

WHO IS PRESIDENT?

Never before in the history of our Republic has there been a time when so few of our people could answer the above question. If, indeed, the vexed question has been determined at all with a degree of certainty, the great majority of American citizens residing in the rural districts do not know at this time who is the Chief Executive of the nation. We all know that Judge Bradley "counted in" Mr. Hayes; but the question is, Has Mr. Hayes been inaugurated? In these uncertain times we never know what to expect. We do not anticipate a forcible resistance to the inauguration of even a fraudulent pretender; but possibly the count may not have been completed in due time, which would prevent the inauguration of any one until after another election. According to our latest advices, the count had not been concluded late on Saturday, and the greatest excitement prevailed in Congress. If this information is correct, and we hope it is, Returning Board Hayes, Joe Bradley and J. Madison Wells have all been defeated in their attempt to steal the Presidency. But even if the count has progressed smoothly and in favor of Hayes, the right to the Presidency may be legally contested before a full bench of Supreme Court Judges, and in that case the inauguration might be deferred.

There is one thing, however, upon which the American people can congratulate themselves, and patriots everywhere will avail themselves of the opportunity: Grant no longer misrules the nation. He has stepped down and out, and the respectable circles in which he moved as an official will not regret his future absence. He will now find his level among pardoned whisky ring convicts, jockeys and pot-house politicians. The pomp and circumstance of high official position never threw a lion's skin over a more consummate political donkey, nor did ever a ruler of any civilized people display as much ridiculous imbecility and unscrupulous audacity. His first official act manifested his utter incapacity and unfitness for even the lesser duties that would devolve upon him, and he became a laughing-stock in politics; and his last act in South Carolina—prohibiting the celebration of Washington's birthday by the white people—shows to what a depth of infamy he was capable of descending. Even if we receive Hayes in exchange, we are heartily glad that Grant's official epitaph has been recorded. No man can be more corrupt than he, and no man can have less regard for right and justice.

If Mr. Hayes should receive the Presidency, although his titles to the position are known to be fraudulent, yet we have some hope that he is not of the same class of men as Morton, Chandler, Logan, and others. It is true we cannot expect the bastard result of a Returning Board rape upon the ballot-box to be a paragon of honor, but he may be above the thieving, piratical crew that have already grown rich by public robbery. He has promised fair dealings toward the South, and despite the cloud that now overshadows him, he may endeavor to redeem his promises. We do not claim to be at all sanguine in this respect; but if his accession is inevitable, we may just as well make a virtue of necessity, and await with patience the developments of the future.

The prospects of the Democratic party were never brighter than at present. This attempted fraud upon the most sacred rights of the people—this murderous blow aimed at the life of American liberty, will be a greater weight of infamy than Radicalism can support. The more respectable leaders of the North realize the fact; hence such men as Senator Conkling, and others of his class, condemn the partisan action of Judge Bradley and his seven perjured associates upon the Presidential Commission. By attempting to steal the Presidency they have annihilated the Republican party, and at the next popular election Radicalism will be exterminated, root and branch. The South is now almost free from its loathsome pollution. Louisiana and South Carolina will soon break their fetters of political degradation, riveted upon them by disreputable carpet-baggers and meaner scoundrels. Their day of redemption is at hand, no matter who is President. When the people are determined to be free, their will is as irresistible as a hurricane. All over the country the fiat has gone forth, and Radicalism may spend the next four years in howling its death-song.

Eight Perjurers.

Morton and Garfield, together with their more reputable but no more respectable Republican colleagues from the Senate, House, and Supreme Court, say in their report to the Congress:

"The Commission is also of the opinion, by a majority of votes, that the returning officers of elections who counted the votes at the election for electors in Louisiana were a lawfully constituted body, by virtue of a constitutional law, and that a vacancy in said body did not vitiate its proceeding."

These men swore and called God to witness, when they became members of the Electoral Commission, that they would "impartially examine and consider all questions submitted and a true judgment give thereon." If their oath meant anything, it meant that no decision should be rendered without impartial examination and consideration. In the paragraph above quoted the eight sworn judges give a positive decision involving not only questions of law but questions of fact. They declare that the Louisiana returning board was constitutional, lawfully constituted, and competent to act, notwithstanding a vacancy in its membership. This judgment must either have proceeded from an impartial examination and consideration of the status of the Board, or have been given without examination and consideration. In the latter case, the eight Commissioners have violated their oaths and are, in plain English, perjurers. Now what is the fact?

On Feb. 16, in secret session of the Commission, Mr. Abbott offered this resolution:

"Resolved, That evidence be received to show that so much of the act of Louisiana as establishes the returning board for that State is unconstitutional and the acts of the returning board are void."

This resolution was rejected by a vote of 8 to 7. Mr. Abbott then offered the following, which was also rejected and by the same vote:

"Resolved, That evidence will be received to show that the returning board of Louisiana, at the time of canvassing and compiling the vote of that State at the last election in that State, was not legally constituted under the law established in this: That it was composed of four persons of one political party, instead of five persons of different parties."

Justices Miller, Strong and Bradley, Senators Edmunds, Morton and Frelinghuysen, and Representatives Garfield and Hoar have therefore given judgment on a question which they deliberately refused to examine and consider; and in so doing they have violated, not only every principle of judicature and every requirement of equity and honesty, but also their own oaths.—N. Y. Sun.

Terrible Suffering at Sea.

Boston, February 29.—A letter was received in this city yesterday from Capt. Kane of the American schooner F. E. McDonald, dated at Goree, on the west coast of Africa, Jan. 24, in which he says that on his outward passage from Boston, whence he sailed on Dec. 17, he fell in with the wreck of the British bark Maria, Capt. Grayson, having on board two survivors from a crew of men, the others having perished from exposure and famine. The two men were taken on board the schooner, but one of them died four hours afterward.

From the sole survivor it was ascertained that the bark was bound from Dobby, Ga., to Belfast, Ireland; that she sprung a leak in a gale and filled with water, so that it was impossible to save any provisions or fresh water. The lumber with which the vessel was loaded prevented her from sinking; but the weight of the masts turned the vessel on her beam ends until the masts broke away, when she righted and the men regained the deck. Having no food or water, however, they soon began to die of starvation, and as soon as one died the rest subsided; upon the dead body, and so on until only two were left. The survivor, whose name is James McLoughlin, and who belongs to Belfast, Ireland, says that only small parts of the dead bodies could be eaten. No one was killed, but the moment one died the survivors cut his throat and drank his blood, and then divided the heart and brains. It was thirty-two days from the time the disaster occurred until the wreck was sighted by the schooner, and during all that time the crew had not a drop of water, or any other food than the dead bodies of their shipmates.

We learn that a murder was committed near Fair Bluff on Thursday last. A man by the name of G. M. Russ was shot while paddling a canoe in Lumber River, by a negro named Barney Williams, alias Barney White, who was concealed on the banks of the creek. He fled into Robeson. He is described as being five feet four inches high, sharp visage, quick spoken, and weighs about 150 pounds.—Robesonian.

Cheated, but Not in Despair.

Sad as is our disappointment at the results of the Commission we must not give over to despair. We feel that a great wrong has been inflicted upon the rights of the people, the purity of the ballot, the freedom of election, the honor of the American name. Henceforth there will attach no peculiar honor or dignity to the name of an American citizen. The men of Europe, who are illustrious for virtue and intellectual greatness, must look with unmitigated contempt upon the United States, when they view the action of the eight members of the Commission who voted to shield villains and cover up rascality. They will argue that it is not possible to find among forty-five millions of people fifteen men of elevated characters and high ideals of rectitude—men capable of acting without passion, or party bias, but honorably, justly, nobly.

We feel that a great cheat and fraud has been perpetrated. But it may turn out better than we think. Let us await the appointing of his Cabinet before we predict what course Hayes will pursue.

We grant that a fraudulent President—seated in the chair of George Washington through the grace of Joe Bradley and the scoundrels he voted to shield, the Louisiana Returning Board—does not offer any very hopeful grounds, and yet he may possibly do better for the country, and for the South especially, than we are disposed to believe or anticipate. He may not make his Cabinet out of the most rotten timber in the Radical lumber yard. If he takes such corrupt trunks as Morton, Chandler, Don Cameron, Logan and Kilpatrick, we may well look out for stealing on a yet larger scale, and for all manner of vices and villainies and oppressions. The South, under such an administration, would be accursed as Egypt was never accursed during the plagues in the time of Pharaoh.

But suppose he selects a different kind of timber—men who are not hollow in heart and decayed in moral character. Suppose he invites Bristol and Ervate and Jewell, and other men of his party of similar character, to take a place in his Cabinet. Suppose he even invites Lamar or Gordon or Ransom to take a portfolio. Will not such a start give promise of a better race than we can now hope for? Suppose he gets rid of carpet-baggers in the South and makes all of Grant's officials walk the plank. Suppose a political millennium, do you say? Then let us wait, and for the present hope that the worst may not be realized.—W. L. Star.

Bids for the South.

Having failed in the effort to govern the South by negro votes, the Radicals now propose to divide and conquer. The Washington Republican wishes to have some "respectable" men at the South in the Radical party. It "believes that the time is coming when this will be the case, and that it cannot come too soon. And as a first step toward such a desirable consummation, we are in favor of having the present State Governments of the South to sustain themselves or perish, just as the people shall be for or against them, seeing it is only that violence is restrained and peace preserved. We are in favor of inviting Southern statesmen, having the support of their people, to the councils of the Administration, and of consolidating the country under a government beloved of all, because commensurate with the interests of all, and consulting the good and happiness of all."

White Slavery in South Carolina.

The slavery of the blacks has been abolished in South Carolina, as in the other Southern States, but what shall be said of the condition of the whites in that State when their rifle clubs are not permitted to turn out to celebrate the birth day of the Father of his Country? What shall be said of a Commander-in-chief, a President of the United States, who authorizes an order forbidding the "members" of such clubs to "make any public demonstration or parade" on the anniversary of the birth of George Washington? And this order is issued by the Post Commandant, and is to be enforced, if need be, at the point of the bayonet and the mouth of cannon. "My orders," says the Commandant, "require me to see that no such parade takes place." What would George Washington have said if he could have foreseen that one of his successors in office, in a time of profound peace, would ever direct such an order to be made?

What becomes of the provision of the Constitution of the United States that "the right of the people to keep and bear arms shall not be infringed?"

We take it the demonstration was to have been entirely peaceable; and under the circumstances it certainly looks like an arbitrary, unwarranted, unconstitutional exercise of arbitrary power.—N. Y. Sun.

Room for the Leper.

The miserable travesty upon honesty has been played out, and the figures eight and seven stand as an eternal byword and reproach to the American name. They are as indelibly stamped upon our history for all time as the mark of Cain—a damning disgrace that naught can wash away. Fraud, like another prostitute, has been decked out in the raiment of virtue, seated upon the sacred throne of Justice, and eight out of fifteen of the arbiters, in whose hands were placed the destinies of the nation at the most critical period of our existence, have bowed down and worshipped it. Under the dome of the National Capitol, and within the consecrated walls of the highest legal tribunal in the land, patriotism, truth and law have been sacrificed on a polluted altar, reared by partisanship, and the judicial ermine has been made the cloak to sanction the grossest outrages ever perpetrated upon any people. By their action Friday the majority of the Joint High Commission (God save the mark!) have placed a premium on knavery of the deepest dye, and constituted what was intended for the conservation of our institutions the refuge of such scoundrels and traitors as in the record of political intrigue defy all comparison.

And these eight are representatives of the party that would "make treason odious." These are among the mightiest of the exponents of the great principles of Republicanism. These are chieftains in the noble army of defenders of the constitution and preservers of the Union—high priests of the faith of our fathers. High heaven, what mockery! How long shall it be before the scorpion lash of public indignation shall mete out to them just retribution? How long before public virtue shall cry out on each of them "Room for the leper," and they shall be cursed with the withering curse of the betrayed? For the honor of the nation we pray that it may not be long. The final decision we must abide by.—The true men of the country have pledged their faith, and they must not prove recreant. But by all the glories of the past, by the ashes of those who first gave form and shape to our governmental structure, by every tradition of liberty, by every inspiration of patriotism, it becomes us to brand our condemnation upon the unholy act so deeply that to all future generations it shall be a warning against the hell-born heresies of Radicalism. Be it the part of patriotism to see that the names of these treasonable eight are consigned to the cess-pool of political abomination, out of which they were raised to prominence, and that they be shunned like the poison of asps.—Richmond Enquirer.

The Feeling in South Carolina.

The Charleston News and Courier says: There is not, it must be remembered, any doubt that Wade Hampton is Governor of South Carolina. The Constitution of the State provides that "the person who has received the highest number of votes shall be Governor;" and it is conceded on all sides that Governor Hampton received the highest number of votes at the election held in November. Upon that the people stand. The Supreme Court cannot make Governor Hampton the Governor of South Carolina; the Court can only declare him Governor, and recognize him as such. Governor he is, and Governor he will be, or a hundred thousand Carolinians will know the reason why! The time is past when any Court in South Carolina could by action, or inaction, nullify the will of the people. When the means provided by law shall have failed them, the people will resort to other measures.

Jealousy and Murder in a Ball-Room.

At a country ball about eight miles from Jasper, Pickens county, on Friday night last, were Mrs. Cowart, daughter of William Fowler, about 26 years of age, and Mrs. Suthard, daughter of J. Hambrick, about 18 years of age. The former had for some time been divorced, and the latter had been married only about a year.

Mrs. Cowart accepted the tender of Mr. Suthard to be her partner in the dance, and as the two went on the floor Mrs. Suthard approached Mrs. Cowart and objected. Mrs. Cowart, however, refused to yield the company of Mr. Suthard for the dance.

Thereupon Mrs. Suthard became enraged, and in a moment the infuriated women clenched each other by the hair, and after a struggle fell to the floor, fighting like enraged tigresses. Mrs. Suthard, with an open knife, cut Mrs. Cowart's throat from ear to ear, killing her almost instantly.—Atlanta (Ga.) Constitution.

Acquiescence and Retribution.

The leading Democratic journals are urging acquiescence on the part of the people to the unjust and disgraceful decision of the Electoral Commission.—They are right. We must yield. The Commission was the unworthy medium through which the Democrats and the nation expected justice. The Judges and Senators composing this Commission have soiled their ermine with ineffaceable stains. We trusted in them, and have been deceived. We gave them the dictatorship in the great question, and they have proven themselves to be both cowards and partisans. We looked to them to save the country from everlasting reproach and the sneers of her enemies, they have dishonored her by seating a man with a vitiated title in the President's chair, by refusing to listen to the voice of the so-called sovereign people, by crowning Fraud with triumph and by humbling Truth to the dust.—Yet, we too say, submit. We prefer an honorable defeat to a dishonored, contemptible, tainted and undeserved farce that calls itself a victory. The Electoral Commission has killed the Republican party. If Hayes accepts the Presidency, as no doubt he will do, he will be the last of that party who will ever receive the semblance of support from the American Republic. We think, too, that his tenure of office if he follows the example of the expiring administration, will be classed in America's future history with that of Rome's "last of the Tarquins."—Wilmington Journal.

The Redemption of Florida.

The uncontested inauguration of a Democratic Governor and organization of a General Assembly, Democratic in both branches, in Florida, add another State to the number of those which have succeeded in rehabilitating themselves in their normal right of self-government, despite every effort of the Federal administration. Of the half score of Southern commonwealths which were subverted by Radical malice some ten years ago, but two now await redemption—South Carolina and Louisiana—and the full and final deliverance of these is a mere question of time. It may be some months yet before they attain those blessings of peace and freedom now enjoyed by their sister States, or it may be that this glorious consummation may be reached as it was in Florida—suddenly, and at an entirely unexpected moment; but, whatever the length of the journey still to be traversed, a happy termination thereof is sure. The delectable mountains are in full sight, and it but needs that the people of these two still struggling States play the man like their brethren elsewhere, to lift their feet also out of the quagmire and plant them on the solid rock.

The redemption of Florida, we repeat, is but another evidence of the proposition it is impossible to keep the South down. No more ingenious instrument to this end was ever invented than that demagogue scheme of hate and villainy known as Reconstruction; no greater political power exists in this country than that lodged in the hands of the general government; and yet this gigantic authority operating this infamous scheme has failed to permanently subdue the spirit of a single Southern State. One by one all the others have set aside the rotten pretences foisted upon them and erected in their stead honest, decent, and lawful governments of their own, and what all the others have done South Carolina and Louisiana will do as certain as the sun shines in the heavens. There is no power, be it remembered, in these United States which can permanently keep the South, or any State thereof, down. Even as the cork will by the laws of its nature rise to the surface from under a superincumbent pressure, just so can a people determined to be free get the better of usurpation and despotism in the long run. In the strength of this principle, even little Florida has just been too much for the entire Executive authority, army, and all of the United States.

1880.

The Washington Union heads its leader of yesterday, "Tilden for 1880." The Union has more faith than we have. See what has taken place in the last six months. See how we wind up a patriotic centennial. We shall not "hang our banner on the outer wall" just now—we have folded it away tenderly. Tilden, Hendricks and reform has not been besmirched. We do not know what may happen. There may not be a United States of America in 1880—there may be no such thing as a republic or a president. Elections by the people are already gone. Returning boards and even electoral commissions may follow. Let the Republican party—the party of moral ideas—the better class of the north finish up their present dirty job before we calculate on the future.—Lynchburg (Va.) News.

Eloped on the Morning Previous.

An affecting story comes from Oakland. A wealthy, middle aged Englishman had become somewhat jealous of his pretty wife. A young New Yorker, with engaging manners and a cutaway coat, was the cause of his disquietude. The disturbed Benedict concluded to try the threadbare trick of ostensibly going up to Sacramento for a week. The second day, however, he returned and let himself quietly into the house. In the library were several coats of mail brought over from England, and in one of these he hid. Then he awaited developments. To his great astonishment, 9 o'clock passed without any one calling or his wife coming down stairs. At about 1 A. M. he fell asleep through fatigue and began snoring. The butler thought he heard burglars about, so he came down stairs in his night-gown, with a double barreled gun under his arm. The jealous gentleman had just begun to dream he was an iron-clad when a handful of quail shot took him in the breast-plate, and, amid his terrific shrieks, the butler promptly put the other load into the pier glass, under the impression that another burglar was drawing a bead on him. After the whole neighborhood had been aroused, the mistake was discovered. Amid the snickers of the entire assembly the chagrined man crawled up stairs to his bed room. A small note was sticking on the pin cushion. His wife had eloped the morning before!—San Francisco Mail.

Lawlessness in South Carolina.

Darlington county, Whittemore's camping-ground and Chamberlain's buszard roost, is reported to be in a deplorable condition. Incendiary fires are of almost nightly occurrence, and murders bid fair to become as common as ordinary thefts used to be. The people of the county have no confidence in the courts. A plea of guilty is barely sufficient to insure the conviction of a criminal. Shall the thieves, burglars and murderers go unwhipped of justice? The Darlington News, which has been untiring in exposing and denouncing the crimes in the county, sees no other remedy than to search out the notorious offenders and mete out to them the penalty of their misdeeds. So shall they know that they cannot escape punishment, although they may evade the technicalities of the law. There is a gang of cutlaws near Timmonsville who may become an unwieldy element in the course of a few months. As long as these outlaws are allowed to defy the law, so long will these outrages grow in number and atrocity. No people, in such a State as South Carolina, will lightly resort to lynch law, and so resume the authority delegated to those who fail to give them security and peace. It will be unnecessary when Governor Hampton's authority shall be acknowledged everywhere. Until then the people must protect themselves as best they can.—Charleston News and Courier.

The Painless Death.

In a recent holiday lecture at the Royal Institution, Prof. Tyndall, speaking of the painless death by electricity, remarked that Franklin was twice struck senseless by the shock. He afterwards sent the discharge of two large jars through six robust men, who fell to the ground and got up again without knowing what had happened, neither hearing nor feeling the discharge; and Priestly, too, who made many valuable contributions to electricity, received the charge of two jars, but did not find it painful. Prof. Tyndall said this experience agreed with his own; that, in the theater of the Royal Institution, and in the presence of an audience, he once received the discharge of a battery of 15 Leyden jars. Unlike Franklin's six men, he did not fall, but, like them, he felt nothing; he was simply extinguished for a sensible interval. This may be regarded as an experimental proof that people killed by lightning suffer no pain. Now, the measured velocity of electricity is many thousand times greater than the measured velocity of sensation in the nerves. Hence the electrical concussion reaches the center of life without any possible announcement by the eye or ear or sense of feeling. There is abundant evidence that death by a rifle ball traversing the brain is for the same reason entirely without consciousness or pain. A rifle ball, however, is a tortoise compared with the electric flash.

Dr. Ely McClellan, of the United States army, stationed now at Atlanta, Georgia, has made a special study of the recent yellow fever epidemic in Savannah, and has made a report to the board of health, which is highly commended by the papers of that city. Among other things he shows, by careful calculations, that the pecuniary loss to the city of Savannah and the State of Georgia by the epidemic was not less than \$5,609,857.