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Feb. 27, 1878.

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Ideas about our State Debt.

MR. GOODLOE'S OPINION.

Daniel R. Goodloe, Esq., has written a letter to the New York Sun concerning the recent election in this State and the debt of the State, in the course of which he gives expression to the doctrine that the Legislature of North Carolina which created a debt of several millions, was an illegal Legislature, because its members were not elected by all the voters of the State qualified. Mr. G. says:

"Shortly after the meeting of the Convention which framed the new Constitution in December, 1868, a Rink was formed among the members and others for the purpose of speculating in the State bonds. The principal of the anti-war debt was then nearly ten millions, and the unpaid interest which had accrued amounted to nearly as much more. The speculators of the truly loyal and patriotic carpet-baggers was first to cry down the credit of the State and thereby bring about a depreciation of the bonds in the usual 'bearing' style. They were successful, and invested no debt to the full extent of their resources. I have myself seen an article written, or procured to be written, and published at the instance of two carpet-bag members in a New York newspaper in December, 1867, or January, 1868, which represented the State to be hopelessly bankrupt, and stated that the best thing to be done was to compromise the debt. Doubtless many other articles of similar tenor were published in Northern newspapers about the same time, and if you will consult your price current and the Ring having laid in a supply of the depreciated bonds, then went to work to raise their market value. They were accordingly seized with a spasm of 'honor and good faith' which culminated in the adoption of the guaranty clause above quoted.

If the public debt had not been more than duplicated by the very men who put this provision into the Constitution, it might have been more bearable. But under existing circumstances, supposing the 'new bonds' to be legitimate, this clause of the Constitution requires every member of the Legislature to take an oath that he will vote taxes which would amount to the confiscation of nearly all the net earnings of the people annually.

The above is not a random assertion. It is susceptible of demonstration. For the whole taxable property of the State is only about \$110,000,000. The public debt, if we count in the 'new bonds' as a part of it, amounts to \$35,700,000; and the annual interest, at six per cent is \$2,262,000, or 2.38 per cent, on the whole real and personal property of the people. It is well known that a whole people, especially where agriculture is almost the exclusive interest, realize, one year with another, not more than 2 1/2 per cent profits, so that if taxes were levied sufficient to pay the interest of the whole genuine and spurious debt of the State, to say nothing of current State expenses, the people would be robbed of their whole earnings.

It is no uncommon thing for States, as well as individuals, to find themselves in circumstances which make it impossible to pay their debts. Let every man ask himself the question then, how he would like to be under the solemn obligations of an oath to devote his whole earnings to his creditors, leaving nothing, literally, nothing for the education of his children and the purchase of the simplest comforts for his family. I know that the Shylocks will say that it was his own fault, and that he should pay the forfeit of his life-blood; but such will not be the righteous verdict of public opinion. The people of North Carolina found themselves in this predicament. There representatives in the Legislature could not take their seats until they had first taken an oath to tax them out of all their net earnings for the purpose of paying a debt imposed on them by fraud.

But I will now show that the 'new bonds' have no validity, not because they were issued in violation of the states which authorized them, nor because they were run off with and misapplied by the knavish agents in whose hand they were placed, though this last statement is true; but for the greater reason that the body which authorized their issue in the name of the State of North Carolina was not a Legislature elected under its Constitution, but that it was fraudulently chosen in violation of the most essential clauses of that instrument, viz: those which secure the right of suffrage. I raise no issue about the constitutionality of the Reconstruction acts of Congress, nor about the validity of the Constitution framed by the carpet-baggers and adopted under military supervision and control. But the point is that the Constitution thus made and thus ratified was wholly set aside and violated in the 'election' of the so-called Legislature which issued the stolen bonds.

The carpet-baggers and some of their unscrupulous native allies would have disfranchised the great body of the white people who were not ready to vote with them. But this they feared to do, lest it might cause the rejection of their Constitution; and they reluctantly yielded to the prevalent popular will, which demanded that every man should enjoy his antecedents, should enjoy the right of suffrage. Accordingly the sixth article, section 1, defines the qualifications of an elector as follows:

"Every male person born in the United States, and every male person who has been naturalized, twenty-one years old or upward, who shall have resided in this State twelve months next preceding the election, and thirty days in the county in which he offers to vote, shall be deemed an elector."

It will be seen that this provision of the State Constitution admits to the right

That Big Beat in California.

[New York Journal of Commerce.]

The most powerful ring west of the Alleghenies has been overthrown in California. The great—the hitherto inviolable—Central Pacific Railroad power has at last fallen. That tremendous monopoly has owned California. It has elected Governors, Legislatures, Senators, Representatives, Judges, Mayors, Sheriffs, Coroners, and all the public officials worth the having. It has had its hirelings in both parties. A man might be elected to office as a "Republican" or "Democrat," but whatever his political label, he was pretty sure to prove a useful friend of the Railroad Ring whenever it wanted a vote or a helping hand. Its power was felt far outside of California. It had its official benchmen in every State on the Pacific slope, electing them by its money or its influence. At Washington it was particularly strong, being represented by the ablest lobby ever seen at the Capitol, and moulding legislation at its will. Suddenly—as in a night—this giant monopoly has gone down before the will of the people of California. Let those faint-hearted ones who are despairing of the republic look at this wonderful revolution and take courage! The victory over the Ring has been complete, not only in San Francisco, but everywhere—nearly all the towns of the State giving anti-monopoly majorities. The voters were all out; there never was such a rallying to the polls. At Sacramento, where the company has its workshops, and puts on airs of proprietorship in the bodies and souls of the people, the Ring was whipped by 1,000 majority, when the beat that had been expected by the "Antis" was to reduce the Ring majority to 300. From present advances it appears that the reformers have complete possession of both Houses of the Legislature (which insure the election of a Reform Senator), and they have nearly everything else down to the humblest municipal offices. We judge that they have gone clear through the State with their purpose, and that for one year at least the Pacific Railroad cannot carry California in its breach pockets. A characteristic incident is reported from San Francisco. The manager of the Ring campaign at that point had been throwing his whole strength for the Republican legislative ticket, thinking that would win against the "Antis"; but during the election hours he saw reason to believe that the Democratic ticket was the best to stand by, and he suddenly shifted his followers to that. But it was all of no use—the free and independent candidates beat both of the others. This little item reveals the tactics which the Railroad Ring has always followed. It cares nothing for either party except as it can use that party; it is ready to betray as it is to bribe.

California Bandits.

Murder and Robbery.

[Hollister (Aug. 27), Correspondence of the San Francisco Alta.]

At 8 o'clock eight Californians rode up to the store of Mr. Snyder, about twelve miles from Hollister, at the cross-road from Tres Pinos to San Benito River. No suspicious were aroused, because the native Californians are very numerous and generally inoffensive. They dismounted and entered the store. Some engaged in conversation, and others occupied the attention of the clerk, John Ustrah, until all seemed to be in readiness, when they drew their revolvers, and ordered the inmates of the store, some three or four in number, to lie down, which they did. So quietly did they proceed that the clerk was surprised when he looked around to see the prostrate forms, and was still more so when requested to lie down himself, with two or three revolvers pointed at him. He laid down, and a part of the robbers proceeded to bind their hands behind their backs, and pinion their legs together.

While this was going on within, the terrified prisoners were started at the report of three pistol-shots without, which proved to be the death-knell of Mr. L. Davidson, proprietor of the hotel, Mr. Redder a teamster, and a Portuguese shepherd, name unknown. It seems that these three men, being outside the building, did not readily obey the commands of the assassins, or attempted to escape, and were instantly killed, two of them being shot through the breast and the other in the mouth. The robbers then proceeded to search for plunder and money.

Mrs. Snyder lives in the house adjoining the store, and the robbers ordered her to deliver up all the money she had, which she did readily. Then they went to Mr. Snyder, and released him on his promise to give up all his money, which he did, amounting to some \$500 in coin and several hundred dollars in checks and drafts. After completing their search for money and jewelry, the pockets of all their victims they proceeded to divest themselves of their clothes, and dressed up in Mr. Snyder's best clothes, of which he had plenty upon his shelves. Only one of the band was masked, and two or three of them were well known.

All the time they conducted themselves in a cool and intrepid manner, proving themselves to be the desperate band that Vasquez has so long been credited with leading. But little was said, and that in a whisper. Vasquez himself remarked that \$5,000 reward had been offered for his head.

After completing the robbery they took all the horses they could find and left, most of them going toward the San Benito.

Some are apprehensive that the New Idria stage may meet this band and suffer at their hands.

LATER—Gov. Booth has telegraphed offering \$1,000 reward for the capture of any or all of the parties. Sheriffs Wasson, of Monterey, and Adams, of Santa Clara, arrived at noon to day, organized a party of men and started in pursuit at 5 P. M. The robbers were seen at Willow Creek, forty miles beyond Tres Pinos, by a camping party at daylight this morning.

Castelar in the Catacombs.

[From his recent work, Old Rome and N. Italy.]

Above, the temples were magnificent; surrounded with gardens and meadows; where innumerable birds sang in aviaries; marble vestibules adorned with wondrous statues, where the cunning of the sculptor gave to the inert stone all the warmth and vitality of the soul; museums for the preservation of the swords of the early heroes, and of the trophies they took in field and city; while below, in the darkness—close to those wonders of history, close to those miracles of art—lay the sombre temple of some unimagined law, a law higher than the Christian worship, and peopled by some humble figures, and peopled by some humbled figures, and peopled by some tortured by despotism, and often tortured in drunken orgies.

Then those fanatics in creed, superstitions by temperament, secluded in darkness, believers in the crucified Jesus, these insane preachers, these passionate sectarians—the feeble, the poor, the ignorant—were, after all those summoned to awaken and to call down the living flame of the spirit on the intoxicated and corrupt world, which poisoned with its orgies and its vices not only the human conscience, but even material nature.

What strength had they? Arms! Their word. What riches! Their faith. What power! That of resignation and suffering. Had they legions! The legions of martyrs. Had they property! That of the tomb. What they really possessed was a force which is unconquerable, a weapon that is never blunted, riches that cannot be lost, possessions that cannot be exhausted.

The mysterious light without shadow, and which grows not dim; the living fire, which quickens and is not quenched; the immortal soul of nature, the acting spring of society, the air in which the soul is free; an unfulfilling faith bestowed on them by Heaven with the gift of miracles. The conquered were conquerors; the proscribed became powerful; the dead were givers of life; the weak, with hands pierced by the nails of the cross, vanquished the savage-fierceness of barbarians.

"Mary, why did you kiss your hands to the gentleman opposite, this morning?" said a careless mother to her blooming daughter. "Why, the gentleman had the impudence to throw a kiss clear across the street to me, and of course I threw it back indignantly. You wouldn't have encouraged him by keeping it, would you?"

Were Wrongs Righted.

If stolen money, like a laying hen, could cackle, what a racket there would be in some men's pockets and premises. If stolen goods, like Chanticleer, could only crow, how many persons would be broken of their rest and kept awake by night. If the hire of laborers—kept back by fraud—could talk, like Balaam's beast, what braying would din some employers' ears. If the wrongs of the widow and the orphan could speak, how many unjust ones would be continually troubled by the ringing of voices in their ears, saying, "Give us our rights." If some lordly maniacs—reared by ill-gotten gain—could articulate, many a stone would cry out of the wall, and many a brick and beam from the timber would answer it: "Woe to him that procreth wicked gain for his house, that he may establish his nest on high." If all things unrightly gotten and wrongly retained could be set free and returned to their rightful owners, what a wonderful exodus would there be from house to house, from person to person, from purse to purse, from capital to labor, from labor to capital. If some "spirit-medium," going from house to house, could enter all the parlors and chambers—plain and princely—whose furniture was bought with other men's money, and could set the several articles in motion—each in the direction of its rightful owner—what a rattling of silver-plate, knives, forks and spoons; what a bustling of chairs and tipping of tables; and would not many a bed of itself get up and walk!

If evil spirits, at the present day, could enter into the various forms of property gotten by fraud—some thing besides wine and rum—what a racket there would be! Many a fat, fancy horse—in the carriage or under the saddle—would, I wren, make its way rapidly down "the steep," and choke rider and all in the depths!

"As the partridge sitteth on eggs and hatcheth them not; so he that getteth riches, and not by right, shall leave them in the midst of his days, and at his end shall be a fool." It is a great thing to have a conscience void of offence toward God and man; a great thing to be able to say; "I have wronged no one—corrupted no one—defrauded no one."—*Christian Era.*

GREAT SMITH.—Commenting upon Gerrit Smith's recent declaration that no judge ought to respect a constitution, the Lynchburg Virginian says:

"Gerrit Smith is not singular in his opinions, for there are thousands like him, at the North, who entertain the same views respecting the obligations of the constitution. Their idea about an 'absolute and everlasting law,' a law higher than the constitution, which some of them declared their willingness to 'spit upon,' was what brought on the late war. And now they are making a great ado because Jefferson Davis recently intimated that the South would never abandon the cause of constitutional liberty, for which it fought four years. That, in substance, is what he said, and all that he meant. A pretty set are they to be prating about 'rebellion,' when they never were willing to be bound by the compact and the letter or spirit of the constitution except when it suited them. Here is a man who served in Congress, and took a solemn oath to support a constitution which he utterly contemns and derides, and wants no judge to regard! The fact that there were so many like him North of Mason and Dixon's line intimated the 'irrepressible conflict' and deluged the land with blood. Let the responsibility rest where of right it belongs."

REMINISCENCES OF PUBLIC MEN.

The North Carolina Gazette (Fayetteville), of the 11th instant, has the following interesting article under the above caption:

By the death of Gen. D. M. Barringer, we are reminded of the last speech we ever heard him make. It was from the balcony of the Fayetteville Hotel, during the last Presidential campaign; and he then stated that he could recall the days of his boyhood, when he used to come over Haymont into the streets of Fayetteville, a barefooted farmer boy, with his father's wagon. He spoke of his attachment and wonder at the greatness and splendor of the place, for at that time Fayetteville was the town of North Carolina.

Many still living here, while reading recently the newspaper accounts of the great French property case, in which Hon. Judah P. Benjamin has been engaged, and in which he has proved the heir-in-law to be two ladies of Georgia, have been carried back to the early part of their lives, when they used to have a certain playmate in the schools of Fayetteville—a little, unprepossessing fellow, sickly, frail, with Jewish features, but with a bright and active mind, and a quickness of perception and depth of understanding which gave promise of his future greatness. His family moved farther South while the school was still in full sail, and took up their abode in Louisiana.

The farmer boy who followed the wagon was the future member of Congress and the Minister to the Court of her Catholic Majesty, the Queen of Spain.—The obscure pupil at the common school was afterwards Secretary in Davis' Cabinet, honored barrister at the English bar, and to day Counselor of her Majesty, the Queen of England.

Who is the oldest lunatic on record? Time out of mind.

The Rev. Mrs. Fannie U. Roberts has announced that when called upon to solemnize marriages she will reverse the custom and kiss the bridegroom.

To the hostess, "Woman—she is a link between Heaven and earth." Premises once replied: "So is a sausage thrown up in the air!"

If Chang and Eng, the Siamese twins should get intoxicated, what a picture it would make. We should probably see Chang high Eng riding.

A Beloit, Wis., editor takes it upon himself to say that "Cows, elephants, or rhinoceroses may run gracefully, but women never."

The Massachusetts papers describe a ghost which frequents a hotel in Suffolk. It is probably only the liquor-in-spectre.

A plucky policeman in St. Louis who was covered by a burglar's revolver, merely mentioned that "hanging wasn't played out," and secured his prisoner.

A Western paper tells us that a favorite hotel is to be kept this season at one of the watering-places "by the widow of Mr. —, who died last summer on a new and improved plan.

An Indiana woman's suit for divorce had lingered along until she was completely out of patience, burst into her lawyer's office last week, her face radiant with joy, and exclaimed, "Squire, the old man's dead!"

Lightning recently struck a telegraph pole and ran along the wire into the office at Goateville, Ind., when the operator, seated at the instrument, excitedly telegraphed back, "Don't send so d—d fast."

"Thomas," said a father to his son, "don't let that girl make a fool of you. Remember the adage that 'Love is blind.'" "Oh, that adage won't wash; talk about love's being blind! Why I see ten times as much in that girl as you do."

General Rosecrans, who has been rail-roading in Mexico for a number of years, thinks that the Mexicans are "brave, generous, docile and thrifty—much more easily led than driven, and more susceptible to and appreciative of kindness than any people in the world."

WHEN! WHAT A NAME.—The niger Pinchebeck, who was once Lieutenant Governor of Louisiana, has the following engraved on his visiting card: "Ex-Lieutenant-Governor Percy Bysshe Shelby Pinchebeck, of New Orleans, La." Modest, ain't it?

That "honesty is the best policy" may be exemplified by the following little incident: A man at Belmont, Mo., sold to a mill owner a saw log which proved to be hollow. As he sold it for a sound log, he voluntarily went and gave back the price, and hauling it to his own yard, chopped it up for firewood. In this operation he found ten \$5 gold pieces which somebody had secreted in it.

The Washington Republican, in alluding to the State debt of North Carolina and the probable action of the next Legislature, says that danger exists in the fact that speculative "rings" have been formed for the purpose of influencing legislation on the subject. This is a note of warning to us. Let us not disregard it. We hope Mr. Turner will unchain his watch dogs when the Legislature meets, and guard the State against the "ring" men.—*Observer.*

Vanderbilt is worth \$80,000,000. A granger out West wants to know if there isn't something wrong in one man owing so much money when a man who has earned nothing by productive industry, but who has simply handled the products of labor, has accumulated that amount in a number of years. It is a proof that nothing is wrong. The whole wrong lies in this, that we are getting too little for our products, and those who handle them are getting too much.