

***This essay appears to be a draft of a letter that Catharine Ladd wrote in 1868 addressing the political upheaval of early Reconstruction fear. No attempt has been made to correct grammatical errors or inconsistencies, and there are some sections of missing text, gone from years of wear on the original document. Her opinion, however, seem very clear. Some insertions in brackets by the Museum may help with understanding rough passages.***

***The work appears here, courtesy of the York County Museum.***

### **New Improvement**

We would call the attention of the public to the new churn invented by Mr. F. Elder. It is simple convenient and in our opinion cannot fail to answer the purpose for which it was invented, The Spring Bedstead invented some years ago by Mr. Elder was not only a convenience but a positive luxury, Mr. Elder has always shown considerable mechanical ingenuity, I would that our district had a few hundred more of such citizens, with such men in our villages, and with white agricultural labor in the country we would soon be again a prosperous people.

The call seems to be altogether for labor on the plantation [.] this cannot make us a prosperous people[,] our towns must keep pace and call in white mechanic[s], It is our duty now to call in white labor of any [...] , our existence as a people depends on it. The south was and has always been deaf to her own interests, [.] for years past, slave labor on so large a system realized no profit, [.] your waste old fields has been the result of it and cotton made went to buy mules, horses, and hogs, [.] you could find but very few of our large planters who were not in debt, [.] what they [had] came by inheritance or the matured increase of the negro, [.] in no instance can you point out a wealthy man who purchased land and negroes and paid for the[m] by making cotton.

Frequent and urgent were the call[ings] made within the last 15 years to arouse you of the true situation of the [state?]

With negroes and cotton. For three years past have we been verging towards the vortex we have now fully entered. How many of our people put forth their strength to steer clear of it, [?] How many used their influence in the past elections. [?] How many in fact [were] not only totally indifference [indifferent?] as to how their hands employed [? \_\_\_ ], but absented themselves from the polls, [.] let the white men of Fairfield district answer[!] answer [– “]my vote can make but little difference[.”] was the answer of the Negro , H[a]ve the citizens [o]ur district any idea how many made the same remark[?] if you have not[,] come and examine the the book of registration, [.] a Negro thought nothing of walking twenty or thirty miles to vote,[.] it was a hardship for some white men to ride for five. It was also a common remark[ “]I don't care who is elected[.”] it is a matter of indifference to me, who fills the various offices, since in the past elections you have been so indifferent as to who represented, by whom the helm of the state was guided. Don't arouse now and grumble at the acts of our talented legislature

If the yoke preparing [being prepared?] for you, if the chains that your apathy has helped to forge, [;] if the situation of the country generally cannot arouse you from lettergetic [lethargic] slumbers, then sleep on and hand to your prosperity the prints of your indifference [sic]. To them you are accountable[,] the question is[,] will you leave to your children a white man's government, [?] the presidential election will in great measure [decide?] the fate of the south. The few with all can accomplish but little the[a] n many[,] are like thumps but nobody hurt [appears to be an unfinished thought]

The first poking breeze bare[s] away the thundering sound into space or perhaps into the lands of the K.K.K.

The old adage says words are leaves, deed are fruits, [.] Every generation is accountable to the [c]oming one. We are reaping the fruits of the acts of the past thirty five or forty years, [.] secession was the fruit of those acts.

The cold calculating prating [prating means pointless babbling] of England knew well upon what point our country could be made to split, [.] English influence, English gold was not spared, [.] the apple of discords was thrown by her agents. [.] abolitionists, [.] the North and South both eagerly seized it. There followed the acts, recriminations, abusive language[;] anything that could build a wall of be[i]tter hatred between the North and South was used as [reason?] Secession then originated in the acts of more than thirty five years ago, [.] the present poking [from]the North arises not as every man knows from any love by the Negro, but from bitter hatred engendered [by] past acts. The South despised the North[,] the term **Yankee** that was in the days of the revolution an honor, was considered by us the lowest term of reproach, Farthers[fathers] hand down their hatred as a legacy to their children[,] it was taught in the schools and preached in many instances from the pulpit both North and South. Nul[.]ification was the corner stone upon which secession was built[,] the fabric has fallen and thousands have perished[.]

[this section has large holes in the paper and is hard to decipher]A different policy[... ] years[... ] Have found us a Rival not only[... ] In everything that makes a country's greatness[.]

Remember[,] the coming generation like yourselves must reap the fruits of the acts of those who preceded[sic] them[,] awake if you do not wish to leave your prosperity a country ruled by renegades while men and an illiterate colored population [rule] who are merely [puppets?] in their hands.

**FURNITURE.**  
**LABOR SAVING**  
**MACHINE**

My Patent Clothes Washer will clean any  
 cloth, repair or make to order all kinds  
 of Furniture.

For the past twelve months by the  
 use of all wash have given notice  
 they will be cleaned by the  
 wash six shirts or shirts of  
 the machine if used according to directions.

It saves the citizens of  
 roundly ability to wash and  
 my Patent Clothes Washer  
 the best of all machines ever  
 used.

**HOWEVER CHEAPER IN PRICE.**  
 Come and examine my Patent  
 clothes, and give them a trial, and  
 they do not give notice, return  
 clean and dry, and I will  
 refund the money. Call on  
 J. S. ELDER, S. C.

**CERTIFICATE.**  
 I have recently examined the  
 Patent Clothes Washer of  
 J. S. Elder, S. C., and find it to  
 be the best of all machines  
 ever used for washing  
 clothes. It saves the  
 labor of the washer, and  
 gives the clothes a  
 better finish than any  
 other machine. I  
 recommend it to all  
 who are in the  
 habit of washing  
 clothes. J. S. ELDER,  
 S. C.

F. Elder advertising images courtesy the USC Caroliniana Library.

**F. ELDER'S**  
**IMPROVED COMBINED**  
**MATTRESS & BEDSTEAD,**  
 Patented 10th July 1860.

This advertiser respectfully calls the attention of the citizens of Fairfield, and the surrounding Districts to his newly invented Improved BEDSTEAD and MATTRESS combined, which he feels assured he can make cheaper than those of the old style.

The Bedstead is so constructed and in such a manner that unassisted any person can put it up or take it down in a moment's time. They are also decidedly the best style for keeping clear of Bed-Bugs. If the Mattress becomes soiled, it can be removed without trouble and replaced without the expense of applying to a Mattress Maker, and paying almost the price of a new Mattress to have it renewed.

Please call and examine for yourselves, as I feel assured that all who examine the COMBINATION BEDSTEAD, will not fail to leave their orders, the convenience and stately will make them desirable.

Call on  
**F. ELDER,**  
 (Sole State and District rights for sale by the subscriber.)

**CERTIFICATE.**  
 WILMINGTON, S. C., July, 1860.  
 I have recently examined the patented Bedstead and Mattress of Mr. F. Elder of our town. For health, comfort and convenience, I think it is superior to any thing of the kind I have ever seen.

Mr. Elder is highly deserving the thanks, and the patronage of the people for his improvement.

T. T. ROBERTSON, M. D.

WILMINGTON, S. C., July, 1860.  
 I believe the patented Bedstead and Mattress of Mr. F. Elder of Wilmington, S. C., for comfort, convenience, and health, to surpass anything of the kind that I have seen.

B. MADDEN, M. D.

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