate long before following Goodwyn and Co. into the Radical Camp." 3

One week before the Populist-Republican meetings, the state Democratic convention had been held. The two chief aspirants for the Democratic nomination for governor were Joseph F. Johnston and Richard H. Clarke. 4 Johnston was a free silverite and represented the progressive wing of the party. 5 Clarke was a "gold bug" and a protege of Cleveland. 6 The all absorbing issue before the people of state and nation was the money question. The press was filled with silver and gold discussions. "Free and unlimited coinage of silver and gold at the ratio of 16 to 1" was a catch phrase which could be heard everywhere. 7 William

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1. The Montgomery Advertiser, April 29, 1896.
2. Clark, op. cit., p. 163; Moore, op. cit., p. 742. The two Republicans on the ticket were: for Attorney General, J.W. Smith of Birmingham, and for Secretary of State, L.F. Grimmet of Macon.
3. The Montgomery Advertiser, April 26, 1896.
5. Ibid., p. 165; Summersell, op. cit., p. 265.
7. Ibid., p. 164.
8. Loc. cit.
Jennings Bryan visited Mobile and joined in a debate on "16 to 1" against Clarke. Johnston favored letting back into the party all who would stand by the Democratic Party, and this plan was adopted by the Executive Committee. This "open bar" policy of the Democratic Party tended to weaken the Populist group as many now returned to the Democratic fold.

When the state Democratic convention met, Johnston was nominated for governor and the party was in the hands of the silver or progressive wing.

The Montgomery Advertiser started a vigorous campaign against the Populist Party, and Goodwyn in particular, as its standard-bearer. Seldon did a day pass that there was not some scathing editorial comment about Goodwyn's candidacy for the governorship, or warning to the people to stay in the Democratic Party.

The Birmingham Tribune, Populist organ, stated that,

"The issues before the people of Alabama are two and these are inseparably allied:
1. Restoration of the ballot to its original purity and intent.
2. Restoration of the money of the Constitution and the extinction of national bank charters."
The Advertiser recorded that,

"Now that the Democratic Party in this State has incorporated the first plank in its plat- form and asks repeal of the ten per cent tax on State bank notes what reason is there for the continued existence of the Populist Party? ... What is the difference between an organized Democrat and a straight Populist? The Democrats have gone over to the Populist platform and why shouldn't the Populists return the compliment by coming over to the Demo- cratic nominees?"

The platforms of the two parties being so nearly the same, an issue had to be found. The Advertiser found it in the question of white supremacy. Goodwyn was accused of being a negro lover. The fact that he voted in Congress to seat a negro in place of a white man in a contested election case for South Carolina was much played up. The Advertiser stated that "Goodwyn and his crowd would bring back the evil of the carpetbag, scalawag and negro Re- publican rule. The way to prevent it is to vote the Demo- cratic ticket."

Some of the Democratic papers were not so rabid in their accusations as the Advertiser. Indeed, the Sheffield Reaper, a free silver Democratic paper, was so luke warm in its denunciation of the Populists that it earned a severe rebuke from the Advertiser. Said the Reaper:

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1. The Montgomery Advertiser, April 24, 1896.
2. Ibid., 1896, passim.
5. Ibid.; May 14, 1896.
"The Populists at their recent convention nominated Hon. A.T. Goodwyn for Governor. It goes without contradiction they could not have selected a stronger man. He is socially and mentally the peer of any man in the State, and all that can be urged against him is 'he is a Populist,' and that has no great peril for a large portion of our best citizenship. Now that both tickets are headed by men of moral worth, we hope to see the campaign conducted on principles above the lying slanderous ones of the past. The State will not be worsted by the election of either Johnston or Goodwyn."

This mild attitude on the part of a Democratic paper roused the Advertiser to the following outburst:

"Is it going to win votes for the Democratic ticket to say that Goodwyn is 'the peer of any man in the State'? ... Goodwyn is not the peer of any man in the State intellectually or otherwise. He has always been a weak brother in many respects, and has never made any sort of a success in life at anything, unless his breaking into Congress recently was considered a brilliant exploit. ... To set him up as a great man and good man is ridiculous. ... It is plain that his success means negro rule in Alabama.""

Goodwyn proposed to Johnston, as he had to Cobb, that the candidates should have joint debate and stump the state together. This proposal was made in a letter which he wrote to Johnston on May 9, 1896, and in which he also proposed that,

"in the interest of free ballots and fair counts in the coming state election, we join in a petition to the county appointing boards, asking that the two contending parties be represented among the inspectors of elections at

every polling place in the State ..."

There was much discussion of the proposal in the press of the state. The Advertiser was inclined to favor the joint debate while deploiring the implied accusations against the honesty of the Democratic Party contained in the letter. 2

On May 25, Johnston returned Goodwyn's letter to Chairman G.B. Deans of the Populist Executive Committee with the statement that he could not entertain the proposal but would accept a challenge in a proper tone. 3 Goodwyn then issued an address to the people of the state in which he defended his letter, declaring that there was nothing improper in it and renewed the substance of it, ending in the following manner:

"The discourteous manner in which Captain Johnston has seen fit to return my letter precludes me from offering any further direct proposition to him. Notwithstanding this discourtesy, I would cheerfully accept any fair proposition from Captain Johnston for the purpose of securing an honest election and a joint discussion of the issues of the campaign." 4

Johnston made no proposition and the joint debate idea was given up. 5

The campaign was almost as violent as that of 1894.

3. Ibid., May 26, 1896.
4. Ibid., May 28, 1896.
5. Goodwyn, A.T., Scrapbook.
Most of the press of the state was Democratic but there were some Populist papers.\textsuperscript{1} The Populist papers heaped praise on Goodwyn and his running mates and abuse upon the Democratic Party and its nominees; the other papers piled calumny upon "the wholly alliance born of the lust for office",\textsuperscript{2} and extolled to the skies the virtues of the Democratic Party and its standard bearer. It was a campaign of calumnies, criminations and recriminations in the press, of oratorical appeals by the candidates and violent partisanship among the adherents of both sides.\textsuperscript{3}

The day of the election was set for August 6. When that day arrived, a large number of citizens of Alabama went to the polls to cast their votes for governor and other state officials.\textsuperscript{4} Each side was confident of victory. When the votes were counted the official records gave Johnston a majority of 22,672 votes.\textsuperscript{5} Johnston was declared the next governor of Alabama.\textsuperscript{6}

Goodwyn and his friends were confident that the election had not been fairly conducted. They believed that ballot boxes had been stuffed, that votes had been changed.

\begin{enumerate}
\item The Wetumpka Reform Advocate, the Birmingham Times and the Greenville Living Truth were Populist press organs.
\item Mobile Register, quoted in Moore, op. cit., p. 745.
\item Montgomery Advertiser and Birmingham News, 1896, passim.
\item The number of voters was considerably less than in 1894 showing a decline from the intense interest felt in that year.
\item The official vote was Johnston, 123,541; Goodwyn, 89,290. Clark, op. cit., p. 170; Miller, op. cit., p. 294.
\item Moore, op. cit., p. 744.
\end{enumerate}
and other fraudulent practices employed by the opposition.¹
There were many who wanted Goodwyn to contest the election as he had contested the Congressional election. The obstacle to this course was, however, the same lack of legal method of contesting a state election which had existed in the previous instances cited. There was nothing to do except to accept the decision as rendered and acknowledge themselves defeated.

It was the beginning of the end of the Populist Party in Alabama, and, indeed, in the nation. The Democratic Party was adopting, one by one, the doctrines advocated by the Populists and consequently there was a gradual return to the Democratic fold.² This return to the old white party of the State had begun as early as 1895 when the "open bar" policy had been adopted by the Democratic Party.³ By 1896, too, there were numerous signs of returning prosperity and the press prophesied that "hard times" would soon be a thing of the past.⁴ It will be remembered that the panic of 1893 had much to do with the inception of the Populist Party and so when prosperity returned the discontent lessened and the new party decreased in strength.⁵

People were growing tired of politics in general and

¹. Goodwyn, Scrapbook
³. Summerville, op. cit., p. 97.
⁴. Clark, op. cit., p. 178.
⁵. Loc. cit.
the impotence of the Populists in particular. 1 Populism, too, was an insurgent popular wave against class legislation and all kinds of corporate power. 2 By 1896 the Alabama legislature had done much toward satisfying the demands of the farmers and laborers. 3 Mine inspectors had been provided, the crop lien law repealed, the convict system improved, and railroads had been brought under fair control. 4 These and numerous laws had tended to pacify the Populists and do away with the third party movement in Alabama.

Not only did the Democrats in Alabama swallow the Populist prescription, but so did the national Democratic party. 5 In 1896 when Bryan became the national Democratic standard bearer, the platform of the Democratic Party was so nearly akin to that of the Populists that the People's Party decided to support the Democratic nominee for the presidency. 6 Thus was Alabama treated to the strange spectacle of the Populists combining with Republicans to oppose the Democrats in the state election in August and with the Democrats to oppose the Republicans in the national election in November. 7

2. Clark, op. cit., p. 176.
3. loc. cit.
4. loc. cit.
5. ibid., p. 181.
7. Scruggs, op. cit., p. 520; Summersell, op. cit., p. 36.
After 1896 Populism in Alabama was almost a dead issue. The insurgent movement had spent its force and Alabama was becoming once more a "one party" state.

Goodwyn stated in 1924 that Populism ceased as a party because its principles were accepted by the two major parties and that changes in the Federal Government after 1896 were made essentially upon the principles of the old Populist Party. He said at the same time, that he considered Woodrow Wilson was "an ideal Populist, and his administration a vindication of Populism". He further stated that in calm retrospect he regarded the Populist movement, "in its purposes and its results", as "the most important since the Revolutionary War".

Goodwyn ran once more on a Populist ticket in 1920. He was again candidate for the national House of Representatives from the fifth Alabama district. His opponent this time was Willis P. Brewer of Hayneville, who ran on the Democratic ticket. Goodwyn was defeated, the official vote being 13,587 for Brewer to 8,742 for Goodwyn. He decided to contest the election in Congress as

3. Ibid.
he had done in 1894 and did file an official contest notice with the Congressional Committee on Privileges and Elections. All this, however, was, more or less, an anticlimax, almost a postlude to the main drama. The Populist movement was really dead and there was little interest in Congress or elsewhere in such a contest. The war with Spain was claiming the attention of both Congress and the press, and other matters were secondary for the time. The lack of money also made it difficult, if not impossible, to prosecute the case properly. For these reasons the contest was dropped and never reached the House of Representatives.

Goodwyn was not embittered by his failure in the last two campaigns. He was disappointed but not completely overpowered by defeat as some men might have been. He returned to his farm but he kept alive his interest in the affairs of the state and the nation. He remained an ardent admirer of the great "free silverite", William Jennings Bryan. He was very much disappointed that Bryan was not elected to the presidency. Long afterwards, on reading an article in the MontgomeryAdvertiser which showed Bryan in an unfavorable light he was moved to reply by a letter to the editor, in which he ardently upheld the

2. Interview with R.T. Goodwyn, October 20, 25, 26, 1933.
3. Ibid.; Interview with W.B. Goodwyn, October 26, 1933.
4. Ibid.
5. Goodwyn, A.T., Scrapbook.
integrity and true worth of the "Great Commoner".  

Although, Goodwyn, along with many other Populists, went back into the Democratic Party, he was always prompt to defend the Populist movement both in Alabama and in the nation.

He held several appointive positions. He was appointed by Governor Conner as a member of the board of control of the Soldiers Home at Mountain Creek, a position which he held for many years. Governor O'Neal appointed him as trustee for the Fifth District Agricultural School, located at Wetumpka, a position which he held until the time of his death.

Only once more in his life did he venture to become a candidate for political office. This was in 1916 when he ran, against the advice of many of his friends, in the Democratic primary opposing John Wallace, incumbent, and Kirby S. Ward, for the nomination for State Fish

1. The Montgomery Advertiser, July 8, 1924.
2. Just exactly when Goodwyn first voted the state Democratic ticket again is not certain. However, the fact he was given an appointment by Democratic Governor Conner (1906-1911) indicates that he was by that time supporting the Democratic ticket. In all probability he voted the state Democratic ticket in 1900. Nationally, he had voted the Democratic ticket all along.
4. Goodwyn, A.T., Scrapbook; Record at State Capitol.
5. Ibid.
and Game Warden. He was defeated.

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<th></th>
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<th>First choice</th>
<th>Second choice</th>
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<tr>
<td>2. The official vote: Goodwyn</td>
<td>Wallace</td>
<td>52,910</td>
<td>1,079</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Ward</td>
<td>15,238</td>
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Chapter VII

CONFEDERATE VETERAN

During the years just after the War Between the States there seems to have been no definite move to unite the soldiers of the Confederacy. At first there was too present a need to restore the shattered organization of the states, and to place the government once more in the hands of the white people of the South, for much thought to be given to organization of veterans such as took place immediately after the World War od 1914-1918. Those former soldiers had work to do and they did it well.

Those who suffered in the war by loss of property or physical disabilities were not forgotten in the period when the white southerners regained control. Most of the State officials, lawmakers and executives, were themselves former Confederate soldiers. They did not forget their former comrades-at-arms. One instance of legislation for the "relief of soldiers maimed or disabled in the past war" which was passed by the Alabama legislature, has already been cited. There were other similar pieces of legislation in Alabama and in other southern States. All that was done for the Confederate soldiers must be done through the individual states or private persons or organ-

izations. There was naturally no help from the Federal Government for these "rebel" soldiers.

In many places the former soldiers banded together in small groups known as "camps". There was at first no affiliation among these groups. It was not, in fact, until 1890 that the first meeting of the United Confederate Veterans was convened. According to the constitution adopted by this organization there was to be one commander-in-chief as executive head. The constitution also provided for three departments, each with its commander. These departments in turn were divided into divisions, each state composing a division. Among the objects of the U.C.V. are the following as stated in the constitution:

"To cultivate the ties of friendship that should exist among those who have shared common dangers, suffering and privations.
"To encourage the writing by participants therein, of accounts, narratives, memoirs, histories of battles, episodes and occurrences of the war between the States,...
"To see that the disabled are cared for ..., and that the Confederate widows and orphans are protected and assisted....
"To urge and aid the erection of enduring monuments to our great leaders and heroic soldiers, sailors and people..."

It was expressly declared that "no discussion of political or religious subjects... shall be permitted

3. Ibid. cit.
within the federation of United Confederate Veterans". 1

From the first Captain Goodwyn, himself a Confederate veteran, was intensely interested in uniting the former soldiers. He was, to a large extent, responsible for the organization of the Robinson Springs camp. As the years passed, this interest did not abate. He became, in 1924, a Major General in the U.S.V., as commander of the Alabama Division. 2 This title of General in the Army of the Confederacy was a source of much pride and pleasure to him as it symbolized the esteem of his comrades. In 1926 he became Lieutenant General when he was elected to command the Army of Tennessee Department, 3 and finally, in 1928, came the highest honor of all when he was elected Commander-in-chief of the United Confederate Veterans at the annual meeting of the organization held at Little Rock, Arkansas. 4 He could not have been prouder had he been elected President of the United States. His comrades had chosen him as their leader!

At the time of his election as commander-in-chief he was eighty-six years of age. His appearance, however, was that of a much younger man. 5 In spite of his disappointments, troubles, and misfortune, he had maintained his health and vigor. At eighty-six he was as erect and full of the joy of life as many men of sixty. He constant-

2. Goodwyn, V.T., Scrapbook.
3. Ibid.
ly maintained that the reason for his remarkable health
was "moderation in all things". 1

He and his wife had long been alone at the old home-
stead. The children had married and moved to homes of
their own. The General and his wife spent only a few
months of the year at "Elm Hill" residing for most of the
year in Montgomery. In 1919 they celebrated their fiftieth
wedding anniversary, and ten years later were again able
to have a reunion of their family in honor of their sixtieth
year of marriage. Both these celebrations were held at the
home of their son Gardner, in Bessemer, Alabama, with
their children, grandchildren and even great-grandchildren
to do them honor. 2

Following his election as Commander-in-chief of the
United Confederate Veterans, General Goodwyn began pre-
parations for the next annual reunion of the veterans.
This reunion was to be held in Charlotte, North Carolina,
and the keynote of the meeting would be set by the speech
of the commander-in-chief. It was the preparation of this
speech which occupied a large part of his time. He had an
extensive interest in the preservation and publication of
true accounts of the War Between the States. In his ad-
dress he wished to show the need for historical accuracy

1. Author's recollections.
2. Birmingham News, December 30, 1929; Montgomery Adver-
tiser, December 31, 1929.
and at the same time to point out some of the blatant errors in existing histories. Much research and detailed study were necessary if he were to accomplish his purpose. With the aid of his wife, however, the speech was finally completed, and the General was ready for the convention.

The United Confederate Veteran reunion was held in June, 1929, at Charlotte, North Carolina. There, in the special hall erected for the meeting, the Commander-in-Chief delivered his address to his forces. In his eighty-seventh year, he, nevertheless, stood straight and proud upon the platform and his voice rang out through the hall strong and clear.

The keynote of the entire speech was the plea for the correction "of errors and falsehoods of prevailing history." He pointed out some of these errors and then proceeded by documentary evidence to show their inaccuracy. The true causes of the war were not, he contended, set forth in most histories.

"The age-long system of negro slavery became involved in the controversy, but the sectional histories did not tell you that Old Dag-

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1. The Charlotte Observer, June 6, 1929.
2. Loc. cit.
3. General Goodwyn was proud of his age and liked to appear as old as possible. When he was eighty-six he always said he was in his eighty-seventh year.
4. Author's recollection.
land and New England for generations had a practical monopoly of the African slave trade, and that both were enriched by this nefarious traffic .... The partisan histories do not tell you that a slave ship was never owned nor controlled by a Southern man .... 1

He disputed the claim of some histories that Lincoln was a friend of the South. 2 Lincoln was one subject about which he was utterly intolerant. About him he could see not one redeeming feature. Whenever Lincoln's name was mentioned in his presence he snorted, and when he himself mentioned his name he always accompanied it by the phrase "devil incarnate". 3 In his speech he stated that,

"In my reading and research in history I have failed to find where President Lincoln in his long and varied life ever uttered a single ling of kindness and sympathy for the people of the South." 4

He upholding Jefferson Davis as the maligned victim of many partisan histories and showed wherein these accounts deviated from the truth. 5

He ended with a plea to the Confederate veterans, and to all others, to forget their sectional hatreds and jealousies and to unite in,

"a common desire to make America prosperous, contented, happy and free, a constitutional, representative Federal Republic, the example to all nations struggling for good government, the beneficient illustration of Liberty Enlightening the World." 6

2. Ibid.
3. Author's recollection.
5. Ibid.
6. Ibid.
Before the meeting at Charlotte the General as Commander-in-chief of the United Confederate Veterans was invited to be present at the inauguration of Herbert Hoover as President of the United States, and to take part in the inaugural parade. The invitation delighted him, because it was a national recognition of the veterans of the Confederacy. He determined to be present and ride in the parade wearing his officer's uniform of grey and bearing the flag of the Confederacy. When the event came to pass, his heart was filled with pride, not personal, but pride in the recognition of the Confederacy, long waited and now achieved. The event symbolized to him the growth of the national unity for which he pleaded in his address to his comrades.

After his retirement from the command of the United Confederate Veterans, the general with his wife retired again to "Elm Hill". He still, however, kept an active interest in local and national affairs. He liked to write letters to the newspapers on subjects which interested him, and to discuss various subjects, political, historical or social with friends and family.

Before the annual U.C.V. convention in 1930 to be held at Biloxi, Mississippi, he became intensely interested in having the 1931 convention in Montgomery, the "cradle

1. Author's recollection.
2. See above.
of the Confederacy.\textsuperscript{1} For this to be accomplished the city of Montgomery and State of Alabama would have to appropriate a large sum of money for the purpose.\textsuperscript{2} The general's son, Tyler, was then a member of the House of Representatives and he introduced and succeeded in having approved a bill providing that the State of Alabama should provide the sum of $50,000.00 for the purpose of caring for the veterans and providing for their entertainment during the 1931 convention should it be held in Montgomery.\textsuperscript{3} The city of Montgomery had already issued the invitations to the veterans to hold their 1931 meeting in the first capital of the Confederacy and the invitation had been accepted.\textsuperscript{4}

The general had particularly wanted the 1931 meeting to be held in Montgomery because he had the feeling that, since most of the old soldiers were growing rather feeble and unable to travel, this would be the last reunion held.\textsuperscript{5} It was not to be the last meeting of the United Confederate Veterans but it was the last for the former commander-in-chief. In the midst of his plans for the meeting in Montgomery he was growing weaker and weaker. He and wife were in Birmingham at the home of their

\begin{itemize}
\item \textit{Montgomery Advertiser}, March 16, 1930.
\item \textit{Ibid.}, February 3, 1931.
\item \textit{General Acts of Alabama}, 1931, p. 46.
\item \textit{Montgomery Advertiser}, June 4, 1930.
\item \textit{Ibid.}, February 3, 1931.
\end{itemize}
daughter, Adele, and not until a few days before the convention took place did he give up hope of attending. He realized then that he was too weak to make the effort and became reconciled. He had read to him every detail of the Montgomery meeting and listened to each account of the reunion with marked attention.¹

On July 1, 1931, he died at the home of his daughter, in Birmingham. He was buried in Oakwood cemetery in Montgomery in the Tyler lot.² Just prior to the funeral hour, the Alabama Legislature, then in session, adopted a resolution expressing deep sorrow at his passing, and paying tribute to his life and achievements as soldier, patriot, statesman and citizen.³

Financially he was not a success. Politically he seemed to fight a losing battle. But the purity and sweetness of his life, the high quality of his intellect and his tenacity of purpose in clinging to his ideals drew people to him. His wife has said that he was the most determined man she ever knew when he had made up his mind.⁴

In religion he was a deist. He believed that no one was really an atheist in the true sense of the word. He contended that no matter that a person might think, that he is bound to come back to the conclusion that since

¹ Interview with Mrs. Peyton Bibb, February 6, 1934.
² Birmingham News, July 2, 1931; Montgomery Advertiser, July 3, 1931.
³ Montgomery Advertiser, July 3, 1931.
⁴ Interview with Mrs. A.T. Goodwyn, September 3, 5, 1933.
there is a world some force brought it into existence. It could not otherwise exist. What this force is has been the cause of contention among various peoples and beliefs. He did not attend church and disagreed with many of the doctrines of the Christian churches. He thoroughly disliked any type of religious discrimination or persecution and utterly disapproved of clergymen in politics.

His wife was a Christian Scientist and to this he could never reconcile himself. He felt that her studies and beliefs were bad for her health since she refused medical aid. He read a great deal about his wife's religion but only that he might the better attempt to argue her away from it. Finding that these arguments upset her he ceased to talk to her about her religious views but continued to denounce them in no uncertain terms to the other members of the family. He always referred to Mary Baker Eddy as "that old witch". In her he could see no more good than he could see in Lincoln.

Among his most outstanding characteristics were determination, courage in conviction, unswerving loyalty and moral certitude. He had an unfailing faith in human nature. His fine philosophy of life kept him from any fear of death. He "lived the Good Life in all the breadth and bigness of its meaning".

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