

THE REPORTER.

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THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 1877

WAITING.

There never was a time in American history when the people awaited political developments with more painful interest than at present. It may be said, without the least exaggeration, that the dearest interests of the nation, the peace and prosperity of our country, the honor and credit of the government, and even the existence of our liberties, will all be affected by the decision of the Presidential Commission at Washington. Nor does the fact that Judge Bradley, the fifteenth member, decides all the issues coming before that Tribunal by his single vote, afford anything satisfactory to the public. He really holds the most responsible position ever held by a citizen of the United States. His vote is all-powerful, for either good or evil.— He is the eighth Republican upon the Commission, and he is the only one that has so far had the honesty to cast a single vote against the high-handed outrage and unblushing fraud his seven party associates have endeavored to thrust upon the people. And we regret to admit that we have very little ground to hope for much justice from Judge Bradley. He has never voted with the Democrats only on comparatively unimportant questions. He recorded his vote in favor of fraud when colored with a show of legality, and declined to perform the principal duty with which he was entrusted because the exposure of such glaring frauds as existed in the Florida case would have defeated his party.— And we have no other expectation but, in the face of all the proven perjury, bribery, corruption and rascality recently unearthed by the Louisiana investigation, that State will likewise be counted for Hayes by those eight Republican Commissioners. If that should be the case, would not an honest and indignant people be justified in setting aside such an unwarrantable decision? Think of the position of fifteen intelligent men upon a common jury, and in the trial of a cause eight of them refuse to hear any evidence in favor of one of the disputants! This is exactly the justice accorded to Mr. Tilden by a majority of the Commission, and it is precisely in

the most servile of the brute creation when we advocate a policy of peace at any price. The heroes of the Revolution would despise and disdain a progeny so degenerate and contemptible. No, we should submit to no such partisan decisions as the Republican element of the Commission threatens to impose upon the country; neither are we to expect a war in consequence of a rejection of such decisions. But, come what may, let us insist upon truth, justice and our rights under the Constitution.

Poor Grant!

The President continues his Sunday evening conversations, but as there are only two more such evenings in which he may unbosom himself to his beloved Gobright, the country need not be alarmed. Of all the Sabbath evenings that may, during coming ages, be vouchsafed to men wherever to rest from their labors, only two remain in which Mr. Grant may speak as the chief of this mighty nation.

The end is nigh. The man once mighty in deeds is now become garrulous in speech. The sceptre is about to fall from his grasp. And we wearily listen, Sabbath after Sabbath, to the incoherent utterances of the man who, only a few years ago, held in the hollow of his hand the destinies of forty millions of people, we can but wonder at the change.

Unconsciously we turn back to the fateful day at Appomattox Court House, when surrounded on every side by countless hosts, the gallant remnant of the glorious army of Northern Virginia, at the bidding of its immortal commander, laid down its arms forever. Inseparable from that day is the recollection of the chivalrous courtesy the victors extended to the vanquished. We remember too that at a later day, when it was proposed to take vengeance on our great commander, that it was Grant who interposed and saved him from indignity. We remember, too, at a still later date, that it was Grant who bore such unequivocal testimony to the good faith with which Southern men had kept their pledged word to obey the Constitution and the laws.

And then we remember too—alas! nothing more that is magnanimous, or noble. The demon of ambition falsified every word that Grant uttered. He has never been a parallel to the history of the United States nor

Judge Bradley, the President Maker.

For the first time in our history we have an American Warwick. We dare say that no man in the country is more surprised than Mr. Justice Bradley in finding himself invested with the stupendous power of deciding by his individual action who shall be the next President of the United States. There was, indeed, a possibility that the decision of this great question might rest in his hands from the moment of his selection as the fifth member of the Supreme Court section of the commission; but such a contingency seemed improbable. It was hardly to be supposed that a tribunal so select in its composition, so largely consisting of members of our most august judicial tribunal, so restrained by a high sense of responsibility, and solemnly sworn to "impartially examine and consider all questions submitted to the commission," that a body of statesmen and jurists so eminent for character, and bound by so impressive an oath, would act and vote as partisans in a controversy of such magnitude and dignity. Among the last things expected from this high and responsible tribunal was a decision on a strict party line in every vote. It was confidently believed that the odd member, the fifth judge selected from the Supreme Court, would always be supported by such a number of his fellow judges and of other members of the commission that no decision would depend on his solitary vote. It was desirable, as a means of satisfying the public mind, that the decisions reached by the commission should not rest on divisions by a party line. But the first important vote showed that this was a delusion. It then became evident that the fourteen members first appointed would act throughout as thick-and-thin partisans, seven persistently standing by the claim of Hayes, the other seven by the claim of Tilden, and that the fifteenth member holds in his single hand the power to determine who shall be the next President. From the moment that it became evident that the ten Senators and Representatives and the first four judges would vote as staunch partisans, on every question, standing uniformly seven against seven, from that moment it was apparent that Justice Bradley is invested with an amount of political power to which there has never been a parallel in the history of the United States nor

that of Florida; but those features are not the ones on which the Democrats have heretofore rested their hopes. Their case, as they had gotten it up, consisted of a great mass of evidence which went behind the action of the Returning Board. Not a particle of that evidence will be received by the commission, and the order which rules it out spikes all the guns of the great Democratic battery. Nothing is left for them but to dispute the legality of the Returning Board and the eligibility of two of the Hayes electors. There is little chance of their convincing Judge Bradley on either of these points, and nobody doubts that the other seven Republicans will steadily vote against them. Had the Louisiana Returning Board counted in the Tilden electors the Democratic party would not have contested its legality. The two electors who had held federal offices resigned previous to the 6th of December, the day on which they were appointed by the Electoral College to fill vacancies. With these grounds to stand upon it is certain that the other seven Republicans, and probably that Judge Bradley also, will vote to give all the electoral votes of Louisiana to Hayes. Had Judge Davis' instead of Judge Bradley been selected as the fifth member from the Supreme Court the result might be different; but Judge Bradley has thus far given the Democrats no reason for hoping that he will make Mr. Tilden President. After voting to rule out the evidence which formed the real strength of their case, when his single vote would have insured its admission, it is highly improbable that he will support them in the weaker aspects of their case. It is still in his power to make Mr. Tilden President, but if he had any intention to do so he would have voted to admit the evidence of fraud, which alone gave Mr. Tilden's claim a strong foundation. In any event it would have required high moral courage for Judge Bradley to go against his party, and had he been willing to do so he would have permitted the introduction of the only evidence which could give him a strong justification in the moral sense of the country.—*N. Y. Herald.*

One Woman

On Thursday, the said woman and her husband were arrested at the court house door of said county, and at a public place in each

Bill to Establish Inferior Courts.

The bill to establish courts of inferior jurisdiction in the several counties in the State, has passed its third reading in the Senate, without any material amendment or change from the following, which is the original bill. The great object of the bill is to provide a more speedy jail delivery, thereby relieving the counties of the enormous costs—enormous at least in many of them—constantly accumulating for the keep and feed of prisoners in jail awaiting trial before the Superior Courts.

The relief thus given to the criminal dockets in the Superior Courts will inure to the public good in another way, that is to say, by enabling the Superior Courts to devote a much larger proportion of their terms to the trial of civil cases.

With better local governments and with speedy jail deliveries the people of the counties under negro rule will be relieved of very many of the burdens under which they have so long labored.

A Bill to be entitled an act to provide for an Inferior Court in the several counties in the State, to be styled the Court of Common Pleas.

Section 1. Whenever in the opinion of a majority of the Justices of the Peace of any county it shall be deemed that the public interest will be thereby promoted, such justices, or a majority of them, may proceed to elect three citizens of the county, of suitable character and attainments as Justices of the Court of Common Pleas, and such persons so elected, shall have all the powers incident to such a jurisdiction.

Sec. 2. Said Courts of Common Pleas shall be held for the respective counties four times in each year, on such days as may be determined on and fixed by a majority of the justices of the peace: provided, that a majority of the justices of the peace of the several counties shall have power to determine and declare that a less number of such courts shall be held in their county, (or that no Court of Common Pleas shall be held therein); and in either of such cases such order shall stand until revoked by a majority of the justices of the peace of the county: provided, that if such order of revocation be made by such justices, three months notice thereof shall be given by posting a copy of said order at the court house door of said county, and at a public place in each

and sworn in the Superior Courts shall constitute the grand jury, with the same powers and duties with grand juries in the Superior Court.

Sec. 11. A majority of the Justices of the Peace in such county as may take advantage of the provisions of this act shall elect a Clerk of this Court of Common Pleas, and he shall keep the records of his court in suitable manner in a book to be furnished by the Secretary of State, and shall receive the same fees for services by him rendered as are provided by law to the Clerk of the Superior Courts for similar services, and shall hold his office for two years.

Sec. 12. The justices of the peace of such county, a majority being present, shall elect an attorney, properly qualified, to act for and in behalf of the State in the county, who shall hold his office for the term of two years, and shall prosecute all matters cognizable in such court wherein he shall be appointed, in behalf of the State, and he shall receive the same fees, on conviction, as are allowed Solicitors in the Superior Court, and shall be, *ex officio*, the adviser and counsel of all county officers, and for such service shall not be allowed any extra compensation exceeding twenty-five dollars a year, unless it shall become necessary to prosecute or defend civil actions.

Sec. 13. The Court of Common Pleas shall elect one of their number presiding justice, but the fees of each member of said court shall be fixed by a majority of the justices of the county, but not to exceed \$3 per day; provided, however, that in counties where the business of the court would be thereby facilitated, the majority of the justices of the peace may allow such salary as they may deem fit, to such presiding justice.

Sec. 14. This act shall go into effect on and after the second Monday of August, 1877.

Hampton.

Governor Hampton seems to be progressing very well in South Carolina in spite of Judge Carpenter's decision that he had not been duly inaugurated Governor of the State. The people everywhere continue to recognize him in the most substantial manner as the lawful Governor by promptly and voluntarily paying their taxes to his collecting officers, so that he has ample funds at his control while Chamberlain has not money enough to pay the miserable guard that hold possession of the State House. All the public institutions of the State, too, are supplied by funds contributed by Hampton. A special Commissioner from Columbia to the Charleston and Columbia district, and

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