

with the Zulus in South Africa. It is not probable that the large majority of the government will be overcome, but we may expect the strength of the Liberals to be largely increased in the next House. What adequate recompense has been brought to England by the large expenditures of money and the loss of precious lives by the wars inspired by Beaconsfield?

THE VIRGINIA CAMPAIGN. The activity of the Conservatives in Virginia measures in some degree the strength of their opponents, the Readjusters. It is not a just measure, however, because the aim of the Conservatives is not simply to defeat their foes—that seems a foregone conclusion—but to defeat them so completely as to end the matter at once and forever.

It appears that Major Cavagnari had been warned by the Ameer that he was in danger. Remote from all help and few in numbers all the British could do was to make the bravest defence possible, and compel the enemy to pay the highest price for their destruction. It is said that two hundred and ten Afghans were killed before the British were overpowered and murdered. The total British force did not, we believe, exceed fifty. The slaughtering of these men is attributable to Beaconsfield's boasted Eastern policy. What will be the upshot of the matter will be hard to tell. Our foreign dispatches of two or three days ago represented the London Times as rather protesting against the idea that because of the Cabul massacre the British must overrun and conquer Afghanistan.

THE HOUSE IN DECEMBER. The strength of parties in the House of Representatives is beginning to attract fresh attention. The Philadelphia Times, in a carefully prepared table, and after surveying the whole field, places the parties in the House in December as follows: Republicans 134, Democrats 147, Greenbackers 12. It bases this calculation upon the supposition that the vacancy in New York will be filled by a Democrat, and the vacancy in Iowa by a Republican. It says: "Leaving out of the count the two members yet to be elected, the Democrats have 146 votes, or just one less than a clear majority of the House. There is no doubt about the election of a Republican in Iowa, but it is remotely possible, in the present factional wrangles of the Democracy of New York, that a Republican may be elected in the Westchester district, in which case the House would stand 148 Democrats, 135 Republicans and 12 Greenbackers, giving the combined opposition of Republicans and Greenbackers 167 to 148 straight Democrats, or, in other words, leaving the Democrats in a minority of 13; but as the Greenback members can rarely, if ever, be solidly combined with either the old parties, the House will present the singular spectacle of neither party having a reliable majority if New York should elect a Republican, and if the Westchester district elects a Democrat, the party will have the narrow majority of 1 over all opposition."

It is interesting, in view of this probable condition of affairs in the House, to know how the Greenbackers have acted—to understand something of their antecedents. During the extra session the most of the Greenbackers voted with the Democrats on nearly all political measures. The Times says: "Of the twelve Greenback members, Stevens, of Illinois, Ladd, of Maine, and Wright, of Pennsylvania, are of positive Democratic antecedents; Lowe, of Alabama, and Jones, of Texas, are also Democrats; but with the ruling Democracy of the South, and not likely to unite with the Democracy on any vital test issue. De La Matyr, of Indiana, was elected by a Democratic fusion with the Greenback men, but is definitely independent of both the old parties, and March, of Maine, occupies much the same position. Both are of Democratic proclivities if they have any lingering sympathy with either of the old parties, but neither would march under a Democratic partisan banner. Weaver and Gillette, of Iowa, Forsyth of Illinois, and Ford, of Missouri, may be classed as more antagonistic to the Democrats than to the Republicans, and Yocum, of Pennsylvania, seems to have lost the friendship of both parties by trying to barter with both to retain his seat in the pending contest with Governor Curtin. For all practical purposes the Democrats are likely to have a majority of ten to twelve over the Republicans, although they cannot count it as legitimate party strength."

The Washington Post already calls upon the Democrats, as soon as Congress meets, to settle the contested seats in favor of the Democrats. If this is done Orth, of Indiana, will be displaced by a Democrat. This will give that State to the Democrats in case the Presidential election goes to the House. It will then stand 19 Republican and 19 Democratic votes in the House, each State giving but

one vote. Without ousting Orth the Democrats would have but 18 votes, and De La Matyr would hold the balance of power in Indiana, as that delegation would stand 6 Democrats, 6 Republicans, and the Greenbacker would be able to give the State to any candidate he might prefer. If Orth is not entitled to his seat let him be retired and in good order.

We learn from the Fayetteville Gazette that Judge Seymour charged the Grand Jury of Cumberland County very strictly with regard to the public roads. The Gazette says of the Judge's charge:

"He declared it to be his opinion that the difference between good and bad roads to the farming interests of the people was equal to the value of every acre of farming land in the several counties—that is, that in any county cursed with bad roads, unworked and almost impassable in bad weather—the lands would be doubled in value, in the profits drawn therefrom, should the roads be put in good condition, and the law rigidly enforced."

The Judges of the State would render important service if they would emulate Judge Seymour's example in this particular. The roads in many sections are in a wretched condition. The Gazette gives the requirements of the law:

"The road must be at least twenty feet wide (it may be forty or one hundred, but cannot be less than twenty), and the road-bed must be sixteen feet in width, free of stumps and runners; in low, marshy places, where necessary causeways and sidings must be laid down, and the necessary side-ditching done; over creeks and streams the necessary bridges must be built, with sidings at intervals of one mile directions shall be given showing the distance to some important town or point in that section; and at forks of roads sign-boards shall be set up, giving the distance on each road to the most important point."

Let the law be rigidly enforced.

The Columbus (Ga.) Enquirer bears heavily on Mr. Tilden for his want of liberality towards the South. It contrasts his niggardly gift last year of \$250 for the yellow fever sufferers, when the South was afflicted so extensively, with the recent gift of \$5,000 by Jay Gould. We copy a few lines. It says of Gould:

"He is regarded as a heartless speculator. He is the owner of the New York Tribune, the most salaried and radical Republican paper. To the appeal of the Howard Association at Memphis he sent a check of \$5,000. In addition he tells the acting President to go on with the noble work and he will foot the bill. Jay Gould professes no friendship for our people. His money is sent for their deliverance from suffering, disease and death. He has a family. The whole South voted for Tilden for the highest office in the land. He is worth millions and is a bachelor. Last year the afflicted yellow fever sufferers appealed to the world for aid. Mr. Tilden subscribed \$250."

Probably Uncle Sammy has not been trained in the habits of benevolence. He has been so situated in life that he has had more occasion to make than to distribute. It is said he knows how to use his "bar's" judiciously in political campaigns.

On September 1 Alexander Bryce was murdered at Wallhalla, South Carolina. The Northern papers are already at their old game of making this a political murder of the Yazoo type. No man can be killed in the South, specially if he be a Republican, unless the organs convert it into a great outrage against free citizenship and the rights of opinion and of the elective franchise. The New York Herald lends its wide circulation to such an accusation in the Bryce murder, and declares that it bears "very distinctly the Yazoo stamp." The Charleston News & Courier very promptly brands such charges as false. It says: "These statements are simply untrue, in spirit and in fact. Bryce, it is true, was a Republican; but politics had absolutely nothing to do with his assassination. Senator Conkling is also a Republican, and was recently the victim of a shot-gun tragedy in Rhode Island; but shall we therefore treat the stalwart Roscoe as a political martyr and complain that the Argus-eyed Herald has made 'no mention whatever of his fate? The truth is that the murder of Bryce occurred in one of the remote mountain counties of the State."

It says that nobody in that State, whether Democrat or Republican, has ever suggested that the murder had a political motive.

The Greenback-Labor Convention in Massachusetts has nominated Gen. Ben Butler for Governor, and Wendell Phillips for Lieut. Governor. For brains it is a strong ticket. Without the aid of the Democrats they will accomplish no important results. Heretofore political amalgamation has not proved profitable to the Democrats.

The Maryland Republicans have organized for the approaching campaign. They have nominated a full State ticket, with James A. Gary, at its head, for Governor. Unless the Democrats should split up the Republicans will not have much show in

THE NEW YORK CONVENTION.

The nomination of Governor Robinson for re-election in New York has caused a split in the party that was prophesied by many. For some cause he is extremely distasteful to that wing of the party known as Tammany. When it was apparent that he would be the choice of the delegation the Tammany men withdrew and proceeded to nominate a candidate of their own. John Kelly, the leader of that wing, was selected. One of the speakers declared that they represented 90,000 voters.

The breach, as far as known, only extends to the nominee for Governor of the regular convention. The Tammanyites have thus far only nominated a candidate for Governor, contenting themselves with the appointment of a committee of fifteen who have discretionary powers to select the remainder of the ticket or not as they may deem wise and proper under the circumstances. Whether this is done to bring a pressure to bear upon the party that will tend to force Robinson out of the race finally, or whether they mean to support the remainder of the regular ticket or not remains to be seen. It looks as if there was a prospect of agreement as to the regular ticket with the exception of the nominee for Governor. If Tammany should combine on the remainder of the ticket and elect it, and if Robinson only should be defeated, it would establish two points:

First, that the Democrats are clearly in the majority, and, therefore, the Republicans can gain no comfort from the result so far as concerns the Presidential struggle that is to be.

Second, that Tilden's chances for the nomination for President would be very materially damaged. It would show that he has not strength enough in his own State to elect his own special friend and representative. It would show that it would be very hazardous to place him in the field with Tammany fiercely antagonizing. No Democratic National Committee would think of nominating a man for the Presidency who has just been defeated through his own chosen representative in his own State. Robinson is Tilden's man. He named him. He forced him upon a strong minority in the nominating Convention. If he cannot be elected, then Tilden is laid on the shelf most effectually. It will prove a regular case of hari-kari on his part.

It is to be hoped that harmony will be restored in that great State. The Democrats of New York ought to remember that dissensions among themselves will not be confined in their results to that State, but that they will affect every State more or less, and the whole country. If the election of a Democratic President depends upon the State of New York, as now appears, how reprehensible it will be in Democrats of that State to lose that election through personal animosities or a selfish scramble for office.

If Tammany is really actuated by principle; if there are causes of which we are not informed, of such a grave character as to forbid their support of Robinson, then they ought to unite heartily upon the remainder of the ticket, and make a most active canvass in its behalf. But will not even a division as to the highest State office have an unhappy effect upon the general canvass? We fear so. The Republicans have confessedly a weak ticket, but then they are united. When the leaves and fishes are to be distributed they are generally united. They may wrangle before the nomination, but after it is made they are "one as the sea."

The platform adopted at Syracuse, if we may judge from the telegraphic abstract, is excellent. It is comprehensive, but it does not contain one useless plank. It is made of sound timbers—good Democratic heart. We suppose our readers examined it for themselves, and it is scarcely necessary to enter upon an elaborate analysis. It is just such a platform of principles as the country needs. It contains every principle that is essential for the preservation of our liberties and the prosperity of our great and growing country.

It reasserts the principles of popular liberty—of the liberty of every citizen, of every voter—as laid down by the founders of our grand Republic. When we know what assaults are being constantly made upon the citadel of the Constitution

and the liberties of a free people by the Stalwarts, we can at once see the propriety of this reassertion of a time-honored principle.

It holds to the Constitution of our forefathers and the rights of the States under that Constitution. Surely this is altogether necessary and important at a time when a great party is making war upon that Constitution and endeavoring to stamp out and obliterate every trace of the rights of States under that Constitution.

It opposes the tendencies of the Republican party to centralization and consolidation. In view of the utterances of Republican leaders, in and out of Congress, and the general tone and opinions of their organs, how unspokeably important it is to meet and oppose this evil tendency.

It declares that this Republic is a nation, but mark you, only to the extent and for the purposes defined in the Constitution. We shall have occasion to show in what sense the Constitution regards the Republic as a nation. We shall show that in no sense is it a nation as claimed by Republican writers and speakers.

It declares that the Democrats will resist all attempts to transform it into an Empire. It is a grand, sacred duty that is devolved upon the Democratic party to save the Constitution of our fathers and to preserve the liberties of the people. If the Democratic party was to withdraw all opposition to the tendencies and teachings and purposes of the Republican party, we believe that in four years the Empire would be established.

These are some of the points presented in the admirable declaration of principles as laid down at Syracuse by the Democrats of the largest State in the Union. They concern every freeman. They are the foundation stones—the underlying principles of a free government. Take them away and there remains no liberty, no Constitution, no great, free and prosperous country. We must go forth with those precious principles of right and liberty blazoned on our banners. In that, sign we shall conquer.

We may take occasion hereafter to refer to some other features of the platform.

The Republican papers for two or three months have teamed with a very grave accusation against Gov. Blackburn, of Kentucky, to the effect that he sought during the war to introduce infected clothing in the North for the purpose of causing yellow fever to spread. Gov. Blackburn does not appear to have noticed the charge in any way. Coming from Northern Radicals he and his friends have not thought it necessary to enter upon any explanation, and the people of Kentucky evidently gave it but little consideration, for they elected him by an increased majority over former years. We find in the Philadelphia Times, an Independent paper, the following paragraph, which throws important light on the matter:

"Mr. McKeogh, who was proprietor of the Donegana Hotel, in Montreal, during the civil war, that hotel being the headquarters of the Confederates in the Dominion, writes to the Washington Republican that the charge against Gov. Blackburn, of Kentucky, was 'expedited absolutely long ago, and is entirely false.' Dr. Blackburn was tried before a Canadian Judge on a charge of seeking to spread the yellow fever throughout the North, and was acquitted. The evidence was submitted to President Johnson, and Dr. Blackburn unhesitatingly pardoned."

The Work at New Inlet. Proposals for continuing operations on the work for the closure of New Inlet were received and opened at the office of Col. W. P. Craigill, Engineer, U.S.A., Baltimore, Md., on the 6th inst., and the contract, as will be seen below, was awarded to Messrs. Ross & Peppyacker, of this city, at \$24 per ton.

In order to finish the dam at New Inlet to high water mark, and protect it against the force of the waves, it is proposed to cover the top and the sea slope to low water mark with heavy flat stones, so as to make the top surface and slopes smooth and even. The covering needed will be about 5,500 feet in length, and the average thickness of the stone will be about eighteen inches. It is estimated that about 10,000 tons of granite will be required for the work. The following is a list of the bidders and the prices at which they proposed to do the work:

Patrick Lenahan, Wilmington, N. C., \$3 27
Pierce & Rowe, Frankfort, Me., 3 35
David Tilton, Rockland, Me., 3 40
Bodwell Granite Co., Rockland, Me., 3 34
C. E. Bragdon, Biddeford, Me., 3 75
Westcott & Son, Portland, Me., 3 70
J. K. Ballou, Boston, Mass., 3 44
Togers & Northon, New London, Ct., 2 45
Joseph H. White, Hyde Park, Mass., 3 49
Richmond Granite Co., Richmond, Va., 5 25
Old Dominion Granite Co., 5 15
Ross & Peppyacker, Wilmington, N. C., 2 24

LONGEVITY. A correspondent sends us an item concerning a case of longevity in the person of Mrs. Mary Adkins, who died in Carver's Creek Township, Bladen county, recently, at the age of 97 years. She was the widow of William Adkins, formerly of this city,

Falling to Work the Roads.

Charles Galloway, George Taylor, Archy Moore, and D. J. Houston, all colored, were arraigned before Justice Gardner yesterday on the charge of falling to work the public roads after being duly summoned, as the law in relation thereto requires. The cases were tried separately, and in that of Charles Galloway, counsel submitted that he was not liable to work the road, his domicile being in the city, and he being only temporarily in the country as a servant to a family spending a portion of the summer at Wrightsville Sound, and on this ground an appeal was taken to the next term of the Criminal Court, judgment being rendered against the defendant.

Judgment was also found against all the other parties brought up, and as there were two cases against each, for failure to appear on the 9th and 10th insts., the fines and costs in each case amounted to \$11 00. In the cases of Taylor and Moore this was paid and the defendants discharged, while Houston was committed to jail in default of payment.

The law is very sweeping and explicit as to the work of the roads, and the duties of overseers. No exemptions are allowed for any cause, where the persons are physically able and between the ages of 18 and 45 years, and are otherwise liable.

A Decision of the Supreme Court. Doggett vs. Richmond & Danville Railroad Company. NORTH CAROLINA SUPREME COURT, JUNE TERM, 1879.

The rule or validity of Railroads is thus summed up by the Court: If the owner permits his cattle to stray off and get upon the track and get killed or hurt, the Railroad is not liable unless the Company was carelessly running the train, or could, by the exercise of proper care, after the animals were discovered, have avoided or prevented the injury.

The rules of the law require, in an action for damages resulting from the negligence of the Company, or its agents and employes, that the plaintiff shall prove the negligence as a part of his case.

The force of the presumption raised by the statute (Batt. Rev., chapter 16, section 11), only applies when the facts are unknown, or when from testimony they are uncertain.

The facts being fully disclosed, the Court must decide whether they make out a case of negligence, and if they fail to do this, the Company is not liable.

The Company is not required to abate the usual and safe speed of its trains lest there may be cattle on the track, which "may be killed or injured," and if a proper lookout is kept, and all reasonable efforts made when the obstruction is seen to avoid accident, the Company is exempt from responsibility, and the injury is ascribed to the contributory negligence of the owner in permitting his cattle to roam about and get on the track.

Negligence is a question of law to be decided by the Court upon admitted facts.

A Philosophic Friend. [New York Star.] "I should like to sell you a gimlet," said a care-worn looking man as he walked into an office the other day. "We have no use for one," replied the cashier.

"But you should always look into the misty future," went on the fard demurely; "next winter you will want to make holes in your boot-heels, so you can get your skates on."

"I use club skates—no straps required."

"You may want to screw some boards together some time. The old-fashioned method of driving the screws in with a hammer is pernicious, as it deteriorates the tenacity of the fangs of the screw, as it were."

"Nothing to-day, sir."

"This gimlet acts as a corkscrew."

Kingston Journal: From all reports and from personal observation we are satisfied that the aggregate of the cotton crop in this section will fall far short of the usual amount made.

The Asheville Journal says Angelo Riety, charged with house burning, Tilton McIntire, charged with murder, and two other prisoners, knocked down the jail at Columbus, Polk county, and broke jail. McIntire and Riety were recaptured.

Farmer & Mechanic: A sad case of wife-beating occurred in a Raleigh street the consequence of a quarrel on Monday night. The noise of the contention, and the sound of brutal whacks, disturbed the neighbors for several squares.

Mrs. Wilson, who had been entrusted that her injuries were serious. The young lady, equipped with a few slight bruises.

Charlotte Democrat: A colored man exhibited on the streets last Tuesday a gray eagle, which was killed at the plantation of Mr. T. Martin Alexander, and sent miles from the city. It measures six feet eight inches from tip to tip.

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"Nothing to-day, sir."

"This gimlet acts as a corkscrew."

"I don't want it."

"It also may be used as a tack-hammer, a cigar-holder and a tooth-brush."

"I don't want it."