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Friday Morning, May 24, 1878.

SENATOR LAMAR'S speech in favor of the Texas Pacific Railroad will have great effect.

IN the Senate when the bill came up to put Gen. Shields on the retired list, Blaine and Hill had a wordy battle, provoked by the former. Hill used up Blaine so badly that he will not tackle the Georgia Senator again soon.

THE New Orleans Picayune is of the opinion that the debate in the Senate on Monday, and the adoption of Mr. Sargent's amendment to the Shields bill, may be regarded as an opening of the Grant campaign for the succession.

THE Commune is assuming formidable proportions in the North. Recently there were ten thousand in procession in St. Louis, and speeches were made and listened to under the red flags. There are immense organizations in Cincinnati, Chicago and Philadelphia also.

THE Pennsylvania Democratic platform has the true ring on the financial question. If the Democratic party had taken the stand years ago that the Pennsylvania Democrats took yesterday on this vital question, it would have been much better for the party and ten-fold better for the people. Republican financial mismanagement has caused trouble in this country that can not be estimated. We trust the Democrats will carry Pennsylvania by such a majority that no one will be able to doubt the significance of the victory.

MR. ROBERTSON, Chairman of the Levee Committee, has reported a bill appropriating $3,871,574 for repairing and constructing levees in the Mississippi valley. *Our friends* in the North will in all probability kill this bill, and then offer us a lot of anti-subsidy and anti-internal improvement resolutions. If this bill should pass, Mississippi's portion of it is very small. It is said this is the case because the levees in this State are better than those in Louisiana and Arkansas. If they are, the people have been taxed beyond endurance to make them so.

STORM IN COLORADO.

A Disastrous Rain Storm—Damage Sustained at Denver, and by Several Railroads.

DENVER, May 23.—There was a terrific storm of rain over a large area in Douglass and El Paso counties, in this State, yesterday afternoon. It is believed to have been most violent along the span of Rocky Mountains which separates the headwaters of the Arkansas and Platte rivers. Cherry creek, which empties into the Platte at Denver, which is ordinarily dry, was suddenly deluged at one o'clock this morning, and in less than one hour the entire western portion of the city was flooded, seven bridges swept away, and a large lot of other property destroyed.

Owing to the efficiency and industry of the fire department, the entire population of the district devastated was aroused in time to escape, and it is now believed that no lives have been lost in this city other than that of an unknown man, whose body was found in a freight car, where he had probably been asleep. The flood involved several other trains on either side of the divide.

The Denver and Rio Grande Railroad lost a bridge near Colorado Springs, interrupting the running of trains on this end of the road to-day. Three bridges were swept away on the Kansas Pacific Railroad.

A freight train on that road, containing eighteen cars, broke through a bridge over the Kiowa river, burying with it John A. Baker, engineer, and Frank Seedon and John Pratt, firemen. A note received states that debris and drift from Cherry Creek lodged against the Colorado Central Railroad bridge across Platte river, forced out a portion of supports. This road also sustained considerable damaged on its Cheyenne division, but probably its trains and those of the Denver and Rio Grande Railroad will move regularly to-morrow afternoon.

Our Friends in the North.

There is no denying the fact, that the South has been much disappointed at the action of the Northern Democrats since the assembling of Congress. They have shown much more anxiety to prepare for future success, with themselves in the lead, than they have to give our section the least bit of justice. There has grown up among them a very strange anti-subsidy feeling, just at the time when it is necessary to do something for the development of the vast territory in the Southwest. After the North has received inestimable benefits in this way, it is suddenly discovered that the principle is very wrong. We wouldn't object to this discovery so much only that it seems to have been made expressly to bar the South from receiving aid such as the North has already had. In addition to this there seems to be a sort of nervousness among our friends in the North, lest the South commit some error. The action of our friends about the New Orleans mint was very strange, and the South feels its effect to this day. In fact, the action of our friends about every Southern measure seems strange and cannot be explained. Some of the Northern Democrats have abused us roundly for our pacific action in the matter of the decision of the Presidential question, and the balance of them take it out in giving us advice but no help. When we were suffering from negro rule, they advised us to be quiet, and now that we ask a little fair-play in the matter of Governmental aid, they advise us to be quiet. The Northern Democrat seems to think that the only political business the Southern Democrats should engage in is to be quiet and to vote for Northern Democrats at every National election. In our opinion, this will not answer in the South much longer. The South is Conservative and cares nothing for National positions. She is willing that our friends in the North shall have all these, but when she asks for what all the world knows to be reasonable and just, she doesn't want to be snubbed and given a dose of advice. The South is now, and has been for some time, asking for aid to construct a railway across Southern soil to the Pacific ocean. This is reasonable and just. A vast amount of aid was given to construct the Union and Central Pacific roads, and the South is paying her portion of the debt thus incurred, and it is therefore only right and reasonable that she should receive similar aid. If she should be prevented from getting it by *our friends* in the North, she will certainly in the future prize such friendship very lightly.

Senator Lamar has made a great speech in the Senate, setting forth the benefits of a Southern transcontinental railway. In his speech he appealed particularly to the Senators from New England to support the measure, as it is a measure of great National importance. The Senator will receive the thanks of the South for his great effort in her behalf. His appeal should have great effect upon all reasonable people in the North, and it may even benefit the South with the conservative Republicans. It was such an able appeal that we are sorry that he did not also direct it particularly to our friends in the North. Friends ought always to respond to an appeal, and we must all acknowledge that *our friends* in the North seem to need appealing to very earnestly, when anything more than advice is asked by the South. He surely could not have imagined that there is more chance of the New England Republicans responding favorably than there is of a favorable response by our friends in the North.

A Pretty Conservative Plan

The Greenville Times and the Port Gibson Reveille say that the press and the people of this District are almost unanimously in favor of Gen. Chalmers's re-election to Congress. In our opinion there is not a man in the District who can beat him. This county and city regard his re-election as a matter already decided upon. In fact, we see no earthly reason of holding a Convention in the District. All the papers will announce his name at the proper time, and that is all that is required.—[Vicksburg Herald.

A pretty, a very pretty plan, that; but while you are abolishing the preliminaries of an election, Brother Wright, wouldn't it be just as well to abolish the election itself? You and a few other particular friends and favorites of Gen. Chalmers, could write a modest little missive to that gentleman, telling him to hold over indefinitely. You would thereby prevent the expense and excitement of a political canvass, and be certain of securing your man into the bargain.

Of course a few old fogy Bourbons might be sort o' dumsquizzled by the proceeding. They might even grumble a grumble. But don't mind 'em. Chalmers suits you and your little Conservative clique, and what need you care if a majority of his Democratic white constituents *are* down on him?

Go on, Brother Wright! Go on with this most recent departure. But don't do things by halves.—[Okalona States.

We haven't heard of any Democrat who desires to run against General Chalmers. He made a splendid canvass and carried a District that had been given up for lost, and the knowledge of this fact, coupled with his record in Congress, has caused his constituents to decide almost to a man on his re-election. But the States is mistaken in supposing that we are opposed to a Convention if anybody desires one. Chalmers can beat any man in the District in a Convention, and then he can beat any man the opposition can put up against him. Thankful for the solicitude the States displays in the affairs of this portion of the State, we beg to direct its attention to the resolutions of '98.

The Storm of Saturday on Sunflower River.

ON STR. FAIR PLAY, SUNFLOWER RIVER, May 21, 1878.

Editor of the Herald:

The storm of Saturday evening, May 18th, 1878, was one of the most violent remembered by any one living on Sunflower river. Without doubt it was the most extensive in its range. The effect is visible at all points along this river from the Yazoo north to Falsonia, and the contiguous country, were also visited by the fearful storm as reported by citizens from the several neighborhoods. The route seems to have been from the South nearly due north, and up the Sunflower river, leaving the river when the direct course of the wind would cross the bends.

Its greatest severity seems to have been in Sunflower county. At the mouth of Indian Bayou, the destruction of green forest trees on both sides of the river is almost entire. Opposite H. O. Vick's it was very severe, and more so at Hutchins's, on whose house a tree fell, tearing away a part of it, but without harm to the inmates. From that place to Johnstonville, and for miles on the south along Mound Bayou, the wreck of trees and fences and houses was awful. But at Johnstonville the greatest force of the tornado must have been expended. This resulted in the falling of trees, moving of houses, and, worst of all, the entire destruction of the new Episcopal Church. This house of worship had been completed only a few years, furnished in good taste, ceiled and painted, with carpets, organ, and in every respect suited to the purposes intended, and in a few moments all was scattered around by the wind and almost ruined by the rain.

The writer passed through the route of the storm south of Johnstonville, or down the river, and saw one negro house with two trees which had fallen on it, and near by another with trees blown down so as to prevent access to the house, but without injuring the house. There were no occupants seen by your correspondent, but they might have had inhabitants who would not have been injured. Cattle have been killed, and perhaps many not yet found. Roads are impassable in places. Providentially there was no loss of life, nor is the injury to crops such as to cause remark. At Kinloch and mouth of Dawson Bayou the storm seems to have been less severe than below, and neither there nor south was the storm to be compared to what it was above. Instances of hair-breadth escapes from being killed, and of men holding to trees to prevent being blown away are related—one of them a Vicksburg lawyer attending Sunflower Circuit Court. He can report for himself, and may give you more fully and correctly the details of this storm. E. G. C.

COL. FLEET COOPER, last Sunday evening, delivered in Raymond, where it was very much needed, an excellent and effective temperance address. The Raymond Gazette has the following handsome notice of it:

At an early hour in the evening the seating capacity of the Court room was filled—the citizens in a body being present. After prayer, Col. Cooper was duly introduced, when he delivered most pleasantly and forcibly, one of the most appropriate, eloquent and chaste addresses we ever heard. The audience was most attentive throughout, fully appreciating the magnitude of the question involved, and evincing their pleasure and delight with the address.

Col. Cooper having concluded, a resolution was offered and adopted, extending the thanks of the citizens for the address, and requesting a copy for publication. Col. Cooper has consented, and the address will be published in this paper as soon as it can be prepared for the press.

A number of additions were made to the Temperance roll and the meeting adjourned until Tuesday night of next week.

THE Times publishes a new version of the May-Bennett duel, setting forth that May fired as the word was given and missed, while Bennett could not get the trigger of his pistol to work. Thereupon May set himself up as a target, but Bennett refused to shoot. The truth is that neither party could have been hurt, as both pistols, by agreement between the seconds, were loaded with mustard-seed instead of balls.—[N. Y. Star.

Affairs at Washington.

THE POTTER INVESTIGATION RESOLUTION—ACTIVE PREPARATIONS FOR THE COMING CONGRESSIONAL ELECTIONS—CHALMERS'S SPEECH ON THE TEXAS PACIFIC RAILROAD—ROACH'S SUBSIDY SCHEME—SENATOR COKE'S ABILITY.

Special to the Herald.]

WASHINGTON, May 20, 1878.—The excitement over the Potter investigation resolution last week has passed away apparently as one of the nine days wonders. Hale, Garfield and Conger did their best to achieve a Republican victory, but the determined stubbornness of the Democrats proved too much for them. There are various opinions among the average statesmen as to final results of the passage of the resolution.

It is claimed in well-informed political circles that the Republicans will make the coming Fall campaign for Congressional elections the hottest and most vigorous since the close of the war. They will make a desperate effort to secure the next House of Representatives by regaining the lost and doubtful districts of the South by a thorough new organization of the party leaders, and the free use of money. They will not touch a carpet-bagger, they must be native born. The committee selected for the Congressional campaign by the Republicans have already commenced work in good earnest for a complete and active organization of their working force. However, in this respect, the Democrats are not behind. They are hard at work with the Hon. Joe Blackburn, of Kentucky, as the chief director and manager of the coming conflict for Congressional honors. He is fully up to all the movements of his antagonists, and will leave nothing undone that will help to lead the Democratic party to victory in the autumn elections. His selection for the important position which has been assigned him gives entire satisfaction to the party leaders.

The Texas and Pacific Railroad bill will be called up in the Senate to-morrow, and then the fun will commence. Able speeches will be delivered for and against the bill. Indications at present point to its success in the Senate. The able efforts of Gov. Brown, of Tennessee, (the Manager of the road) to lay before Congress and the country, openly and fairly the question involved, has gained for the enterprise many warm and able supporters. The Hon. J. R. Chalmers, of Mississippi, made the opening speech on the subject in the House some days ago, which was considered by critics the entering wedge to the success of the bill in that body. His forcible and able arguments opened the eyes and thoughts of many Southern members who had before been opposed to the bill, and caused them to see that they had been laboring under a mistake. Several have since declared in favor of the measure, and will come to its support.

John Roach the millionaire shipbuilder, of Chester, Pa., is here asking Congress to give him one hundred and fifty thousand dollars per annum to encourage his commercial Brazilian steamship line, under the cover and disguise of a mail subsidy. Up to this time he has engineered the matter very well, and if he does not strike a heavy sea he may pull through, as he has good navigators to work for him. Little did Democratic Senators and Congressmen think when they accepted a free ride in the palace cars to Chester last April, to see Roach's new ship launched, that they would so soon be asked to return a hundred thousand talents as an equivalent for the day's pleasurable junket. The roach is a bony fish and requires through mastication before digesting. Democrats beware of the bait.

The able speech of Senator Coke, of Texas, last week on the repeal of the resumption Act, has been much complimented by competent judges. His arguments were original and forcible, showing he had completely mastered the subject. Thurman, Bayard, Lamar, Voorhees, Edmunds, and many other distinguished gentlemen, said it was the best speech on the subject that had been made in the Senate for years. There are several able Senators from the South at present serving in that dignified and honorable body. Coke, as a new Senator, has already taken very high position as a coming statesman. ***

THE Vicksburg HERALD in speaking of the State Press has this to say: "Our State owes a debt to its press that it can never repay." We do not agree with the HERALD. On the contrary, we insist that the debt can be paid, and that it ought to be paid. "Two dollars a year" is so small a sum that every man can certainly afford to pay up, no matter if he is delinquent for a dozen years or more.—[Raymond Gazette.

The Public Schools Again—A Few Words on the Reduction of Salaries.

Mr. Editor: The present gloomy outlook of the finances of our Public School deserves the careful consideration of all thoughtful ones. A mote in the public eye, at such a crisis as this, and with regard to a matter involving such weighty and cherished interests, ought to be plucked out with no tardy hand, in order that the people may have an insight to the true state of matters over which there at present seems to hang a mist of uncertainty. There was never a time in the history of our municipal affairs of greater moment or demanding that every step forward should be taken upon ground which has undergone cautious survey, than the present. The twin vultures of misrule and corruption in office preyed upon the vitals of our city until (not being endowed with the recuperative power of the Promethian liver) prostrate and exhausted, she has been left chained to the rock of financial depletion by an overwhelming debt. These local causes, together with those of a more general nature, resulting in stringent times throughout the expanse of the country, have made the people loud and clamorous in their demands for reform. And reform, so far as it related to minor departments in which there is least compensation to the greatest stress of labor, has been prosecuted with such vigor by those, who secure in their almost sinecure dignities, have never, except under compulsion, practiced the laudable example commended to others, by enriching the public treasury from their fat emoluments, that symptoms of a strong reactionary movement are beginning to be felt. The immense pendulum of popular feeling has swung around from corruption and prodigality often to the other extreme, and is now seeking by natural laws its owns proper adjustment. But when our Public Schools—the pride and ornament of our city—which have hitherto escaped every desecrating touch—are converted by the advocates of retrenchment into the bastile of reform, it is time to pause. This institution which has received the full meed of praise from visitors, of refined, intellectual culture, from all portions of the State, needs no encomium from our humble pen. Any effort to impair or cripple it, or to drag it down from the elevated plane in which it now moves we regard as ruinous as would be the refusal of the members of the body to perform their parts in supplying with food the stomach. Months have elapsed, and while the prospect of the teachers obtaining their salaries has become "beautifully less," their merchants' accounts are daily assuming more startling proportions. Upon whose shoulders rests the blame, when there are five thousand dollars ($5,000) in the treasury—with which sum the debts of the school can nearly be liquidated? Evidently, some one has been guilty of culpable negligence, and the people demand that the screw be removed. What pretext stands between this fund and its legitimate end, viz: its employment in furtherance of the ends of education? For months the teachers have toiled on without a murmur, with no incentive to stimulate them; and did delicacy permit the true revelation of their domestic wants, they would need no stronger circumstances to enforce the justice of their cause. Their need of relief from some quarter is crying and urgent. Eager eyes were turned toward the last meeting of the Council in the vain hope that some action would be taken to alleviate their situation, but the consideration of the school question was soon swallowed up in the discussion of topics demanding *graver* reflection and more *expeditious* action—such as the construction of a long-felt want in the shape of a *public park*. Our Public Schools in respect to the facilities they extend for both physical and intellectual culture, will not suffer by a comparison with the foremost schools of the country. And yet the salaries are much below those received in other cities by teachers, connected with institutions of a *similar grade*. How unwise then the policy of reducing the salaries of the teachers for the ensuing session. This one fact should be made salvint during the present campaign, viz: in order to have schools, which for character of instruction and apparatus, will meet the requirements of the day, there must be means proportionate to the need. Precisely the same principles of political economy that govern every other kind of *skilled* labor fix the value of instruction. To borrow an illustration from the mercantile world, whatever be the article of consumption, does it not, exclusive of its intrinsic appreciation, derive its value from the character of the labor employed in its production? If the article be the product of skilled labor, will not the same article from the same factory command its value, whether it be purchased of Kress or Meyer or Ruhman? On the contrary, if an article is cheap, is there not *invariably something to make it cheap*? Reduce the salaries of the teachers to forty dollars per month, and it would take no Daniel to predict that there will be three applicants for situations to every one at present; but talent and ability will just as naturally drift into more lucrative channels. The parents interested in the end, as a result of this cheap bargain, will find that *a cheap tree is known by its cheap fruit*. It strikes us that any parties hewing upon the branch of Public Education, are in the precarious attitude of the little boy whose unceremonious conjunction with terra firma impressed upon him the folly of sundering the limb which sustained his weight. Give the teachers prompt justice, and let them have the reward of their faithful and patient toil.

ALL ABOARD.

KEY-STONE DEMOCRACY.

A Strong Platform—Severe and Truthful Arraignment of the Republican Party—Sound Financial Policy—The Duty of the Government, Etc.

PITTSBURG, May 23.—The Democratic State Convention reassembled at nine o'clock, and the report of the Committee on contested seats having been made, and contestants seated, permanent organization was effected by the election of Hon. Charles R. Buckalew permanent President.

Mr. Sowden, of Lehigh, obtained recognition and moved that before the nomination of Governor the Convention proceed to ballot for Lieutenant-Governor. This being contrary to regular order of nominating was objected to, and the yeas and nays being ordered, the motion was defeated—ayes 121, nays 125.

Mr. Sowden then moved to lead nominations with that of Supreme Judge. Rejected, and the chair announced that the regular order would be adhered to, and that the Convention would proceed to ballot for Governor, but that he would first recognize the chairman of the committee on resolutions, and Mr. Wallace, ascending the platform, made his report. The following is the first part of the platform:

"The Democracy of Pennsylvania unanimously declare that the Republican party, its measures and its men, are responsible for the financial distress, the misery and want that now exist. It has had control of the legislation of this country, and has enacted and perpetuated a policy that has enriched the few and impoverished the many. Its system of finance has been one of favors to moneyed monopoly, of unequal taxation, of exemption of classes, of high rates of interest, and of remorseless contraction, which has destroyed every enterprise that gave employment to labor. Its present hold upon Federal power was secured by fraud, perjury and forgery. Its laws are unjust, and its practices are immoral. They distress the people, and destroy their substance. The only remedy for these evils is an entire change of policy, and the dethronement of those in power.

"And we resolve that further contraction of the volume of United States legal tender notes is unwise and unnecessary. They should be received for customs duties, and re-issued as fast as received. Gold, silver, and United States legal tender notes at par therewith, are a just basis for paper circulation. A close connection of the Federal Government with the business interests of the people through National Banks, tends to monopoly and centralization, but in changing the system uniformity of notes, security of the note holder, and protection of the capital invested should be provided for. Treasury notes issued in exchange for bonds bearing a low rate of interest is the best form in which the credit of the Government can be given to paper currency.

"Labor and capital have equal demands upon and equal responsibilities to law. Commerce and manufactures should be encouraged, so that steady employment and fair wages may be yielded to labor, whilst safety of investment and moderate return for its use belong to capital. Violence or breaches of order in support of the real or supposed rights of either should be promptly suppressed by the strong arm of the law.

"The Republican party, by its legislation in 1872, which reduced the tariff upon bituminous coal from $1.25 to 75 cents per ton, and upon iron, steel, wool, metals, paper, glass, leather, and all manufacturers of each of them ten per cent., struck a fatal blow at the industries and labor of Pennsylvania.

"The public lands are the common property of the people, and they should not be sold to speculators, nor granted to railroad or other corporations, but should be reserved as homesteads for actual settlers.

"Our public debt should be paid at home, and bonds representing it ought to be of small denominations, in which the savings of the masses may be safely invested.

"A thorough investigation into the Electoral frauds of 1876 should be made; the frauds should be exposed, truth vindicated, and the criminals punished, but we oppose any attack upon the Presidential title as dangerous to our institutions and fruitless in its results."

The Convention proceeded to ballot, and Rev. R. W. Dillon, of Union, was nominated for Governor on the third ballot; H. P. Ross, of Montgomery, was nominated for Judge of the Supreme Court on the first ballot.

An Inquiry.

Is it not better to purchase Dr. Price's Special Flavoring Extracts, Lemon, Orange, Vanilla, etc., that have stood the test of years, than adulterated, unhealthy articles, because they are cheaper? Good, pure articles have a fair valuation; and Dr. Price's are unequalled in quality and purity.

Defrauding the Revenue.

CINCINNATI, May 24.—Chris. Sandhyer's rectifying establishment was seized. The proprietor is a man of wealth. He is charged with filling packages without cancelling stamps. He was released on bail.