

A. S. PARKER, Editor. WHO WILL REPRESENT?

Heretofore, for nearly a hundred years, the people have decided who was to be their President, by ballot, each State appointing its electors by a mode prescribed by its Legislature.

The first disagreement arose over the vote of Florida. On the first day of this month, the count of the electoral vote was begun by the two houses of Congress, and proceeded with unobscured regularity.

Florida passed, the count will proceed until Louisiana is reached, when there will be course be another prolonged hitch. The conclusion in the Florida case is not regarded as decisive as to Louisiana.

Here is the letter to West, which was opened by himself and stated to be in Wells hand-writing. NEW ORLEANS, LA., Nov. 21, 1876. MY DEAR SENATOR,—I regret much not seeing you when here. I wanted to say much to you which would be at least imprudent to put upon paper.

THE LOUISIANA FRAUD.

For some time past the fraud in the counting of the presidential vote of Louisiana, has been the subject of congressional inquiry at Washington. One Maddox, a government officer, an agent in the Treasury Department, after refusing to answer questions, finally came out in what he declared to be a clean breast of all he knew in regard to the vote frauds by which the vote of Louisiana was declared to be for the Hayes electors.

Stripping Maddox, testimony of details in a substance that soon after the election he was in New Orleans, and that he had a conversation with Wells whom he had known for more than twenty-five years, and that in his and subsequent conversations, Wells told him that the Democratic majority in that State was so large as to be sufficient to handle, and that he did not know where to throw out Democratic votes, nor under what pretext sufficient to give the State to the Republicans.

It is the Tilden interest that is to be served, and he was certainly not a candidate against Grant for the Senate. So a President of the United States is to secure his election by means so stopped in front. We have

paid, and must at a have the countenance of men of position in his party. His latter demand may account for the eulogies pronounced upon him in the United States Senate by Sherman of Ohio.

Maddox was despatched as the confidential agent of Wells, bearing a letter of credit from him, to Washington City. He was also the bearer of another letter under seal, but written in his presence, from Wells to West, Radical Senator from Louisiana.

The entire plans are unfolded with a particularity as to detail that can scarcely fail to carry conviction of its truth. Maddox is corroborated by the evidence of Col. Pickett, and also by the evidence of one Littlefield, one of the clerks of the Wells board. He also produced the letter of credit to himself from Wells, also the undelivered sealed letter from Wells to West, both of which are strongly corroborative, and their genuineness is not denied but on the contrary positively admitted.

Washington Letter. Congressional Proceedings—Electoral Commission—District Police Board—True Inwardness of the Pension Office—Chandlers Bank account—A Little Dodge of the Freedmen's Bank People—Wells of Louisiana—Theatrical—Local notes, etc.—Feb. 7th 1877.

The secret sessions of the Electoral Commission give Congress its only chance to transact ordinary business. Yesterday the Senate and House had long legislative sessions and although little was completed much of that preliminary work always necessary in such bodies was done. The Senate refused to pass over the President's veto the bill abolishing the Police Board of this District. The resignation from the Board of Murtagh who was the most obnoxious of its members, and who has been shown to have used the Police force to break down private character and prevent the execution of the law, saved the Board from annihilation. In the Senate there was much discussion of the bill to amend the Pacific Railroad acts so as to create a sinking fund for the payment of their indebtedness to Government. No final action was taken. Senator Gordon speaks on the subject today. It is not thought the bill will pass. The Union of this morning says, referring to the secret session of the Electoral Commission yesterday: "It is assumed from present indications that a majority of the commission will decide first, in addition to the electoral certificates, no evidence can be received in regard to the Florida case, except such as related merely to the action of the Florida State government subsequent to the Presidential election. This includes the courts. Conceding this to be the determination of the Commission, their inquiries in regard to matters of fact will be restricted to a comparatively narrow range, and a final decision in the Florida case may be expected sooner than has been generally anticipated. There were rumors abroad last night as to the vote in commission by which this alleged decision was reached—some giving it as thirteen to two, others eleven to four, etc. But nothing definite is known at this writing.

An ex-clerk of the secret service bureau of the Pension Office publishes a letter explaining how the money is used which is voted by Congress for the detection of fraudulent pension claims. He gives dates, names, and other particulars, and says the money is used to pay for the expenses of the Pension commission and his party. He says the official showings by which the commission induces Congress to make large appropriations for the detection of fraud, and that the saving to Government is not made as claimed, and he says the change is made so as to stop in front. We have

Comment upon this letter is unnecessary. It speaks for itself. No reference to Senatorship, or West's danger.

A. MURRAY. We notice that Col. T. M. Holt, our Senator, has introduced a bill for the relief of our worthy countryman, A. Murray, former Sheriff of the county. We trust the bill will pass. It is for the purpose of enabling him to collect taxes due him as Sheriff from 1868 to 1872. He indulged the people and paid their taxes for them, and now he is powerless to collect the money, and they, forgetting his kindness, will not pay. His accounts as Sheriff are settled in full, and have been for years, both with the county and State. His indulgence has cost him thousands of dollars, which is now due him from hundreds of men. They ought to pay, and the Legislature ought, in common justice, and we hope will empower him to enforce payment.

Of course the bill protects amply all those who have paid their taxes, whether they have preserved their receipts or not. Of the many bills of a private character which have been introduced this session, there is, we venture, not one more meritorious than the one introduced by Col. Holt, for the relief of A. Murray.

THE LATEST.

The Electoral Commission in giving their reasons for giving the vote of Florida to Hayes and Wheeler say that, under the law in force on the day of election, it was not competent to hear evidence to show that the persons declared elected by the returning board had not been so elected—in other words they took that the finding of the returning board was conclusive and could not be impeached. In regard to the alleged intelligibility of Humphreys one of the Hayes electors, the Commission held that there was not proof sufficient to show that he held a federal office on the day when the electors were appointed. It is claimed that this latter ruling will certainly be fatal to the counting of one vote from Oregon for Hayes. In that event the election will go to the House. There is a prolonged controversy over a Louisiana. It is about time truth was rising from her crushed position.

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Pension office will bear investigation whether its present head is an efficient and fit one or not. One of the House committees is said to have captured Secretary Chandlers bank account for the time he has been chairman of the Republican National committee. There would be interesting facts in that account, though no doubt figures are there made to lie. It seems now likely that the government will purchase the Freedmen's bank building and also authorize the commissioners who are winding up the bank affairs to purchase, at public or private sale, real estate mortgages to be made. This real estate, which is mostly in this city, and as land has hardly any market value at this time, it has been found impossible to realize on its full incouety of the Government buying what real estate the bank has and at the same time authorizing the bank to buy more seems to have escaped the attention of Congress. In another year Congress may be asked to buy whatever real estate found in the bank has been purchased. It looks like a thin game to make the people of the United States pay the debt of the swindling carter-burgers who run the institution and got rich out of it. Wells of the Returning Board was further examined yesterday, and asked to explain how the Hayes electors had rackabout the same vote in that State, although in some parishes a part of them were by mistake left off the ticket. He blustered a great deal but this is one of a large lot of things in his course, which is inexplicable on any theory which admits his honesty.

THE LATEST REPENTANCE.

The Tribune's repentance is not of that kind which we may say "better late than never." The day of Wells, Maddox, Littlefield, and their fellows has passed, and it proffers so one now for the Tribune to say that, in what they tell us about themselves—Littlefield, Maddox, Pickett, Wells, and all the rest—we have a view of the interior of Louisiana politics which the Republican party can hardly contemplate with composure. If the party is to endure not merely in Louisiana but in any of the States, these clean nests must be broken up at once. Republicanism cannot bear the discredit of such a series of fraud. The character of the Republican administration of Louisiana, from the gaugers who stay in front of lively stables up through the intermediate grades of constable, judge, legislator, and governor, to the Returning Board which sits at the top, making and unmaking all the rest, unfortunately admits of no debate. That must be reformed root and branch, and the reform will have to begin by pressure from Washington.

"Reform" of the Tribune's sort has already begun at Washington. No sooner had Maddox, whether from fear, or a remnant of virtue, or a knowledge that there was nothing left in Louisiana to steal, indicated a desire to turn from the scene of his evil ways, than Grant promptly removed him from office. Grant and the Tribune and their party are in perfect accord. All reports as to the expense of these courts look like the report of a man who has plundered the property, the money, or the electoral votes of which they have plundered the people of Louisiana. They are worse than Amias. When he repented he only kept back part of the price.—The Observer.

COUNTY GOVERNMENT.

As the passage of this bill providing for a change in the system of our county governments has been determined upon, and inasmuch as this changed system provides for the appointment of the magistrates by the Legislature, and gives to them the entire control of county affairs, we suppose our Senators and Representatives, from the various counties, are casting about for the names of suitable persons in each of the townships in their respective counties, to be appointed magistrates. As a matter of course we do not propose any suggestions as to individuals, but we will submit a general remark. And, in the first place we beg to premise it, with the observation that the change cannot be regarded as popular in this immediate section, and but for the acknowledged necessities of the eastern counties it would be quite unpopular. However, much depends on the appointments made. Great care should be taken in this. In the first place, of course fitness must be sought, and in the next place men should be selected who will not by their want of accommodation, and churlish manners, render any system that places them in office objectionable. Some heed should be paid to the supposed choice of the people.

And again, regard should be had to the location of the appointees. They should come as nearly as may be from different portions of a township, so that the convenience of the people may thereby be served. All these matters should be well considered in making the selection of men to be appointed magistrates. Judicious and politic appointments will do much to silence objections on the part of many persons to the proposed change. The necessity for it, in so far as the eastern counties are concerned is admitted, and for this reason our people will acquiesce in the proposed change, but if this is expected without complaint, much care must be taken in the selection, and regard be had to the convenience and wishes of the people. If men should be appointed who are poorly fitted to discharge the duty, it will be to the great injury of the people, and it is to be feared that the selection of such a class to the position of magistrates will be to the injury of the people.

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