

The Carolina Watchman.

VOL. VIII.—THIRD SERIES.

SALISBURY, N. C., DECEMBER 21, 1876.

NO 10

LETTER FROM WASHINGTON
The Presidential muddle is the sole topic of conversation in all circles here. You hear it in the Capitol, at the Hotels, and indeed everywhere, and yet nothing more can be learned here than in Raleigh or Charlotte. All that I can say is that our friends are hopeful of a peaceful solution. It is rumored that the Republicans held a caucus last night and have determined to make Senator Sherman President of the Senate. If this should prove to be true, the open attempt to stifle the voice of the two Houses of Congress, our friends hope will rather help than injure the right. There is one thing certain, that let the matter result as it may, peace will be preserved. The Northern Democrats will submit, and take these chances to preserve civil liberty and constitutional law through the future action of the two houses. My opinion is that if the Senate counts in Hayes the House will not go beyond a protest, certainly will not attempt to elect Mr. Tilden. When we recollect there is not a single Democratic Legislature in the North, you will see at once how hopeless such an attempt must prove. I have by no means given up all hope. The action of the Governor of Oregon may yet unravel the Gordian knot. If the Congress decide that the Vice-President is merely a ministerial officer in counting and declaring the vote, that will let in the one vote for Tilden from Oregon which will give him the constitutional majority. It should be decided to go behind the certificate in that instance, it opens the door, and an investigation into the vote of the contested States must follow of course. Mr. Edmunds, of Vermont, has a proposition before the Senate to amend the constitution as to constitute the Supreme Court the tribunal to count the vote and declare the result. There are serious objections to this, and it will I think, fail. It is purely a political question and, if adopted, will do more to weaken the confidence and respect the country has for this august body than anything that has ever happened. Our people should remain quiet. An indiscreet act on the part of any Southern State will be quickly seized upon and turned to our disadvantage. We may lose the fruit of our toil, our hopes may be blighted, but we will not be one whit worse off than we have been for the past eight years. Our northern brethren love liberty, but cannot, I think, be made to believe that it will be destroyed even if Hayes is counted in by force and fraud.
Your friend,
R. P. WARING.

COL. WARING'S VIEWS.
WASHINGTON, D. C., Dec. 9, 1876.
The Presidential muddle is the sole topic of conversation in all circles here. You hear it in the Capitol, at the Hotels, and indeed everywhere, and yet nothing more can be learned here than in Raleigh or Charlotte. All that I can say is that our friends are hopeful of a peaceful solution. It is rumored that the Republicans held a caucus last night and have determined to make Senator Sherman President of the Senate. If this should prove to be true, the open attempt to stifle the voice of the two Houses of Congress, our friends hope will rather help than injure the right. There is one thing certain, that let the matter result as it may, peace will be preserved. The Northern Democrats will submit, and take these chances to preserve civil liberty and constitutional law through the future action of the two houses. My opinion is that if the Senate counts in Hayes the House will not go beyond a protest, certainly will not attempt to elect Mr. Tilden. When we recollect there is not a single Democratic Legislature in the North, you will see at once how hopeless such an attempt must prove. I have by no means given up all hope. The action of the Governor of Oregon may yet unravel the Gordian knot. If the Congress decide that the Vice-President is merely a ministerial officer in counting and declaring the vote, that will let in the one vote for Tilden from Oregon which will give him the constitutional majority. It should be decided to go behind the certificate in that instance, it opens the door, and an investigation into the vote of the contested States must follow of course. Mr. Edmunds, of Vermont, has a proposition before the Senate to amend the constitution as to constitute the Supreme Court the tribunal to count the vote and declare the result. There are serious objections to this, and it will I think, fail. It is purely a political question and, if adopted, will do more to weaken the confidence and respect the country has for this august body than anything that has ever happened. Our people should remain quiet. An indiscreet act on the part of any Southern State will be quickly seized upon and turned to our disadvantage. We may lose the fruit of our toil, our hopes may be blighted, but we will not be one whit worse off than we have been for the past eight years. Our northern brethren love liberty, but cannot, I think, be made to believe that it will be destroyed even if Hayes is counted in by force and fraud.
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THE INAUGURAL ADDRESS.
COLUMBIA, S. C., Dec. 14.—The inauguration of Hampton took place in front of Carolina Hall this afternoon. The square in front of the Hall was densely packed by persons of both races, and the houses-tops were covered with spectators. At 3:30 o'clock Hampton was escorted to the stand amid demonstrations of great enthusiasm. The members of the General Assembly occupied the space immediately surrounding the stand, with the crowd in the rear. Gen. Hampton then read his inaugural address, of which the following is an extract:
"Gentlemen of the Senate and House of Representatives: It is with feelings of the profoundest solicitude that I assume the arduous duties and grave responsibilities of the high position to which the people of South Carolina have called me. It is amid events unprecedented in this Republic that I take the chair as Chief Magistrate of this State. In a time of profound peace when no legal officer had been reinstated in the proper discharge of his functions we have witnessed a spectacle abhorrent to every patriotic heart and fatal to Republican institutions—federal troops used to promote the success of a political party. Undimmed, though shocked by this gross violation of the constitution of the country, our people with a determination that no force could subdue, no fraud could defeat, kept steadily, and peacefully in the path of duty, resolved to assert their right as American freemen, at the ballot box, that great court of final resort, before which must be tried the grave question of the supremacy of the constitution and the stability of our institutions, and our institutions. What the verdict of the people of South Carolina has been, you need not be told; it has reverberated throughout the State and its echoes come back to us from every land where liberty is venerated, declaring in

INDIANA.
An Appeal That Means Something—The People Thoroughly Aroused—The Constitution Must Be Kept Inviolable.
INDIANAPOLIS, Dec. 14.—The Democratic Committee has issued an address to the people of Indiana, which calls upon all people without respect to party who make our country's welfare paramount to every other consideration; all who say that the vote of the people shall not be defeated by fraud, and all who stand by fair-play and honesty to meet at their own seats on December 23d, to make expression of the popular judgment that cannot be disregarded, and to appoint men as their delegates to a State convention on January 8th, who will fearlessly and prudently make such declaration and take action as will give our State her proper position and influence in maintaining the Constitution, the government and its rights, and the liberties of the people.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 14.—The counter statement signed by Secretary Chandler, furnished to the press at midnight concludes: "Hayes and Wheeler are elected, and the will of the American people will be carried out and maintained."

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tones that can not be mistaken that standing on the constitution of our country we propose to obey the laws, to preserve as far as in us lies, its peace and honor, and to carry out in good faith every pledge made by us for reform and honest government.

We intend to prove to the world the sincerity of our declarations that the sole motive which inspired the grand contest we have so successfully made was not the paltry ambition for party supremacy, but the sacred hope of redeeming our State. But it was sought to wrest the fruits of this victory from us by a gigantic fraud and a base conspiracy. When the members elect of the general assembly repaired to the capitol to take seats, armed soldiers of the Federal Government confronted them and their certificates of election were examined and passed upon by a corporal of the guard. It was amid these appalling scenes that the members of the general assembly were called on to assume their duties as the representatives of a free State, and that State one of the original thirteen, who won our independence and framed our constitution, was debared the free exercise of their rights by the presence of an armed force. A legal quorum of the Lower House, after placing on record their protest, quietly withdrew from the Capitol and proceeded to organize that branch of the General Assembly. You have seen a minority of the House usurp the powers of the whole body; you have seen the majority expelled from their hall by threats of force; you have seen persons having no shadow of a claim as members, admitted to seats as Representatives by the votes of men who themselves were acting in direct violation of the constitution; and you have seen the last crowning act of infamy by which a candidate for the office of Governor, defeated by the popular vote, had himself declared elected by his conspirators. It is due to my position as the Chief Magistrate of this Commonwealth to place on record my solemn and indignant protest against acts which I consider as subversive of civil liberty and destructive of our form of government.

A great task is before the Conservative party of this State. They entered on this contest with a platform so broad, so strong, so liberal that every honest citizen could stand upon it. They recognized and accepted the amendments to the constitution in good faith; they themselves to work reform and to establish good government; they promised to keep up an efficient system of public education, and they declared solemnly that all citizens of South Carolina, of both races and of both parties should be regarded equal in the eye of the law; all to be fully protected in the enjoyment of every political right now possessed by them. To the faithful observance of these pledges we stand committed, and as the representative of the Conservative party I hold myself bound by every dictate of honor and of good faith to use every effort to have the pledges redeemed fully and honestly. Let us show to all of them that the true interest of both races can best be secured by cultivating peace and promoting prosperity among all classes of our fellow citizens. I rely confidently on the support of the members of the General Assembly in my efforts to attain these laudable ends, and I trust that all branches of the government will unite cordially in this patriotic work. If so united and working with resolute will and earnest determination, we may hope soon to see the dawn of a brighter day for our State. God in His infinite mercy grant that it may come speedily, and may He shower the richest blessings of peace and happiness on our whole people."

At the close of the address the oath of office was administered by Trial Justice Marshall. Hampton as Governor and to W. D. Simpson as Lieut. Governor; the crowd standing uncovered while the ceremony was being performed. The chair in which Gen. Hampton was seated was then wrapped in the national colors, and he was borne on the shoulders of a dozen men to his hotel, escorted by the entire crowd. Several prominent gentlemen addressed the multitude from the front of the hotel, the Congressional committee occupying a prominent position on one of the balconies; after which the crowd quietly dispersed.

THE PUBLIC DEBT.
The effort made by the Legislature of 1874-'75 to consolidate the debt of the State, proves in the main almost entirely fruitless. The act of 1874-'75, entitled "An act to compromise, commute and settle the State debt," authorized the issuance of new bonds of the State for certain classes of old bonds, at rates fixed by the statute. The whole scheme rested upon the willingness of the creditors to make the exchange provided for; and the law was therefore experimental in its nature. Intending it as such, a period was fixed for the operations of the act. Section 9, says that "the provisions of this act shall continue in force until the first day of January, 1878." But a short time, then, remains for the further execution of the act; and a dead letter on the statute books.

In a communication from the State Treasurer to the General Assembly, which we point on another page this morning, it is distinctly set forth to what extent there has been a compliance on the part of the creditors of the State with the act of 1874-'75. Nothing has been done by the Treasurer towards carrying the act into effect. The reasons for this are fully stated. The sum of it is that the public creditors declined the proposition of the State. Mr. Jenkins reports that up to June 24, 1876, there had been only \$22,800 offered, calling for \$9,030 of bonds; and that at that date \$483,600 more were offered calling for \$121,350 of the new bonds. As the expense of engraving bonds would be considerable, Mr. Jenkins did not think it advisable to incur such expenses when only about one bond in fifteen or twenty would be brought in. In addition to this he gives other substantial reasons for his non-compliance—such as the physical impossibility to sign the coupons as required, and sundry defects in the law which would be developed in its execution. On the whole it was manifestly his duty to defer the matter to the meeting of the General Assembly, when the defective portions of the act might be cured.

The question now arises, shall this act be re-enacted after the 1st of January, next, with amendments suggested by the wisdom of the present Legislature, or shall the law be allowed to become a dead letter and the whole question of the settlement of the public debt be suffered to fall back to where it was before the act passed by the last General Assembly?

The subject is one of vital importance to North Carolina. The duty of re-establishing at the earliest possible moment the credit of the State, rests upon us with paramount obligations at this time. It is a duty which should be boldly met and discharged, for, in the language of the preamble to the act of 1874-'75, "the good people of this State are desirous of assuming and paying to the public creditors so much of the just debt of the State as their unfortunate condition will allow."

WASHINGTON, Dec. 14.—The counter statement signed by Secretary Chandler, furnished to the press at midnight concludes: "Hayes and Wheeler are elected, and the will of the American people will be carried out and maintained."

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SOUTH CAROLINA.
Returns in the Office of the Secretary of State Shows Hampton's Election—The Secretary So Certifies Under Seal of the State.
WASHINGTON, D. C., Dec. 15.—Before the inauguration of Hampton, Speaker Wallace produced and read the following official statement from the Secretary of State:
"Vote for Governor elected in 1876. Hampton 92,261, votes, Chamberlain 91,127 votes."
OFFICE OF THE SECY. OF STATE, COLUMBIA, S. C., Dec. 9, 76.
I, J. H. E. Hayne, Secretary of State do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct statement of the vote for Governor at the general election of 1876, as appears by the commissioners' returns now on file at this office. Given under my hand and the seal of the State, at Columbia, this 9th day of December 1876, and in the 100th year of American Independence.
(Signed) J. H. E. HAYNE, Sec'y of State.

COLUMBIA, Dec. 15.—The House committee examined several witnesses and have obtained returns from nearly all the precincts but about fifteen, which will be supplied by testimony. W. D. Simpson, Democratic Lieutenant Governor, to-day sent a letter to the Senate claiming his election and demanding his seat as presiding officer of that body. The letter was read and referred to the Judiciary Committee for report. Another ballot was taken to-day for United States Senator by the Democrats in joint session. The vote was scattering. No choice.

LOUISIANA.
Where the Affidavits of the Returning Boards are Prepared.
NEW ORLEANS, Dec. 15.—Clover, Supervisor of East Baton Rouge submitted a copy of the affidavit which accompanied his returns alleging riot, tumult, violence, fear, dread terrorism throughout the parish on the day of the election. Clover did not witness violence, was informed of it. On cross examination he said the affidavit was prepared in the Custom House of this city. Hugh J. Campbell assisted in preparing it.

CHAMBERLAIN'S INCIENDIARIES AT WORK.
CHARLESTON, Dec. 15.—Twenty stores and residences including the depot, express and telegraph office at Blackville, Barnwell county, were burned. Loss \$40,000. It is believed to be the work of an incendiary. Also a \$11,000 incendiary fire in Florence.

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NO ILLUSIONS!
This is no time to indulge in pleasing illusions. What the people should understand is the exact truth, startling and revolting as it may be. In stating this truth, we do not proceed upon imagination or conjecture. The plan is clearly defined and proclaimed by Republicans themselves without any effort at disguise or concealment.

By law, the votes of the Electoral Colleges are to be counted on the second Wednesday in February, and that law it is proposed to respect. Hitherto this duty has been discharged in the hall of the House of Representatives. On occasion of the last three elections the rule has prevailed, and has not been disputed or questioned, that while the counting was done by the two Houses together, as has been the practice from the beginning of the Government, the objection of either House to the vote of any State sufficed to exclude that State altogether from the count. Now, however, a different method is to be introduced.

The opening of the votes and the counting is to be done in the Senate Chamber, because as the Washington correspondent of the Tribune informs the public, "there are grave reasons why the Senate should not put itself in the power of the House, which need not now be more than hinted at." The President of the Senate, having the returns in his hands, is to open those that he deems proper, to count them by himself alone, and declare the result as he sees it. Only those envelopes from the disputed States that he knows to contain votes for Hayes will be opened by him, and the others will be altogether ignored, whether they contain a Governor's certificate or not. The House is to be invited to be present in the Senate Chamber, but is not to be allowed to have any voice as regards the counting, to offer objections to the vote of any State, or to take any action what ever beyond being present to witness what is done and said by the President of the Senate.

Thus Mr. Hayes is to be declared elected, and if the House should make any troublesome demonstration, Gen. Grant will deal with it. "If," said Grant on Sunday, as he is reported in the N. Y. Times of yesterday, "if there should be any necessity for more troops, he would order them to Washington. We should have peace, if we had to fight for it."

Next comes the inauguration on the 4th of March. This is also to be managed by Gen. Grant with the soldiers and the bayonets of the United States.

This scheme involves the necessity for getting control of the House of Representatives, and this end is to be attained by means similar to those employed to make Hayes President. By counting out members really elected in Louisiana, South Carolina, and Florida, the actual Democratic majority in the next House is believed to have been already reduced to only one member, while there are three vacancies in New Hampshire to be filled at the annual election in March next. These three vacancies must be filled by Republicans. A year ago the Tribune in a long review of New Hampshire politics, stated that any election in that State could be carried by bribery. By this means, or by any other, it is intended that after Mr. Hayes has been inaugurated, a working majority shall be made for him in the House of Representatives, since without this it would be impossible for him to carry on the Government, as it is not expected that the present House will vote any general appropriations that can be availed of after the end of the present fiscal year.

This is the scheme just as it stands. For this scheme the Republican party and all the statesmen of that party so far stand responsible. No voice of dissent against it has yet been heard from any Republican quarter, influential or not influential. The Republicans have the physical power. The army is theirs, just as the Returning Boards of the South are theirs, and no illusion about their purpose to use this power to the bitter end can any longer be admitted. The consummation of their purpose means the end of government by the people through elections, and the substitution of government by an oligarchy of officeholders through public robbers organized as Returning Boards, supported by soldiers, and scouring law and the forms of law.

SENATOR FERRY.
The denial by Mr. Ferry, the President of the Senate, that he has expressed the opinion that the President of the Senate would count as well as open the electoral vote, is a good sign. Unless Mr. Ferry does so hold, it would seem impossible to carry out the Radical programme.

Mr. Ferry was, by a formal resolution of the Senate, declared to be the President of the Senate during the present Congress. This was done after the death of Vice President Wilson, and in order to settle the right to the succession in case President Grant should die. The Radical programme is to remove Mr. Ferry and put Senator Sherman in his place, to which little operation the Michigan Senator will, doubtless, very seriously object. Indeed, it may be set down, that without his active co-operation the whole scheme will be a failure. It is a matter of sincere regret, therefore, to learn that he so emphatically denies having given expression to the opinion attributed to him.—*Ral. Observer.*

True.
The New York Herald is in its Radical week, but it very truly remarks that "the refusal of the Louisiana Returning Board to obey the subpoenas of the committee of Congress sent to investigate their proceedings does not look well."—*Ral. Observer.*

THE TWO SETS OF COMMITTEES.
Both Houses of Congress have appointed committees to investigate the recent elections in Louisiana, Florida, and South Carolina, but the Senate has extended the range of its inquiry into Alabama, Georgia, and Mississippi, and included the years 1875 and 1876. By this latter proceeding the situation will be more complicated than it already is, and new questions will be opened for angry discussion. Whether it was the intention of Mr. Edmunds to divert the public mind from the monstrous frauds in the three States which the Returning Boards have counted for Hayes, will appear hereafter.

It may be assumed in advance that these committees will disagree radically in their conclusions, and in their coloring of the material facts in each case. One side has to expose fraud of the worst kind, and the other side has to sustain it. Consequently, there is little, if any, hope of harmony in the reports. After the paper which John Sherman and his associates signed in New Orleans, and their eulogy of the Returning Board, which Republican committees had previously branded with infamy, it is easy to foresee what sort of document Howe, McMillan, and Wade will lay before the Senate.

The conspirators in South Carolina, Florida, and Louisiana will, of course, throw every possible impediment in the way of a searching investigation by the House committees, until their own friends of the Senate appear upon the ground. There is reason to believe they have been already advised to pursue that course from Washington. The original plan of Mr. Morton was to conduct this investigation at Washington, but when the policy of the House was fully developed, the programme was changed to its present form.

All the returns, records, and reports connected with the elections in these States are in the hands of Kellogg, Chamberlain, Stearns, and their subordinates, who, in some form or other, were connected with the frauds that have been imposed on the country, instead of the votes that were really cast. They, of course, will not scruple at any means by which these iniquities may be ostensibly sustained. If the suppression of evidence, or the falsification of testimony, or the falsification of papers be necessary, there will be no lack of hands to produce them.

The Senate will, of course, be guided by the reports of its own committees, and will not consider even the minority views that may be presented. The Republicans have substantially made up their minds, and they are preparing a case for the people to defend that judgment. They mean to count Hayes in, and they are sustained in that purpose by Grant and all the power which his Administration can exert. All disguise has been thrown off, and every day develops some new scheme to promote this design.

The people who are watching the turn of events at Washington will sift the wheat from the chaff of the two sets of reports that will probably be laid before Congress by the end of this month. Truth will assert itself in spite of all attempts at perversion, and the country will soon settle down to the conclusion which of the two, Hayes or Tilden, is fairly elected. When three States, with all the election machinery in the hands of the Republicans, with the army stationed to help them under the orders of partisan marshals, and with thousands of deputies scattered at the public expense as electioneering agents, return Democratic majorities, it will require something more than the stale charge of intimidation to make the people of the United States accept the results declared in secret by the Returning Boards.

These committees will probably not exert the least influence in bringing the Senate and House of Representatives nearer together than they now are, or in softening the asperities of the debates. But the testimony collected by both will enable the great body of intelligent and independent men, regard the present crisis as involving consequences far graver than the success of either Tilden or Hayes, to form a candid judgment that will go far to shape public opinion, which is more powerful than the President, his Cabinet, and all the conspirators around them combined.—*N. Y. Sun.*

GEN. GRANT'S ALLEGED CONTEMPT FOR JUDICIAL AUTHORITY.
The coarse language in reference to a State Court attributed to Gen. Grant in the reports in the public journals a few days since, would be of comparatively minor importance were it not followed up by acts in strict accordance with its spirit. The report was that the President of the United States, in an interview with members of the national Legislature, used this extraordinary language: "I don't care a damn for the Supreme Court of South Carolina."

The action of the President has been suited to these words. He does not seem to care for any civil authority. He sends an armed soldier to keep men of an adverse political faith out of the hall of a State Legislature. In fact, so far as we are afforded the means of judging, he cares for nothing except to carry out, by bloodshed if need be, his own partisan and personal designs.

It is to be hoped the walls of the White House will never again bear such words from the mouth of a President as we have just quoted, and as a matter of taste, forbear from quoting again.

Close following on an utter disregard of the decisions of the established legal tribunals, tread the wildest anarchy and confusion.—*N. Y. Sun.*

WHAT THE PEOPLE SHOULD BEAR IN MIND.
It is for the interest of the Republican party and of the conspirators who now control it that the progress and the final consummation of the plot to make a President by fraud and force should be violently resisted. They desire that the just passions of the people should be excited to the point of actual sedition, in order that they may seize the opportunity to proclaim a new war, to raise new armies, to subjugate a new rebellion, to hide their own crimes with new bloodshed and ruin, and to gain a new and a long lease of power for themselves. This is their interest; this is what they desire.

On the other hand, it is for the interest of the country, and especially of the Conservative Reform party, which carried the election of last November, that there should be no outbreak, no act of violence, no attempt at forcible resistance to the conspiracy and the usurpation, no opportunity for bloodshed and for armies.

The weapons by which this conspiracy can alone be safely and surely resisted are moral weapons—appeals to the conscience, the judgment, and the patriotism of the people, appeals to them to save the work of the fathers, to maintain the Constitution, to rescue free institutions. The ultimate triumph of truth, justice, and law, and the restoration of self-government in this country, all depend upon the preservation of peace everywhere. Make the contest one of reason and right alone, and reason and right will win. Make it one of force, and reason and right will be destroyed.—*N. Y. Sun.*

SOME PROPHECIES RECALLED.
The conspiracy to deprive the people of this nation of the right to choose their President was foreshadowed by prominent Republicans even before the earliest vote had been thrown on the morning of the seventh of November. The predictions of Mr. Blaine, Newton Booth Murat Halstead, and others, have been verified so fully by the course of events up to this time, that we naturally recur to their language for light on the further development of the plot.

Three weeks before election day the following prophecy issued forth from the St. Louis jail, where the Republican editor of the *Globe Democrat* was then confined for whiskey drinking:
"No man elected by the process resorted to by the Democrats of South Carolina will ever be allowed to take his seat as President of the United States. This is our deliberate judgment."

Two weeks before election day James G. Blaine, in a speech at Buffalo, predicted Tilden's election in case New York went Democratic, and then turning to his Republican auditors, asked, "Will you allow him to be inaugurated in that event?"

Two weeks before election day Senator Newton Booth of California, in the course of a talk with a reporter of the San Francisco *Chronicle*, said:
"In the way matters stand at present, in case the final declaration of the choice for President depended upon the acceptance of the vote of one or more of the Southern States to which troops had been sent, the House would inevitably refuse to allow it to be counted in, and an appeal to force would be necessary in order to settle the matter."
"Reporter—What do you mean by force?"
"Senator Booth—Physical force."
I think it is remarkably fortunate for the country that we have a Republican President who is also Commander-in-Chief of the army, so that in the event of any serious complications the Government has at its head a man who will see it protected. There are a good many reasons why the Democrats should not be suffered to gain control of the Government."

Two weeks before election day Mr. Murat Halstead, editor of the strongest Republican newspaper in the West, and a close personal friend of Mr. Hayes, ventured on prophetic ground. His language was so remarkable that we printed it at the time, and reproduced it here:
"If New York should happen to go Democratic, the probability is that there would be a disposition on the part of the Republicans to throw out the votes of those Southern States which were carried for Tilden by the intimidation of the blacks. I have heard the suggestion made that it would be moral perjury in Vice-President Ferry and President Grant if they should consent to allow the electoral vote of States to be cast for the restoration of the Southern Confederacy, when they knew that a majority of the people of those States had been practically disfranchised, and when they had in their hands the legal proof of that fact."
"Now, if the Presidential election should turn upon the votes of any Mississippi, South Carolina, Florida, or Louisiana, it would be impossible to avoid a desperate dispute between the two legislative Houses of the Government. The way is already prepared, by the declaration of Republican Senators, for Mr. Ferry, acting Vice-President, to assume the entire responsibility of counting the electoral votes. The House will not, of course, consent to this. The next thing is the position of President Grant. Grant is the Commander-in-chief of the Army and Navy of the United States. The very practical question would arise whether he would sustain Mr. Ferry in the Senate. I imagine that the weight of inference is that he would. Perhaps he would do it by proclamation. That is what in the Spanish-American republics are called *pronunciamientos*. The situation will be exceedingly difficult, if not hazardous. Trouble would come upon us in a more dangerous shape than it did sixteen years ago. There is a sort of Mexican misman in the political air."

At the time of their utterance these vaticinations were generally regarded as the voice of demagogy or of folly. In the light of subsequent events they show that two months ago the leaders of the office-holding party had already determined upon a desperate programme in case of defeat at the polls. Whatever the result of the election, they were not to be disturbed in the enjoyment of place and power. To retain place and power, they were prepared to resort, if necessary, to Mexican methods.

It will be seen that the programme of the conspirators, as indicated by Senator Booth and more explicitly by Mr. Halstead, has been carried out thus far for the letter. After all questions of fact, of

legality, of constitutionality, of policy, and of moral right have been exhausted, the issue is narrowed down to a question of troops. Senator Booth expressed his satisfaction that the military power was in the hands of a man who would not hesitate to employ it. The conspirators counted upon this even before the election. From the very first the success of the audacious scheme has depended upon his Mexican habits of thought, his carelessness of civil law, his dogged fidelity to the interests of friends and favorites. Grant is the main stay of the conspiracy.

OUR SLOUCH WAYS.
More Truth than Poetry or Fun, Either—From Natchez Weekly Democrat.
"Hallo, stranger, you seem to be going to market?"
"Yes, sir, I am."
"What are you carrying that plow along for?"
"Going to send it to Pittsburg."
"To Pittsburg, in Pennsylvania?"
"You're mighty right; I am."
"What are you going to send it there for?"
"To get sharpened."
"All the way to Pittsburg to get sharpened?"
"You bet! We've starved our blacksmith out; he's pulled up stakes the other day and went to Texas."
"Well, that's a rather novel idea my friend—sending a plow so far to get sharpened."
"Not so novel as you heard it was. We do our milling in St. Louis."
"Is that so?"
"You're right it is. We used to have a mill at Parkville Creek, but the owner got too poor to keep it up, and so we turned to getting our grinding done at St. Louis."
"You don't mean to say you send your grist all the way to St. Louis by rail?"
"I don't say nothing about grist—we haul't got to go to send. But we get our flour and meal from St. Louis."
"I see you have a hide on your wagon."
"Yes; our old cow died last week. March winds blowed the life out'n her. Sendin' her hide to Boston to get it tanned."
"All the way to Boston? Is not that rather expensive, my friend? The freights will eat the hide up."
"That's a fact—clearer than the buzzards did the old critter's carcass. But what's the use bein' taxed to build railroads 'bout you get the good of 'em? Used to have a tanyard over at Lickskill and shoemaker, too. But they're kerflummuxed."
"Kerflummuxed—what's that?"
"It means, gone up a spout—and twist you and me, that's mighty nigh the case with our State."
"When do you expect to get your leather?"
"Don't expect to git no leather at all, expect to get shoes, some day, made at Boston or the suburbs."
"Rather a misfortune to lose a milk cow, my friend."
"Not so much a misfortune as you heard it was. Monstrous sight of shuckin' and unbubin' a cow, and milkin' her night and mornin' and gettin' only about 3 quarts a day."
"What are you going to do for milk?"
"Send North for it."
"Send North for milk?"
"Yes; concentrated milk and Gosheen butter."
"Oh! I see the point."
"Mighty handy things these railroads—make them Yankee fellers do all our jobs for us now—do our smithin', and grind, and tannin', and milkin', and churnin'."
"I see you have a bale of cotton."
"Yes, we got our bottom nickel on cotton. Sendin' it up to Massachusetts to get it carded, and spun, and wove.—Time'll come when we'll send it there to be ginned, then we'll be happy. Monstrous sight of trouble running these gins."
"That would be rather expensive, sending cotton in seed."
"No more so than them Western fellers pays when they send corn East and get a dollar a bushel and pays six bits freight. Besides, as I said, what is the use of paying for railroads 'bout we use the roads?"
"I think we ought, we pay enough for 'em."
"I reckon you fatten your own pork."
"Well, you reckon wrong, stranger. I get them Illinoys fellers to do that for me. It's mighty convenient, too—monstrous sight of trouble toting a big basketful of corn three times a day to a hog in a pen—especially when you hain't got none to tote it to."
"I should think so."
"There's one thing lacking though, to make the business complete."
"What's that?"
"They ought to send them hogs ready cooked. Cooking and preparing wood for cookin' takes up a heap of time that ort by right to be employed in the cotton patch. I was sayin' to my old woman the other day, if we Mississippi folks got our cookin' and washin' done up North and sent by express, we'd be as happy as office holders."
"Your horse in the lead there seems to be lame."
"Yes, need shoelin'. If he wasn't the only horse I've got, and I can't spare him, I would send him up where they make horse shoes and nails and get him shod. Can't get such a thing done in our parts. Perhaps I can at the depot."
"How do you manage to live in your parts, my old friend?"
"Why, we raise cotton. My road turns off here, stranger. Gee, Ball; back Brandy. I'm glad I seed you stranger."

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