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SATURDAY, APRIL 16, 1870.

MAY we be permitted to ask, why is it that white men are rigorously condemned to the chain-gang and made to labor along our most prominent streets, while not a negro can be found among them?

It is very strange that in a city where every day negroes are committing offences of nearly all characters and grades, our work-houses and jails contain so few of them, and our chain-gangs are made up by white men.

Can it be that our city government are so debased and prejudiced that they virtually give the negroes license to do as they please, committing assaults, disturbing the peace, being drunk and disorderly and guilty of other crimes, and yet because, perhaps, of the political effect, he is to be allowed and encouraged in riding rough shod over the people and the laws? Can it be that the officials, looking to the negroes as the basis of their political power, will so demean and degrade themselves as to permit negroes unbridled license, while white men are made to suffer additionally in order to satisfy the wants of an outraged law?

If such be the case it is only because of the honorable disposition of the negro himself that we are not subjected to greater injury and more crimes; and because the negro himself has more respect for the law and for himself than have those who pander to his grossest and most debased appetites and passions.

Let the law be impartially administered. We do not believe every man a rogue because he chances to be a Radical. When we condemn Radicals we mean the party and not individuals. A man may be a Radical and be an honest man (strange as it may seem), but he cannot at the same time, be a man of good sound sense.

If there are those of the city officials who are honest and want to do right, let them make it a business to see the laws impartially administered towards both whites and blacks. Because a poor devil happens to be white (a most unfortunate and therefore pitiable thing), don't for God's sake add to his already overwhelming misfortune and double all the pains and penalties he must suffer.

MR. EDITOR. I understand a committee has been engaged for some weeks manipulating a new charter for the city. A resolution of the city Council authorized each member to select two citizens on the committee, but Dr. Gilman reported in the Council that Mr. Mygatt had selected this committee, whilst Mr. Mygatt stated in a public meeting, last Saturday night, that he had not selected the present committee. As the citizens of the present limits, nor those outside of it to be brought in, nor the city Council nor their Representatives in the Legislature, have been consulted in this matter or permitted to see it; and as Dr. Foster offered a resolution in the Council that it should be published, will you be kind enough to inform us what the committee have done—why the result of their labors have not been published, and when we shall be permitted to see this precious document?

AN INTERESTED PARTY.

ANTICIPATES ROUGH TIMES IN THE NEXT WOOD.—Leroy Cotton, commonly known as "Bud" Cotton, who was to have been hung, in Galveston, Texas, on the 8th inst., for the killing of Major Loehman in a brothel there about a year since, avoided execution by committing suicide the night before. He left a letter requesting that his body be given to his brother, and evidently anticipating lively times in the region for which he was about to depart—that a knife be buried in the coffin with him.

SPEAKING of the threatened Fenian raid upon this side of the border, the Montreal Witness remarks that it would be utterly beneath the dignity of Canada to ask the United States for any intervention or protection in the premises.

THE NEW CITY CHARTER.

We understand the new charter is, at least, about prepared for presentation to the Legislature. Generally it seems to be a fair instrument, although it lacks several necessary points and contains imperfections. It is to be hoped that a provision will be made, in the way of amendments, for correcting these imperfections and supplying the defects which time will disclose.

Among its provisions is one for a general election of city officers in December.

We ask why cannot this election be held earlier?

Why must the city officers be controlled by "outsiders," that is, those whose authority is not derived, as it should be, of the people?

The people demand that the affairs of their city shall be within their control. If they did not demand it, it would be their right, and should be accorded them.

Why, then, we ask must those offices be withheld from the people's control to whom they belong, for three-quarters of a year?

When we ask this question we are answered that time is necessary to pass ordinances, &c. Does it require six months or a year to originate and pass a few ordinances?

It cannot be that all our laws and ordinances in relation to the city are to be changed and the whole matter revolutionized. There is no necessity for such a thing.

Is there any other reason for this unwarrantable delay except that it is to keep the offices in the grasp of the present hands for the longest possible period? Even if it is desirable to hold the regular elections in the fall instead of spring, as formerly, why cannot a special election be ordered by the Governor and held? It is the people's right and justice to them demands it. We call upon the people to insist upon this right and privilege. Let the people exercise their right of choosing their own officers.

The charter can be passed and put in operation in a few days, or at the furthest two or three weeks. Why cannot we have an election in thirty days? There is but one source of opposition, and that is the present incumbents. But should their interest weigh against that of the whole city? The election can be held, if ordered, and let it be held.

Then, again, why is it that objections are made to the publication of the new charter before presenting it to the Legislature? Should it not come before the people for their consideration? Is it not going before the Legislature as the exponent of the people's wishes and wants? Who then so capable and so proper to judge thereof? If the people object to it their objections may as well be known now as after its passage by the Legislature, when it must be submitted to the people's vote, and would probably be defeated.

We hope those in charge of this matter will act fairly and for the best interests of all.

Elsewhere a correspondent asks a question we offer here, and to which we give the only reply in our power. This is a matter of such great importance that we hope our people will insist upon an answer to our questions.

In London, on the 8th inst., Mr. Inman, one of the proprietors of the Liverpool, Philadelphia and New York line of steamships (commonly known as the Inman line,) publishes a communication, in which he expresses his disbelief that the steamer City of Boston foundered in a gale. He says the City of Boston and the City of Antwerp were twin boats, and they both encountered the same gale, the latter without damage or serious difficulty. All things considered he thinks the Boston collided with one of the icebergs so numerous to the northeast of Cape Race and went down when only two or three days out from Halifax.

The underwriters, as we are informed through the same source, have been paying, for several days past, all risks, reckoning the vessel and her cargo a total loss. The loss of this steamer will carry woe to many a hearth stone, as she was a large and favorite passenger craft, and was crowded, on the unfortunate trip, with passengers.

A Western paper says that Arizona would be God's country if the Devil had the Apaches.

SHALL WE RAISE CORN?

This is an important consideration for us of the gulf states, whose wealth is derived from cotton, sugar and rice.

Some argue the case in this way: If an average acre of our lands will produce three hundred pounds of cotton with an ordinary season, worth, say, a net profit of \$45, and the same land will produce, at an outside average, corn worth a net profit of \$20, wherein is the inducement for our farmers to plant corn and limit the cotton crop? The figures we here present, are, we think, about fair, but they do not prove it is best to raise no corn.

The West is anxious that the South should not raise corn. It wishes to monopolize that line of agriculture, and thus have the control of the price. Is it to our interest to permit this?

The flattering figures we have presented as to the superior profit of the cotton crop are exceeded by those derived from the culture of sugar and rice. But in each instance we are inclined to the belief that we of this section of the South should raise corn. It is a question only to be judged by taking a comprehensive view of the subject.—That is regarding it as it affects the general interest of the gulf States. For example, say that we raise no corn this year, but instead a half million bales cotton additional, will that half million additional bales pay for the corn we need, or, perhaps, for double or quadruple what we could have raised? If the relative prices of cotton and corn remained the same as now, it seems that it would. But it is urged that with an addition to our crop that will carry it to three and a half million bales, the total income therefrom would not be more, probably, than the value of the present crop of '69; at any rate it must be expected that the price will decline as the amount of the crop increases, but in what ratio it is difficult to determine. Now the matter presents itself thus: If three and a half millions bales only bring the same value as three millions bales we meet with an actual loss of the difference between that value and what the Gulf States expend for corn at the North and West, and our half million additional bales are raised to no profit; land, time, labor and money thrown away. In any event it is doubtful whether the excess in crop and value will liquidate the expense of an outside purchase of corn.

There is no question but that if the Southern farmer wishes to be independent he must raise his corn and meat and, if possible, his horses and mules. Arguing alone from a stand point of pecuniary interest the conclusion we arrive at is that we of the South should raise corn. It not only makes us independent—and this should be a matter of pride to us—but it is to our financial interest.

In addition the money which would go to the North remains at the South, and we need every dollar of it.

We hope our planters will themselves raise corn and urge it upon the negroes to do so.

With plenty of corn we can raise our own meat; another important consideration.

Now is the time for us to decide whether the South shall plant or buy corn.

On the 10th inst., M. E. Susisky, city treasurer of St. Louis, was arrested on the charge of being a defaulter. An informal examination before the Mayor and other city officers and the bondsman, which terminated at a very late hour that night, has disclosed the following information:—Just previous to the expiration of his first term of office Susisky loaned \$10,000 to a friend, which was not returned promptly, and he raised money on his individual note and replaced it. His note he took up with city funds. Subsequently to retrieve this loss, and by the advice of friends, he sent \$45,000 to Belden & Co., in New York, for speculative purposes. Belden & Co. failed, and the money sank. Later he sent \$25,000 more to other parties, and that was lost. He also loaned to A. E. Kweger, a man of some note in St. Louis as a speculative philosopher of the German school, and formerly a city treasurer, some \$40,000, which is said to have been lost in stock speculations. Various other minor sums have been used in a similar way, the whole aggregating about \$120,000. Mr. Susisky is a poor man, and his loss will fall upon his bondsmen. He has been suspended from office by Mayor Cole, and is retained in custody until a more thorough examination of his accounts is made.

CLOUDS.

Let the reader follow us through a brief political dissertation and we will endeavor to explain what we mean by "clouds."

The serious changes resulting from the anomalous condition of the country calls for the most energetic, bold and persistent efforts of the press to avert it. The comatose condition of the people under the deadening influences that are upon them, require that no pains and no labor should be spared to arouse within them and keep alive that sense of political self-respect, of State, sectional and national independence, which is absolutely necessary to avoid the ruin and utter overthrow of this government, and which are the natural outgrowth of true courage, manhood and self-respect. The people, absorbed by other cares and wearied and discouraged by successive blightings of their hopes, are sinking into a state of apathetic indifference, and while in their heart they cherish the noble sentiments for which they offered their lives, and loathe and condemn the vile men and measures of the party in power, yet their indifference and silence is, by that party, tortured into evidences of sympathy and support and result in the infliction of further degradation upon the people. The pulpit, the rostrum and the press must work against these adverse influences, and however much they may be urged to cease and let the people rest, they must not cease their agitation, where is no rest but in cowardice. The disease is spreading and fastening itself upon the public body and the deadly gangrene of utter corruption is supervening.

In view of all this may we not well point to the terrible clouds hovering over us? May we not justly shout aloud again and again in the peoples' ear to awake and gird their loins for action? Let us hastily glance at the argument from which our stated conclusion is drawn.

Ours is a democratic government. There are but two other forms, and when we cease to be democratic we are obliterated as a political body, or we adopt another form of government.

We are drifting rapidly into another form, either monarchical or aristocratic, and the latter is most likely and the most to be feared. "It is better to have one tyrant than one hundred."

A democracy is a government of the people, and is the purest form of government. In this government to-day a democracy—a government of the people—when a large majority of the people are, confessedly, debarred from their just share in its control and administration?

Is the distinguishing feature of democratic government to be found here to-day—that feature of purity and honesty which, whatever others may say, had brought this nation to its height of prosperity and greatness?

Are we not to-day the scorn of ourselves and the world for the deceptions, frauds, corruptions, and tyrannies with which our land is overrun?

The points which mark a democratic government are being obliterated.

Purity, honesty, the rule of the people, the rights of majorities, the freedom—all which is dear, valuable, and to be cherished—are, perhaps slowly, but surely being swept away.

The principle of democracy which made us the government we were, was embraced entirely within the States. The outside delegation of general powers was so far a departure from true democracy, and so far an approach to an aristocracy, that it was watched and guarded with the utmost anxiety and jealousy. Under the true interpretation of the Constitution, and the just administration of the laws, this Government has ever been, and was at the time of its organization, a confederacy of States, each one an independent and complete democracy in itself. And so they treated with each other in the convention that framed the Constitution (now vir-

tually annulled). In that very Convention it was that the principles governing the Radical party of to-day first showed themselves, and it was in the efforts made by New England to make this government a monarchy and to keep the power from the people.

And then the South took the same noble stand that has ever since characterized her people—a stand for a democracy—a government for and by the people. In all the paths of our national prosperity this has ever been the principle upon which the government has been conducted.

How is it now? The Radical party is not the offshoot of principle, but it is the result of circumstances. It has always been in a minority and is so still. The power that fortuitous circumstances has placed in their venal hands must certainly pass away if not saved by the utter annihilation of State distinctions. A step like this at this juncture would consolidate and uphold their power; nothing else can or will. Even this cannot always answer their purpose, but it may last until ruin is upon us.

Their every effort is tending to the extinction of States. See the emancipation, the civil rights bill, the military governments, the interference with the internal affairs of Georgia and Tennessee and the South generally, the 15th Amendment, the seating of Revels, not a qualified citizen of the United States, the seating of Ames, not a citizen (so acknowledged) of the State of Mississippi.

Why, many of these acts are denounced by the leaders of the Radical party themselves. Right here let us pause.

Have we not pointed to the clouds which portend the coming storm?

Shall we sleep, and in our lethargy permit this ruinous centralization of power? Shall we, the people, submit to a destruction of our government, and the loss of our liberty and our homes? Let the people—the grand, noble, honest, well-meaning people—awaken, and let them stay the hands of their country's paricides.

More Reconstruction Required.

Although the Fifteenth Amendment has been declared an important, engrafted feature upon what President Grant chooses to declare that "reformed instrument," the Constitution, there are certain States in the Union so politically obtuse as to be unable to "see it." New Jersey and California both require that it shall be declared strictly constitutional before they declare themselves willing to accept it, and have called upon the Attorney General of their respective States to pass upon the question. With becoming modesty Attorney General of Jersey has given his opinion that it is unconstitutional, but he advises the State Judges to decide otherwise and the State election officers to accept the negro votes without demur, or the United States may make trouble for them. In California the opinion of the Attorney General is not yet made public, but no doubt it will be substantially the same as that of the New Jersey man.

Should the Judges to whom these questions shall be submitted in these two States declare it unconstitutional, then Congress, in carrying out the spirit of Reconstruction as practiced in the South, will be required to enter the States with a strong arm and overthrow the present form of State governments, and turn them over to the tender mercies of the military until they will gladly accept any proposition tendered, as the South, by bitter and burning experience has been induced to do.

Here are samples of the claims presented to the Pennsylvania Legislature for losses incurred by the Confederate invasion: For black cloth suit of clothes, \$35.05; for one hat, 18 pounds, at 15 cents, \$2.70; for half barrel of mackerel, \$10.05; for new hat, \$3.50. Claims amounting to two or three millions were audited and allowed, but the Legislature refused to appropriate the money.

FEMALE SUFFRAGE.

As preposterous as such a proposition is, it has been for a long time one of the leading topics of the age and the country. It should be eminently horrifying to any true woman. It is the boldest and most glaring effort at annexing her which has ever been entertained by people professing to be sane, and we are surprised to find that there are women who are so mad about the possession of that which must of itself divest her of her most attractive features and attributes in the eyes of the men of the land. We are surprised that they do not look with horror upon it. It proposes to invest them with a right which can by no possibility bring them any good, but which is sure to lessen them in the eyes of the world.

But since Representative Julia has brought up the female suffrage question in a tangible shape, by proposing a sixteenth constitutional amendment, the provisions of which are the same with respect to sexes as were those of the fifteenth regarding color, we hope that Congress will take the sensible course of proposing it to the States, in order that the present unseemly agitation of the matter may receive its quietus. In so doing, the national legislature need not commit itself. It can submit the amendment with the understanding that it is done to procure an expression of the popular will.

Most, perhaps, would consider such a course too grave a treatment of the subject. While the women who should wear the breeches, and men who should don petticoats, who are the champions of the new movement, are in tremendous earnest, and work with abundance of will, though perhaps not equal wisdom, it is fashionable for those who are at heart opposed to making politicians of females, to deal with the business slightly. The deference which men pay to the name of woman, has caused the agitators of the crusade to receive more consideration than they deserve; and since it has been generally believed impossible that the movement would ever amount to anything, it is a fact that, strongly as it has been and is being urged, it has developed no organized opposition. The Stantons, Dickinsons and Anthonys have had a clear field with abundance of favor, and the apathy with which their efforts have been treated has naturally caused them to think that the public mind is with them. Especially do they rely upon the support of their own sex, for they see that no anti-woman-suffrage societies spring into existence, and forget that the same delicacy which prevents ladies from desiring to see the aims of the agitators accomplished, also hinders them from actively opposing the movement. Absorbed in one idea as these conspirators against true womanhood are, they do not consider that they are sought and addressed almost solely by that class of their sisters who sympathize with them, and believe the utterances they hear to be the voice of the women of the country. Thus earnestly working, and animated by hope, it cannot be denied that they do succeed in unsettling many female minds, and, more than this, their efforts tend to destroy in the minds of men the divine idea of womanhood, than which no one thing is more essential to a healthy national life.

We are by no means alarmed at the proportions this movement has yet attained, but we do deprecate its further growth, and think it time that the flourishing bud was nipped. Were the sixteenth amendment proposed, we are confident that every State in the Union would refuse to ratify it most decidedly, and thus would be taken from the championesses of female suffrage the sustaining hope which they have been led to indulge, through mistaking silence for consent, and their labors would consequently diminish in earnestness and finally cease. The matter has been a good joke, over which the nation has laughed long enough. The joke has gone sufficiently far, and it is time to squelch the whole business.

STATE NEWS.

Head and Shins, implicated in the killing of N. B. Cook, were arrested, night before last, at Enterprise.—[Meridian Gazette.]

The report of the Conference committee on the Circuit Court bill was concurred in by both Houses of the Legislature yesterday, after very little opposition. The bill now goes to the Governor for his signature, and will doubtless be promptly approved. We may, therefore, expect a speedy organization of the Circuit Courts, throughout the State.

Col. Sykes, President of the Aberdeen and Elyton Railroad, is in this city. He speaks hopefully of the projected line and looks forward to the time not far distant when the road will be completed to Grenada, and thence south to Yazoo City and Vicksburg. The Colonel is a live man and will make himself felt whenever he appears.—[Jackson Pilot.]

The Pilot says the political complexion of the Legislature is as follows:

Republican 105; Conservative 10; Democrat 9; Independent 2; Conservative Whig 2; Radical Republican 2; Conservative Republican 2; Union Democrat 2; Conservative Democrat 1; Radical 1; Old Line Whig 1; Heavy Clay Whig 1; Old Hat 1; My Country and Her People 1.

The Aberdeen Examiner speaking of the Memphis, Aberdeen and Selma Railroad, says:

This Road of ours commences at Selma, a most important port upon the Alabama river, there connecting with a line to the Atlantic and traversing a country rich in coal, iron, lumber, corn and cotton; it connects at Aberdeen with the Northern line to Decatur, at Okolona with the Northern line to the lake, and Southern line to the Gulf, and at Holly Springs again crosses a great North and South Railroad, and on to Memphis where its burden of produce finds cheap water transportation to the great cities on the Mississippi, Tennessee and Ohio.

Col. E. F. Raworth, General Superintendent of the Vicksburg and Meridian Railroad, was in St. Louis last Saturday. He had just returned from the East, where he had purchased several locomotives and had ordered one hundred more freight cars and first class passenger coaches for the use of the Vicksburg and Meridian Railroad. Col. Raworth informed the Democrat that arrangements were on foot for a fast freight line from St. Louis to Meridian, via the Vicksburg packets. This news will be acceptable to the business men generally in this State, and consumers will be glad to hear of any arrangements that will cheapen the rates of transportation, and thus bring prices.—Now let the Legislature amend the charter of the Vicksburg and Meridian Railroad that it can run to the river at Vicksburg, and thus save the great cost and delay of transportation at that point.—[Jackson Pilot.]

Winona, Miss., is a fast place, with a fast judge and fast hotel-keeper, as witness the following incident:

On the 4th there were two sporting women stopping at said hotel, and, by virtue of the corporate laws of the village, a constable went to arrest the women, when he was resisted by the probate judge, who was having a fast time with said women and did not like the interference of the constable. Whereupon the constable met the resistance by knocking the judge down with a stick, and proceeded to make the arrests. The judge then had the constable arrested and bound over to answer the charge of assault and battery, after which the constable had the judge arrested and bound over for resisting an officer in the discharge of his duties. The judge, hotel-keeper, and women were all tried before a J. P., who fined the judge \$10 for the fight, the hotel-keeper \$50 for keeping a house of bad repute, and the women each \$10, and advised them to go to some other locality, where such houses were licensed and their calling legalized.

The bill passed by the House on Wednesday, entitled an act to expedite the collection of taxes now due, provides in section one, that from and after its passage, the tax collectors in the several counties of the State shall distrain, and sell personal property for the non-payment of taxes, and land on which taxes are unpaid on the 30th day of April, 1870, shall be immediately advertised for sale, and sold as prescribed by law on the first Monday of June next, instead of the first Monday of July as now provided by law.

Section two provides that on all taxes now assessed, and which shall be unpaid on the 15th day of May, 1870, there shall be collected 1/10 per centum additional to said assessment.

Section three makes it the duty of tax collectors, within twenty days after the passage of this act, to pay over all taxes collected by them up to the date of their said payments, and they shall make their annual settlement by the first day of July next.

Two hundred and seventy-five thousand dollars taxes due the State are to be collected by the 15th of May—thirty thousand dollars more than the amount of warrants against the State.

Jess. Davis has written to Washington denying the story recently circulated that when he withdrew from the Senate a negro would succeed him.