

THANKSGIVING DAY.

It is very meet and proper that a Christian people should set aside one day in each year for special Thanksgiving and Prayer to Almighty God for His bounteous blessings and wonderful mercies.

It is especially appropriate and proper that Thanksgiving Day should be appointed at this season of the year, "at the ingathering of the harvest," when the husbandman is reaping the reward of his year's labors, storing his barns and cribs with the rich products of the earth.

It is now that his heart is filled with gratitude and he can feelingly give "Thanks for the bloom which filled the orchard ways;

Thanks for the yellow wheat, the oil, the wine,

The swaying tassels of the ripened maize, The fragrant, purple clusters of the vine."

But it is not only for the fruitful harvests that we have cause for thankfulness. We have greater cause, that we have escaped the fearful disease that has so heavily scourged and afflicted our brethren in the far South.

But there is yet another cause of gratitude, still greater than any yet mentioned, and which is appreciated especially by those, who like us have once suffered the untold horrors of war, and it is, that Peace still prevails throughout our fair land.

With such great and sufficient causes for our heartfelt gratitude to the Giver of all good things, is it not eminently proper that we should meet together, on this day, and devoutly return thanks for the same? And let it not be mere lip-service only, but while our hearts are filled with gratitude for the blessings that we enjoy, let us share some of those blessings with those who are less favored, with the poor, the suffering poor, and gladden their sorrowing hearts, so that it may be a day of Thanksgiving for all, both rich and poor.

How Not to Win in 1880.

The party organs of both sides are very busy just now showing by columns of election figures how each may, can or must win in 1880.

The republicans, knowing the fact that they have but 133 votes in the next House out of a total of 293, and that they will lose their present control of the Senate, vigorously count up 213 electoral votes for themselves, against 156 for the democrats, and cry out, "Glory! let's hoist the bloody shirt!"

The democrats point out that their opponents carried Ohio by a plurality of less than 3,500 and by only 274,000 votes out of 589,000, the total cast; that they carried New York by a plurality of about 25,000, and only with the help of the Tilden democrats and that in general the democratic defeat is not irretrievable.

We advise the partisans of both sides to remember that the American people are, in the words of a well known negro preacher, "mighty on-sartin," and they were never more changeable in political matters than just now. In fact, they are not fit to be trusted, they are the despair and contempt of all political managers, and there was hardly ever a time when majorities were worth so little as a permanent investment. Here is the great State of New York, for instance. The republicans, with the help of a first class "gerrymander," have swept it in the election of Assemblymen and Congressmen; they have over sixty majority in the Legislature and seventeen in the Congress.

But New York elects a Governor next year, and who knows? Those perfidious wretches, the free and independent voters, may cause the twenty-five thousand republican plurality of this year to disappear in 1879 as completely as the boy under the magician's basket.

So the democrats have been reckoning, after their accustomed prurient and silly fashion, that the "solid South," with New York, Connecticut and New Jersey, was sure to give them the Presidency; and behold they have lost all three of their Northern States, while of the "solid South," it may with certainty be said that it remains "solid," it will ruin the democratic prospects in 1880 by creating a "solid North," but that it will probably cease to be solid before then, as the increasing number of independent organizations in all the Southern States shows; in which case the democrats must carry a good many Northern States to win.

Under these circumstances, and considering the lamentable disposition of independent voters to vote as they please, we are benevolently moved to give both parties a piece of advice.

There was once a Machiavellian schoolboy who remarked to his young chum, "Never lie unless you know the whole case. When I don't see my ground entirely clear I always tell the truth. It is the only safe way." So we advise both parties.

In their present situation their only safe course is to be honest and to seek their own success by determining to serve the best interests of the country.

National Currency.

WASHINGTON, November 20, 1878.—The sixteenth annual report of Mr. John Jay Knox, Comptroller of the Currency, contains a table, in compliance with the act of February 19, 1873, showing the total average capital and deposits of all State and savings banks and private bankers in the country for the six months ending May 31, 1878.

It shows the number of State banks to be 853, with an aggregate capital of \$124,347,262; deposits, \$229,482,625; number of savings banks with capital, 23, having an aggregate capital of \$3,237,342; deposits, \$26,179,968; number of savings banks without capital, 698, with deposits amounting to \$803,299,345; number of private bankers, 2,856; capital, \$77,798,228; deposits, \$183,832,965.

The whole number of State banks and private bankers is 4,400, with an aggregate capital of \$205,380,000; deposits \$1,242,790,000. The total number of national banks in existence on June 29, 1878, was 2,056 with a capital of \$470,390,000; deposits, \$677,160,000, making the total number of banks and private bankers in the country 6,456, with an aggregate capital of \$675,776,000 and aggregate deposits of \$1,919,954,000.

The total number of national banks organized since the establishment of the national banking system on February 25, 1863, to November 1 of the present year is 2,400. Of these 273 have gone into voluntary liquidation by vote of the shareholders owning two-thirds of their respective capitals and 74 have been placed in the hands of receivers for the purpose of closing up their affairs, leaving 2,053 in existence on November 1 of this year.

A Life Insurance Sensation.

The officers of the various life insurance companies of this city were startled yesterday by the announcement of the death of Colonel Walton Dwight, of Binghamton, N. Y., that gentleman having just secured insurance of his life for a vast sum—exceeding \$250,000. The circumstances connected with the case are so peculiar and the sum involved so large that it bids fair to become the most celebrated of many alleged attempts to impose upon the life insurance companies.

Mr. Walton Dwight was one of the most prominent citizens of Binghamton, and the "Dwight block" and the "Dwight Hotel" were well known all over the country. Mr. Dwight, it is alleged, expended his fortune in the erection of these buildings. When the fall in real estate came he suffered heavy losses and last summer was bankrupt.

In the latter part of September he applied for insurance in several life insurance companies, and was willing to take policies for almost any amount, but insisted that all the premium payments should be made quarterly. In less than three months he succeeded in securing policies to the extent of \$250,000 in favor of his wife and son, and he applied to nearly every insurance company in the United States.

The United States Life Company of this city was first to become alarmed at the vast amount of insurance Mr. Dwight was accumulating. His name was becoming famous in life insurance circles, but he seemed to be a hale, hearty man, and answered all questions frankly. The United States Life examined his career, and found that he had been sick and suffering from hemorrhage of the lungs. An agent was sent to Binghamton, who saw Mr. Dwight and asked him if he had ever had bleeding of the lungs. He answered in the affirmative, but said he did not think the matter of sufficient importance to say anything about it when he filed out his application for insurance. The agent informed him that he had not made a truthful report of his physical condition and that the company would at once cancel his policy, but return him the full amount of the premium he had paid, with interest to date.

Dwight refused the offer and said he was not to be bulldozed by the insurance companies. Mr. Dwight had then just returned from a protracted tour with his gun in the woods on a damp and foggy day. He looked very sick and nervous. Inquiry revealed the fact that Mr. Dwight the previous day had stripped off his clothing and swam across the Susquehanna River four times; that he rambled about the woods day after day without food, and was endeavoring in every possible way to ruin his health. These facts were made known to the life insurance companies, and there was a rush to Binghamton of doctors and detectives. Before any other company, however, could tender him his money or cancel his policy Mr. Dwight died of reported hemorrhage of the lungs.

The theory of the life companies is that Mr. Dwight made up his mind to terminate his life within three months. No company received a second premium, all the payments were quarterly, and as soon as he obtained all the insurance possible he began to destroy his life; that, finding he was likely to live until the second premium came due, he hastened his death by poison. Yesterday the insurance men held a hasty consultation and sent two physicians to hold a post-mortem examination of the remains and the stomach will be secured for medical analysis. It appears that Mr. Dwight's family physician has been prescribing arsenic for his patient for the past three weeks; consequently if that poison were found it would be no indication that he had committed suicide by poisoning.

A long legal contest in any case will ensue. Already Mrs. Dwight is reported to have secured the services of Orlan W. Chapman, late State Superintendent of Insurance, to press her claims against the companies.

There is some uncertainty in regard to the \$10,000 policy in the Mutual Life of this city. That company is said to have made out the policy, and that Dwight returned it and asked for a \$30,000 policy, and that the Mutual then refused to issue any. How the matter was definitely settled could not be ascertained last evening.

In the Germania Life the deceased had a paid up policy. A few weeks since he went to the company's office and took out an increased amount of insurance—all his paid-up policy would pay for.

Mr. Dwight was forty-one years of age and a man of fine personal appearance. The amount he has paid to the various companies for premiums aggregated \$2,100.

Virginia Cattle for Europe.

YORK, Nov. 20, 1878.—A train load of magnificent Southwest Virginia cattle arrived here to-day for shipment to Europe. Almost every cotton ship leaving port for Liverpool takes out a deck load of beefs from the Virginia grazing lands, and cattle exportation is rapidly growing to be a business of vast importance to this section.—New York Herald.

Steamer Sunk

The steamer Pomerania came in collision with a vessel on the 26th near the English coast, and was sunk. Fifty lives were lost, including the Captain.

Supreme Court Decision.

WASHINGTON, Nov. 18.—In the Supreme Court to-day a decision was made in the case of the Western Union Telegraph Company vs. Day-enport, the question being whether a joint stock company is liable to an individual stockholder for a certificate of stock, which had been stolen from him, and which the company, upon a forged power of attorney, has transferred on its books to another party. The court holds that there can be no question as to the right of such a stockholder to have his stolen shares replaced and a proper certificate issued to him therefor, and to receive all the dividends which shall have accrued thereon since the unauthorized transfer. The forgery, it is held, cannot confer power to the purchaser of the property which will avail as an answer to the demand of the true owner, or transfer of any right. Officers of the company are the custodians of the stock and books, and it is their duty to see that all transfers of shares are properly made, either by the stockholders themselves or by persons having authority from them. If on presentation of a certificate, the company is in doubt as to the authenticity of a conveyance or the identity of a person, it can require the genuineness of the one or identity of the other to be satisfactorily established, but in either case it must act upon its own responsibility.

Dummies.

Some of the English papers declare that a majority of the directors of the defunct Glasgow bank were mere "dummies" and knew nothing of what was being done by the managers of the swindle. Very likely, and in that fact consists their guilt. There are sins of omission as well as of commission, and the man who, by allowing his name to be used as a sign of respectability, assists in deluding those who believe in him, is as deserving of punishment as any other hypocrite. The mere fact of willingness to be a dummy where a man is nominally a director of great financial interests which seriously affect thousands of people proves a degree of moral obliquity that deserves utter contempt and severe punishment. Sooner or later this "dummy" plea will be offered in the United States, for we have many great corporations that are practically managed by one or two men each, and these men may make of the directors either a shield or a catspaw, as best serves their purposes. "Director" means nothing of this kind; the title signifies that the person bearing it has accepted a trust and by his activity or carelessness regarding this trust is the measure of his honesty and capacity determined. The man who, once or twice a year, merely indorses whatever report is made up for him at a bank or insurance company is no director, he is an incompetent hypocrite who is offering an inducement to crime.—New York Herald.

A Square Struggle in 1880.

The contest in 1880 will be a square front to front, up and down struggle between the two old parties for ascendancy. One side has the offices, the patronage, the Treasury and the army, which will all be surely be used for the Republican candidate, no matter who he may be. The other side has the Senate and House of Representatives by a narrow majority. There will be no third party, except as it may be set up by designing politicians in particular localities to draw off votes from their adversaries. Both sides are on their good behavior and the country will watch with interest their actions in the next two years.—New York World.

Sad Case of Destitution.

NORFOLK, Nov. 19, 1878.—The saddest case of destitution that ever occurred in this city was unearthed on James street to-day, in the case of Mrs. Emily Elliott, who had dropped dead from weakness while working a sewing machine, in her desperate efforts to get nourishment for her sick husband and helpless children. Every particle of furniture in the dwelling had been sold to sustain the starving family, except a shuck mattress and the machine. The authorities took charge of the case. All the family were piteously prostrated.—N. Y. Herald.

Color Line in Bertie.

In Windsor, Bertie county, N. C. there resides a colored individual, Madison Outlaw by name, who from time out of mind, has been the caterer and proprietor of the only hotel of any note in the place. At Madison's Hotel, all the gentry, judges, lawyers and others in all that section round, have been the guests, at divers times, of the hotel, holding in high esteem its sable landlord. In this district there is one Collins, also of the unbleached persuasion who, in these Republican times, glories in the position of solicitor. Collins is an unlearned follower of Blacks one (this we learn from a gentleman from Bertie, who failed to say whose chickens follow Collins,) and when in Windsor a few days since, attending court, repaired to the aforesaid hotel to register, when he was met by the proprietor who politely informed him that he did not quarter colored gentlemen, and that he would have to be placed in an out office from the building where his meals would be sent him, whereupon the solicitor mused upon the rottenness of Republican government which did not make all men equal before chicken pie as before the law. Thus runs the color line in old Bertie.—Murfreesboro Enquirer.

The Fever.

NEW YORK, November 20.—The report of the yellow fever commission, composed of Doctors Davis, Cochran and Howard, who, together with Col. L. P. Hardin, sanitary engineer, have been investigating the epidemic in all the fever-stricken cities of the South, states that a sufficient amount of testimony has been taken to justify the belief that the first cases in New Orleans, about the month of June, were brought to the city by conveyances as yet unknown; that their investigations and maps show that the fever invariably tends to range itself in groups. The cases were in marked contrast with the tendency of malarial fever to occur in separate disconnected cases.

They say, in respect to the sanitary condition of the towns visited: 1. We have to report the same character of neglect and violation of health laws common to all, or nearly all, of the inland towns in the United States. These are neglect of drainage, inattention to deposit, fetid and refuse animal and vegetable matter, and inattention to the purity of drinking water. The Commission unanimously agree in stating the following facts in regard to their investigation up to the present time, reserving the right to introduce at any subsequent time such antagonistic facts as may be discovered. We have not in a solitary instance found a case of yellow fever which we could justifiably consider as of de novo origin, or indigenous to its locality.

2. In respect to most of the various towns which we visited, and which were at points where the epidemic prevailed, testimony showing its importation was direct and convincing in its character.

3. Transmission of yellow fever between points separated by any considerable distances appeared to be wholly due to human intercourse. In some instances poison was carried in clothing, or about persons or people going from infected districts. In other instances it was conveyed in cotton, bagging or other goods of the same description.

4. The weight of testimony is very pronounced against the further use of disinfectants. Physicians in the infected towns, almost without exception, state that they are useless agents to arrest the spreading of the yellow-fever, while some of them are firmly of opinion that their vapors are seriously prejudicial to the sick.

5. Personal prophylaxis, by means of drugs or other therapeutic means, has proved a constant failure. A respectable number of Physicians think the use of small doses of quinine of some use in prevention.

6. Quarantine established with such a degree of surveillance and rigor that non-intercourse is the result has effectively, without exception, protected its subjects from attacks of yellow-fever.

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