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PLUNKETISM.

Americans used to laugh at the disgusting toadyism of other lands in regard to royalty and nobility, and the records of the "Court Journal" were a standing topic for jest and raillery. But our people have learnt fast. At Washington during Grant's reign there were so many Paul Prys and Jenkinsses, that the President could not take a drink without its being heralded abroad. Amiable Mr. Hayes, and his good wife, who has "conscientious scruples about riding and driving on Sunday," walked to church to hear that wonderfully gifted Southern orator, Rev. Dr. James A. Duncan, when the New York Herald dogs their steps, watches every winking of the eye, counts every hair, and tells the world all about it—how the party moved along quietly like any other well behaved people—how they joined the procession of church goers—how quite a little flutter was created among the ushers—how the news soon spread through the congregation—how "the President devoutly opened the hymn-book"—how his pious wife actually condescended to sing like other people—how the sermon was able and eloquent, and "did not contain a single political allusion," which no man of Dr. Duncan's piety, taste and knowledge of the proprieties could be guilty of, and how the President actually "made his contribution" when the basket was presented to him, and how he conducted himself with decorum, and, awaiting patiently the conclusion of the service, then "made his way through the throng as quickly as he could," preferring, as we suppose, like a sensible man to return to his nice and cozy home, to spending the remainder of the day in a deserted Church building. We are reminded, when we read such disgusting personalities, of what Pope says in his "Essay on Criticism":

"No place so sacred from such fops is barred,
Nor is Paul's church more safe than Paul's church yard;
Nay, fly to all; there they'll talk you dead;
For fools rush in where angels fear to tread."

IMPROVEMENT.

The condition of affairs, political and pecuniary, will improve. There will be less financial distress, fewer failures, and more general prosperity. The political atmosphere will be purified. The storm that has passed over the country will not be vain. Good will come out of the evil, and, in the end, constitutional law and the monuments of civil freedom will be held in higher esteem than they have been since Seward proclaimed his "higher law" and afterwards used his terrible "Little Bell."

Some of the changes wrought by the late election and its curious results are thus presented by the Baltimore Gazette:

After the conduct of the Southern representatives in the late Congress it will be impossible for the Northern demagogues to stir up prejudices by denunciation of "the rebel brigadiers." The Republican party will have to find another bottom for its pretensions. It will have to get out of the Mexican frame of mind, which caused it to pretend to be the government, and opposition to it treason. We do not believe another Secretary of the Treasury will ever dare to assail the public credit by assuring the world that the security of holders

of our obligations depends upon the supremacy of one particular party. The people will no longer stomach the disgusting cant of "the party of great moral ideas," and the managers know it. In the next campaign the party will be apologetic in its attitude toward the Grant administration, but "we do not claim a fresh lease of power on the basis of having reformed." But there will be an end of the party presumption of the last two years. The "great party" will lose its ecclesiastical character. Party expediency will no longer be the easily anonymous with political duty. The idea of a national protectorate above and beyond the Constitution must be discarded, and in the nation will stand a good chance of getting back to constitutional government again. Thus the force of circumstances will mould our politics into a better shape than they have presented since the war, and Mr. Hayes shall have had his four years of the Presidency the work of administrative reform will be taken up by an executive chosen by the people.

INSINUATING MANNER.

Secretary Key will no doubt feel strengthened in his position since the business men of Memphis, in his own State, in a public meeting, endorsed his course in accepting a place in the new President's Cabinet. The same meeting declared that its members would sustain Hayes in every just and constitutional measure for the permanent pacification of the States. The committee reporting resolutions was composed entirely of Democrats, three of whom were Confederate officers of high rank, one being Gen. A. J. Vaughan. The St. Louis Board of Trade a week or more ago took similar action as to the President, and the Board of Trade of St. Paul, Minnesota, have passed resolutions endorsing the President's policy.

All depends upon Hayes' firmness, breadth of statesmanship, and devotion to the rights of the people. He can by a few unwise appointments change a little the current of public approval. If he takes the Constitution of the United States as his political chart, and steers the Ship of State by its directions, he will find a much more tranquil sea, and escape many hidden rocks that lie in his pathway.

RIGHT.

The people must have peace and quiet. For one year the United States have been seething like a cauldron. Early last year the clans began to prepare for the campaign. The commercial, the industrial interests of the whole country have suffered immensely. It is impossible that prosperity shall return until the people quit politics and go to work in earnest. It is true we have a President who holds his office through fraud and Joe Bradley, but that fact must not keep the country poor and tempest-tost. The following views are from the Baltimore Gazette, a red-hot Democratic paper. They are in accordance with the position of the STAR:

"The selection of his Cabinet officers exhibited on the part of President Hayes an open-avowed disposition to liberalize the new administration. In doing this he has met with the generous and unqualified approval of the honest men of all parties. Now let us see and judge by his future actions whether he has sufficient courage and patriotism to faithfully carry out his present convictions, or whether he means to palter with us in a double sense, and keep the word of promise to the ear and break it to the hope. So far as he has gone he will justify the earnest plaudits of his countrymen; but it must not be forgotten that only a week has elapsed since he started in the race, and there is plenty of time yet, if so he will, to run with the hare and hunt with the hounds."

Ohio is as bad as Jonah's gourd—it threatens to swallow all the other gords. In other words, Hayes' State is getting more than the lion's share of the offices. Hold up, Mr. Hayes. There are now about 394,769 Barkissies who are "willin'," standing hat in hand, with excited glances and expectant eyes and palpitating hearts; so do not disappoint them, Mr. President, we beg you. And whatever you do, forget not the agonizing entreaty of the nine darkies from North Carolina, who want you to favor Lindsey, the man who, Dick Badger swears, proposed to Gov. Holden to have Graham, Vance and other of our leading men murdered—assassinated—lost. Remember their piteous, tender, heart-rending petition—"For God's sake and the people's sake let it be recorded in the history of the government that one request we asked was granted." Oh, Mr. Hayes, how can you refuse to make the would-be murderer a Commissioner of Agriculture? And echo answers Aton.

The election of a Senator to fill out John Sherman's unexpired term takes place in the Ohio Legislature on 20th inst. Judge Stanley Matthews it is thought will be elected.

Guilford county gets 61 magistrates.

OUR SOUTHERN POLICY.

In writing this head-line we do not so much refer to the President's proposed policy, as far as it has been dimly outlined, as to the proper course to be pursued by the Democratic party of the South in view of the extraordinary condition of things, and the transition state through which the country appears to be passing. The circumstances surrounding us are very peculiar, most extraordinary. It is a time for the exercise of all of the wisdom, prudence and patriotism of our people.

That President Hayes can carry to a successful issue all the reforms he is credited with favoring is scarcely to be expected. Grantism has been a tremendous power in the land so long, and so many tens of thousands have been severely inoculated with its virus, that it still ramifies the body politic to a great extent. That President Hayes does intend to continue Grantism in essence we do not believe. His declarations repeated on two occasions, his recent acts, and the statements of his confidential friends, all go to show that he at least purposes to inaugurate some very decided changes, and to harmonize and conciliate every section of our common country. In this attempt he will no doubt partially succeed, but the great, almost insuperable difficulties that lie in his way are the vicious faction in his own party who first opposed, but will presently support him to subserve their own sinister ends, and the extreme men in the Democratic party, in the North and in the South, who would rather die in the last ditch than receive their rights under the Constitution from a Republican President.

For eight years the impracticables demanded equal justice and equal rights under the Constitution from Grant. For eight years their demands were disregarded; for eight years the dearest rights of the Southern people were cloven down by him who had sworn to execute the laws and obey the Constitution of his country; and now, when there is a brighter light illumining the Orient, and the promise of peace is sent forth to gladden and sustain, the cry goes up, let us receive nothing at the hands of the Fraudulent President—let no gifts of his be accepted, for they will bluster and curse, and let us defy him at every turn.

This is not our view, we are frank to say. We suggest it is wiser, better, juster to pursue another policy—to maintain another line of action. It may be briefly summarized as follows:

First, the Democrats in the South should preserve intact their organization—maintain a compact, unbroken front. Changes are sure to occur in politics. Men will change opinions or places. When desertions take place, let the ranks close up and a more thorough discipline be maintained.

Second, let Southern Democrats adjust themselves to the true condition of affairs; let them expend their best energies in fostering home institutions and home rule—in developing, shaping, energizing a genuine State policy—in building up our material, industrial, educational and social interests; let them watch public officials and insist upon a faithful, equitable and economical administration of State affairs; and let them strive to elevate and dignify their fellow-men in every way possible. For the next three years the South should be much more concerned in attending to its domestic, home affairs than in wasting its time and energies over Federal politics.

Third, whenever the President recommends a measure that is clearly for the good of our people, let our representatives in Congress support it cordially and promptly. This involves no surrender of principle, but only secures what is our right. Nothing is to be gained by refusing what belongs to us under the Constitution, and opposition to what is plainly right is factious and unwise. If the President really enters upon a new departure that promises to bring healing and hope to the whole country—to set in motion the ten thousand idle wheels of industry—to bring back the government to the true orbit fixed by our forefathers—to secure to the South a kindly, just, fostering, constitutional administration, the very opposite—the com-

plete abjuration of that tyrannous, remorseless, destructive, vicious, vindictive policy that marked Grant's eight years of national disgrace, sorrow and suffering—then the South should gladly welcome it, should be swift to avail itself of the legitimate advantages, and be sure to throw no unnecessary obstacle in the way of its successful accomplishment.

We hold that the South has all to lose and nothing to gain by refusing scornfully to receive justice and right at the hands of a Republican President. We do not believe that any Democrats should solicit office at such hands, and it is right for President Hayes to understand that he cannot change the South or buy its people by a few offices scattered among them. If the Democrats in North Carolina held all the Federal offices in the State they would not amount to more than a few hundred. But let Hayes keep his offices. What the South needs and demands is rest from Federal interference. Leave us alone—to ourselves. Let us work out the problem of our own destiny. Let the President say to the army—"About face—guide right, forward, march," and let them keep marching until they get beyond Southern soil.

The country can not repose any great confidence in Mr. Hayes' promises or intimations of a kindly policy, so long as Federal soldiers stand guard over the capitals of sovereign Commonwealths. If the President would not invite suspicion, repress any enthusiasm or hope that may have been excited by the favorable start he made after taking the oath of office, he must not long delay to vindicate justice, uphold the Constitution, and recognize the rights of local self-government.

Because during the ten or twelve days he has been in office he has not equalled the high expectations that were first excited, we will not conclude that his promises are empty words, his declarations of amity but deceptive verbiage, that the fruit was anxiously looked for is but withered husks and decayed rinds—only such fruit as is supposed to grow on the borders of the Dead Sea, and to turn to ashes upon the lips of those who essay to eat it. We will still look for some real fruit that is full of health and nutrition, and if disappointed, it will not be our fault.

A CURIOUS MINORITY.

The Brooklyn Union-Argus refers to the Democratic party as a "powerful minority." A very strange minority considering it has one House of Congress and is not far behind in the Senate. A very curious minority, truly, considering it gave Tilden and Hendricks a popular majority of 264,829, and considering farther that it gave them an actual electoral majority of 23 votes.

Whilst noticing the above absurd statement, let us refer for a moment to another misrepresentation of the facts. It is not uncommon for Radical papers to assume that the Northern people are overwhelmingly opposed to the Democratic party. They speak, indeed, as if that party was hopelessly in the minority it could never hope to win. Let us look at some figures and facts. In the election held in November, 1876, even in New England, that hot-bed of Radicalism, where the virus exudes from the skin of the "rooky loil" as gym does from a peach tree or resin from a pine tree, the vote was as follows:

Hayes	Tilden
Connecticut.....	61,898
Maine.....	49,833
Massachusetts.....	108,777
New Hampshire.....	88,809
Rhode Island.....	10,712
Vermont.....	30,354
Total.....	376,915 290,009

This is not such a desperate showing. Only some 86,000 Radical majority in six States. Now let us look at the vote of the three great States:

New York.....	489,207 631,949
Pennsylvania.....	384,122 308,188
Ohio.....	330,092 328,159
Total.....	1,203,421 1,268,296

Add New England States 376,915 290,009

1,580,336 1,568,305
1,961,256

Radical maj. in 9 States 69,594

After all sixty-nine thousand majority in over three millions of votes is no great thing to brag over. It is not an impossible majority to overcome. The Democrats appear to be a "powerful minority" even in the centre of Radicalism.

It is rumored that striped stockings are going out of fashion; but it is hard to be certain about it.

NORTHERN BRIGANDS IN THE SOUTH.

"If the South has got any remnants of intelligence or social or intellectual pretensions, that she cannot expose to free press, and a free press, the sooner she gets rid of them the better. The one thing she cannot afford above all others now is to set up either a moral or intellectual inspection of people who are inclined to migrate to her territory. The proportion of disagreeable persons that she is likely to get through the flood of welcomes is not at all great, and even this minority will have a healthy though possibly temporarily irritating influence upon her society. The day has gone by for that society to put on sectional airs and extreme exclusiveness—gather up its skirts, either literally or metaphorically, and turn out with contempt upon the passer-by as the new-comer simply because such new-comer is from the Northern States. The North has done the South all the injury that it can. If it has ever, in the broadest sense, done it any injury at all, now its power and its presence are only to bless, and the more fully the Southern people appreciate this as the bottom fact of the situation, the sooner will they be blessed."—Springfield Republican.

This is the concluding paragraph of an editorial in the Springfield (Massachusetts) Republican of March 14. We like the boldness and candor which ordinarily distinguish this able paper, and copy the above, that our readers may see what sort of views obtain in the most intelligent New England circles concerning the South.

A man born in New England, and whose life has been spent in that section where so many countless "isms" and so much vile political philosophy abound, cannot understand the South. It is simply an impossibility. It is useless to reason with him. He is as incapable of understanding you as the conventional Scotchman, according to Sydney Smith, is incapable of relishing or understanding a joke. The article from which the above is taken, shows that as well-informed a journal as the Republican is has not the slightest knowledge of our people, and, without perhaps designing to do so, misrepresents the views of our people by skillfully mingling truth and error.

We have only this to say as to immigration from New England or any section. The South has ancestral faiths and traditions which its people cherish most tenderly, and which they would fall preserve. The South prior to the war, applied no political tests to New Englanders that came to our land and settled. She applied neither political nor religious tests. A stranger came then and went to work. If he were worthy he was sure to make friends, and, in almost every instance, to make money. Many of the best, most useful, most honorable citizens of the South were either born in New England, or came from Great Britain or from the Continent. There was no royal road to social elevation then in the South, just as there is none now in New England. A man had to work himself up, and many of the most illustrious men in North Carolina were born and reared in the North.

Since the war we have generally had another class of Northern men to settle among us. They were too often politicians, and not of the higher type. They intermeddled, oppressed, afflicted us. They caused great and continued trouble. Horace Greeley understood them precisely, and has described them most graphically in the nervous and lucid English of which he was so great a master. Now, we are not anxious to invite or welcome any of that class. We are quite satisfied with the supply already on hand, although it is fortunately very greatly reduced.

Honest men, industrious men, well-meaning men can come with the assurance of being well-received and well-treated. Their social standing will depend to a considerable extent upon themselves, and will be regulated by laws that govern Springfield and Boston society. They can be Republicans or Democrats without being abused or suspected. If they do not seek office, they will be apt to vote with the Democrats before they will have lived many years in the South. They will then understand their own necessities as residents in the South; and will understand the necessities of their neighbors, and when election time comes they will be all apt to vote together for the Democratic candidates. And lastly, such immigrants, after living for a term of years among us, will learn much concerning the native Southerners that they never could have learned by remaining in New England, where a mode of life, and of thought so very different prevails.

Carl Schurz certainly anchored in a very muddy harbor when he came to a rest in the Interior Department, where Columbus Delano and John Chandler had been before him.

Magistrates for Funder.

The following is a list of Magistrates appointed for Funder county:

Holden Township—Jno. Lillington, Samuel P. Hand, Robt. T. Sanders.

Union—H. T. Murphy, Jas. D. Fowkes, John E. Rivenbark.

Columbia—G. T. Ward, Thos. L. W. McIntyre, A. C. Ward.

Osceola—Henry C. Register, James Thompson, J. F. Moore.

Lincoln—W. J. Bivens, Chas. E. Moore, Gatten Williams, L. Southerland.

Rocky Point—A. Gamborg, Dawson Durham, Thomas J. Armstrong.

Holly—R. T. Williams, W. J. Player, Eli H. Shiver.

Grant—A. Lloyd, R. E. Bryant, C. W. McClammy.

Horrible and Fatal Accident.

Yesterday afternoon, a few minutes before 6 o'clock, a colored man, whose name we could not ascertain, met with a horrible accident on the railroad just above Boney's Bridge, by which he lost his life. It appears that he jumped from a train and alighted on the track just as a connecting engine was approaching, which struck him before he could get out of the way, knocking him prostrate and running over him, by which his head was almost entirely severed from his body, the only connecting link left being a portion of the skin, while both arms were broken, one of them in two places, and, of course, causing instant death. Deceased was a young man, belonging in the country, and was accompanied by his father. It is reported that he had a considerable sum of money about his person, and that some of the sympathizing "friends and brothers" of the poor, mutilated corpse actually picked his pockets before his father, or any one having the authority to do so, could relieve them of their contents.

Marvellous Adventure of a Colored Sannambulist.

We learn that a colored man, living in Fayetteville, who has the reputation of being somewhat of a sannambulist, was on his way home from this city, a few nights since, on a Fayetteville boat, and had dropped to sleep, when he suddenly sprang to his feet, gathered up his bundles, containing purchases he had made in this city, and walked deliberately overboard before any one had divined his intentions. The night being dark, and the boat moving forward pretty rapidly, nothing more was seen of the man, and it became the settled conviction among those on board that he had gone to join the goodly number who had previously found a winding sheet in the treacherous waters of the Cape Fear. Great was their astonishment, therefore, upon approaching the landing at Fayetteville, some hours afterwards, to find the supposed drowned man standing on the wharf smilingly awaiting the arrival of the boat. It appears that upon touching the water he was aroused from his slumbers, and, finding himself in an instant, struck out manfully for the shore, which he succeeded in reaching without the loss of a bundle. There he waited for a short time, when another steamer came along, which he hailed, and was taken on board, and some time in the night, during a temporary detention of the boat he so unceremoniously left, the steamer he was then on passed the other and arrived at Fayetteville first. The worthy captain found it much easier congratulating the almost miraculously restored sannambulist than he would have done the task of informing his family and friends that he had "gone to that bourne whence no traveller returns."

The Accident on the Railroad—Jury of Inquest, &c.

Coroner Hewlett held an inquest yesterday morning over the body of Boon Mathis, the young colored man who was run over by an engine just above Boney Bridge on Thursday afternoon, an account of which appeared in our paper yesterday morning. The evidence was to the effect that deceased jumped from the outgoing train bound North (one of the witnesses said backwards), landing on a side track upon which a yard engine was approaching, moving backwards, the tender of which struck him, knocking him prostrate upon the track, when the tender and engine passed over his body, literally severing the head from the trunk, besides breaking both arms. The corpse, as it lay near the scene of the accident yesterday morning, presented a ghastly and revolting appearance. The unfortunate man was a resident of Sampson county.

The verdict of the jury was to the effect that deceased came to his death from being accidentally run over by yard engine No. 25, of the Wilmington, Columbia and Augusta Railroad.

Jurors for the Criminal Court.

At a called meeting of the Board of County Commissioners, held last evening, the following list of jurors were drawn to serve at the April term of the Criminal Court for New Hanover county:

For the Term—George W. Hewlett, John Pleasant, W. H. Paine, Thomas M. Moore, Jeremiah Hewlett, D. O'Connor, M. M. Jenkins, W. W. Harris, Seth W. Davis, Ben Loftin, James W. Johnson, Thomas J. Southerland, John T. Hancock, Nick Morris, George Waddell, Watson McNeil, J. C. Smith, Wm. H. Cotton, Robt. E. Calder, Moncy Brown, Jackson L. Davis, Abram Mosley, Sam Howland, Isaac W. King, W. Johnson, D. E. Bunting, A. R. Black, Morris Blair, G. E. Barden.

Most of the Democratic journals are not in a humorous mood these days, but the Cincinnati Enquirer cannot resist the temptation to poke a little fun. It says "Mr. Tilden will not be a candidate for President in 1880." The House formally declared him elected by resolution on the 2d instant, and Mr. Tilden has emphatically announced all along that he was a one-term man.

An Act in Relation to the Probate of Wills, and Controverses, and the Privy Examination of Married Women.

The General Assembly of North Carolina do enact:

SECTION 1. That all deeds, mortgages, conveyances, releases, powers of attorney, contracts or other writings required by law to be registered, and the privy examination of any married woman, as to her due execution of any such instrument, may be acknowledged, approved, or taken by any one of the following courts, or officers, viz: A Superior Court, Clerk or Justice of the Peace or any court of record having a seal, or any judge, justice or clerk of any such court (except the Register of Deeds and ex-officio clerk of the board of county commissioners.)

Sec. 2. When such acknowledgment, privy or privy examination shall be taken before a court or clerk thereof, the same shall be attested by the seal of such court, and when taken before a justice of the peace the same shall, before registration be adjudged to be correct and sufficient by the seal of the same court or record (other than the Register of Deeds) in the county where such justice may reside, and when to be registered in any county other than that in which taken, such clerk in addition shall certify that such justice was a justice of the peace in his county, at the time when the proof acknowledgment or privy examination was taken.

Sec. 3. For the purposes of this act the certificates of probate or acknowledgment shall be substantially as follows:

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA, _____ COUNTY,

I, A. B. (here give name of officer, clerk, judge or justice of the peace, as the case may be,) do hereby certify that (here give name of grantor, and if acknowledged by wife, her name, and add his wife,) personally appeared before me this day, and acknowledged the due execution of the foregoing (or annexed) deed of conveyance, (or other instrument) and (if the wife is a signer) the said (here give wife's name) being by me privately examined, separate and apart from her said husband, touching her voluntary execution of the same, doth state that she signed the same freely and voluntarily, without fear or compulsion of her said husband or any other person, and that she doth still voluntarily assent thereto.

Witness my hand and seal, (private or official, as the case may be,) this (day of month) A. D. (year). (Signature of officer). [SEAL]

And when such proof or acknowledgment has been had or taken by a Justice of the Peace, the Clerk of a Court of Record shall use substantially the following form of certificate:

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA, _____ county.

The foregoing (or annexed) certificate of A. B., of Justice of the Peace of _____ county, is adjudged to be correct. Let the deed (or other instrument), with the certificate, be registered.

Signature of the Clerk (Seal of the Court).

Sec. 4. For the probate or acknowledgment of a chattel mortgage the fee of a justice of the peace shall be ten cents, and for other instrument twenty cents, and the fee of any clerk of a court of record for passing upon the certificate of a justice of the peace as in this act provided, shall be ten cents for a chattel mortgage and twenty cents for other instrument.

Sec. 5. That all laws or parts of laws inconsistent herewith be and the same are hereby repealed.

Sec. 6. That this act shall take effect from and after its ratification.

Read three times and ratified in General Assembly this 3d day of March, 1877.

THOMAS J. JARVIS,
President of the Senate.

CHARLES PRICE,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

Death of Madame Le Vert.

Madame Octavia Walton Le Vert, the well-known authoress, died near Augusta, Ga., on Friday. Madame Le Vert came of distinguished stock. Her grandfather, George Walton, a native of Prinos Edward county, Va., was one of the signers of the Declaration of Independence. He was a member of the first Congress convened at Philadelphia, and held successively the offices of Governor of Georgia and judge of the Supreme Court. George Walton, his second son, was educated at Princeton, N. J., and married Miss Sallie Minge Walker, the daughter of a distinguished lawyer of Georgia. Octavia was the result of this marriage, having been born at Belle Vue, near Augusta. Shortly after her birth her parents removed to Florida, of which State General Jackson was then Governor. Col. Walton succeeded the General in the Governorship of the new State. When Miss Walton grew up she developed great intelligence and soon became a leader in the world of fashion and letters. Her society was courted by the most brilliant men of the time, and the numbered Gen. Lafayette, Washington Irving, Lamartine, Lady Emily Stanart Wretley, Henry Clay, and many other famous persons among her intimate friends. In 1836 Miss Walton married Dr. Henry Le Vert, of Mobile, which city was then her principal residence. After a prolonged visit to Europe, where she was received with distinguished attention, Madame Le Vert published in 1854 the well-known Souvenirs of Travel, one of the most successful books of the kind ever issued in America. Her fortune being much reduced during the war, she afterwards gave poetic readings in the leading cities.—Baltimore Sun.

Dr. Slade, the spiritualist, is about to return to this country.