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CLEARING HOUSE RETURNS.
If there is no manifest improvement in this immediate section there is very decided improvement in the country at large in the trade outlook. The Clearing House returns of the country are a very correct index of business fluctuations. There has been a most remarkable increase in the volume of business latterly, as is shown by the reports of the Clearing House. We copy from a dispatch from New York to the Chicago Inter-Ocean of the 30th ult.:
"The aggregate of exchanges of nineteen cities exceeds \$1,000,000,000 in a single week, and the aggregate at cities outside of New York is the largest ever known, exceeding by nearly \$9,000,000 the unprecedented amount for the week preceding. In comparison with the corresponding week of last year, the gain in the volume of business is 30.3 per cent. at all the cities, and 47.9 per cent. outside of New York. San Francisco alone reports a decline. Deducting San Francisco, the exchanges at the seventeen cities of the Atlantic States, outside of New York, amount to \$236,080,129, against \$140,651,902 last year, a gain of 61.2 per cent."

This exhibit is quite noticeable. The record is very encouraging, and clearly points to the fact that there is a decided recovery from the business depression of the past. The gain in New York alone is 93.8 per cent., whilst Philadelphia shows a gain of 87.7, Baltimore of 79.7, Milwaukee of 97.6, New Orleans of 97.1, and Boston of 60.3. It is well enough to reproduce such statements, for they are calculated to increase the hope and confidence of the country in a return to permanent and vast prosperity.

We notice that Bishop Beebe, of North Carolina, has been holding recently the colored Methodist Conference at Princeton, Kentucky. A correspondent of the Richmond *Religious Herald* writes:

"I heard Bishop Beebe preach an able sermon yesterday. At the close of his discourse he took occasion to state that the white people of the South had been generally very kind to the colored race. He took great pleasure in bearing testimony to this fact; and certainly such evidence, from such a source, is worthy of consideration by the Northern demagogues who have so uniformly berated the Southern people for their so-called 'evil nature.'"
Whilst an intelligent colored minister, who understands the situation from personal experience and observation, bears this willing and truthful testimony, the war-preachers at the North are bent only on strife, on misrepresentation of facts, on gross and wilful pervasions of the truth, and all for party. The love of Christ does not constrain them; but the influence of Satan in their souls. They are the servants of the devil in their malignant and vicious efforts to fan the embers of sectional hatred and to slander a whole people.

The head lines in the "big dailies" are frequently very expressive. For instance, the New York *Herald*, the morning after the election, headed its election returns columns with A. B. C., which stands for Alonzo B. Cornell. Through John Kelly's important help he spelt up head it seems. Then came next: "Cornell elected by 20,000 plurality."—"Now things get mixed."—"Kelly polls 50,000 votes."—"A Republican Legislature once more."—"How the Tammany Braves played Dog in the Manger."—"John Kelly's expiring yawn over Robinson's scalp."—"Ho Jacet—S. J. T."

When Grant heard of the New York election news, he said that Cornell's election as effectually shelved Tilden as Thurman now is. We should not be surprised if "the old man" did then speak words of soberness and truth.

GRANT AND THE SOUTH.

That Grant will be nominated by the Republicans in 1880 is almost a foregone conclusion if he favors or desires it. This is the prevailing opinion in every section. That he will be a formidable candidate—the strongest that can be nominated, is altogether probable. That he is not friendly to the South is too plain to require either facts or evidence. That he is no respecter of constitutional restraints and limitations all know from his record of eight years in the Presidential chair. That he is a man of courage, of tenacious will, of great ambition, of dictatorial proclivities probably no candid man would deny. That his re-election to the Presidency for a third term would in all probability be a cause of danger, civil insurrection and the signal for general demoralization and corruption, all must believe who are familiar with the history of our country for the past ten or twelve years. Grant, then, is not to be thought of by the South in connection with the Presidency. The *Atlanta Constitution* has said recently:

"There are those at the South who, hopeless of any contest based on constitutional grounds, are ready and anxious to foment and reap the political results of the centralism toward which Republicanism is hurrying the country."
The Augusta (Ga.) *Chronicle* mentioned some time since that a very distinguished Northern Democrat, "whose name for the Presidential nomination" stood then "almost abreast of Mr. Tilden's," had expressed apprehensions that the South would eventually do as the Constitution has since intimated would be done if certain persons can shape the action of the South. We repeat, that Grant is not to be thought of. He has always shown himself unfriendly to the South, and indifferent to the safeguards of civil liberty. The South cannot be a party in any way to the destruction of our republican form of government. Here Liberty was cradled, and here she will be defended to the last. To gain a temporary advantage no step should be taken that will lead to permanent injury to the country at large. The South must make no compromises with the enemies of local self-government and the liberties and rights of the people. The Southern press will not favor, we feel sure, any proposition that looks for one moment to the overthrow of the ingenious and admirable government of our forefathers.

We are led into these reflections because of an editorial in the New York *Times* on the subject, and because of recent discussions in three or four of our Southern contemporaries. The *Times* finds nothing in the papers in the South that looks favorably to any dictatorial project. We copy a paragraph from the *Times*:

"The South may insist that what it complained of in General Grant's Administration was not the work of the General himself, but was the result of the malign influences around him. Hence the claim that by making him President a third time, the South will assure itself of his friendship, and will have the benefit of his protection against the mercenary and extremist. Some of General Grant's reported expressions on the Pacific coast indicate a juster conception of the relations that the North and South should maintain, and a more generous feeling toward Southern soldiers than is apparent in the course of many who about for the 'strong man.' The South may reason with itself, that by nominating him, next by granting him 'extraordinary powers,' he will become a barrier on which unreasonable sectionalism will strike in vain."
We do not believe that the South will concern itself with any such reflections. Its denunciations of his course in the past, repeated in ten thousand forms, in the papers, on the hustings, in platforms of conventions, would rise up to set the seal of condemnation upon any such justification. The South cannot maintain its self-respect by agreeing to support Grant because of his known tendency to centralization and despotism. The truest, staunchest, most unflinching friends of an honest constitutional government on this continent are the people of the South. When they withdraw from the Union they took the precious Ark of the political Covenant with them. In the midst of a tremendous war, when fighting literally five times their numbers, as the figures in the War Departments of the two Governments show, the Southern people preserved intact their liberties, and would not tolerate for an hour the violations of right and justice. Whilst the dominant, overpowering North lost its head, and tyranny and oppression were enthroned at Washington, and Seward's "little bell" was heard constantly sounding the knell of liberty, and hundreds were being hurried to dun-

APPROBATIONS AND DOUBTS.

The results of the New York election are not yet positively ascertained. That Cornell, Republican, is elected by a large majority is a fixed fact. That Clarkson N. Potter, Democratic candidate for Lieut. Governor, is elected by a small majority—possibly only a thousand or so—appears probable. As to the remainder of the State ticket the chances appear to be in favor of the Republicans. We will not be surprised very much if the result shall turn out as indicated above. We thought we might elect the Democratic ticket except the Governor, but we were anything else than confident. As we said on Thursday morning, "we supposed that the unfortunate split would so affect the vote for Lieutenant Governor as to very greatly reduce the usual Democratic majority." We said further, in our first comments upon the election news: "If it should turn out that the bloody-shirt campaign has not caused the Democrats to lose in the rural districts we shall be disappointed also in our calculations. It was to be expected that in the commercial centres the Democrats, when united, would be able to hold their own."

It now seems that we were right all along in our calculations. In the "commercial centres"—in New York and Brooklyn—the Democrats have quite "held their own." But the unfortunate "split" referred to, and the "bloody-shirt campaign" have together done a vast deal of injury to the Democratic party and to the country at large, for in the success of that party depend the prosperity of the country and the preservation of our civil institutions. But in spite of the "bloody shirt" if the Democratic party had been united there would have been a victory all along the lines in New York. That would have settled the question of the next Presidency. With New York strongly Democratic, and Indiana safe, Grant would not be a candidate. As it is, it is now thought by some of the "knowing ones" in Washington that Grant will not be a candidate any way. A late dispatch to the Philadelphia *Times* says on this point:

"In politics the latest sensation here is the story that Gen. Grant will certainly not be the Presidential race within thirty days. Whiteley Reid told a friend of mine as much within a few days. The story that Col. Scott will retire from the Presidency of the Pennsylvania Railroad and that Grant will take his place may not have any truth in it, but there is certainly something on foot to fix Grant's future. The report comes that Senator Blaine, who has been in New York, if he is not there now, said recently that Gen. Grant would be out of the way in thirty days, and that his (Grant's) course would be to make him all of his personal and political friends. This is news of the highest importance if it is true. All accounts from Grant agree that he does not want the office and will not seek it; also that he would refuse it in the event that any contest was had in the Convention. James F. Wilson, for many years a member of the House, and who was offered by Gen. Grant the Secretaryship of State before Mr. Fish was appointed, has had letters from him with Grant; had had letters from him. Mr. Wilson says that he knows that Gen. Grant will not accept the nomination if it is nominated to him through a contest; that he does not want the place, but that if he were nominated with any degree of unanimity he would feel obliged to accept."

Grant will look in his final decision not only to the unanimity of a nomination, but to the guarantees of success. He will not certainly be a candidate if he thinks there is a good chance of being defeated. Viewed in whatever light the recent election in New York is of the very greatest importance. As we write, with the full result unknown, we can only say that the final advantage appears to be with the Democrats, inasmuch as they have only lost through dissensions. If the Republicans had nominated a far better man than Cornell, the result might have been different were Grant, but with Cornell, with his vulnerable and disgraceful record, and with Robinson with his admirable and unassailed record, the Democracy may have easily triumphed if they had presented a united front and a resolved will.

The Star has frequently said that the victories of the Republicans from Maine to Ohio in the recent elections, when it was manifest that there was a general reaction against our party, were mainly owing to the vigorous working of the "outrage mills," and the determined flouting of the bloody-shirt. The New York *Times*, the ablest Republican paper in the land, says of the election results:

"The almost uniform and very remarkable Republican gains show that public opinion has been quietly but completely aroused; that the solid South, whatever its purposes or spirit, will not be allowed to get in the North the electoral votes which it needs to control of the national government. Let us hope that this temperate but decided expression of the sentiment of the country will finally dispose of the sectional issue which was so foolishly raised by the Democracy, and leave opportunity for the fair settlement of other and more profitable, if not more important, questions."
On Thursday morning the Star said: "Supposing that the Democrats have elected their State ticket with the exception of the Governor, what then? The result shows clearly that New York is Democratic—that when they unite and work they can give the 35 electoral votes to their candidate. It shows that New York is safe for the Democrats in 1880 if the right man is nominated."
But the probability now is that the only Democrat elected is the candidate for Lieutenant Governor, and he only by a very small majority. How stands New York in view of this result? Will it go Democratic in 1880? We have no doubt that under ordinary circumstances and with the party heartily united, that New York is Democratic. We must hope that with a good ticket in 1880 that the Democrats can carry that most important State. We have a strong hope that Bayard, or Church, or some New York man of high character, could carry it. It is useless to talk of any Western man as first on the ticket. It is useless to talk of Hendricks and Potter, or of any other man from the West as first, if you wish to make New York certain for the Democrats. The candidate for the Presidency must come from one of the few States in the East that can be counted on for the Democrats with any degree of probability. Such at any rate is our judgment.

We have only space to say that the last thing on the tapis is a Grant visit to North Carolina to further Judge Settle's chances for the second place on the Presidential ticket. The Baltimore *Sun's* Washington letter says:

"Leading Democrats in North Carolina are said to have given the assurance that they will join in extending the hospitalities of the State to Gen. Grant if the affair is directed by any partisan features. As Judge Settle is personally very popular with them, they will have no objection to anything that will help his aspirations in the way of an association on the ticket with Gen. Grant."
More about the Wheat County.
Mr. A. Hagan, the gentleman alluded to in our last having given us the statistics in regard to agricultural matters in Catawba county, was in to see us yesterday, and called our attention to an error in an article. That county has five thousand acres planted in wheat, and the yield is estimated at about five hundred thousand bushels. It is the great wheat county of the State, and he claims that it has in use more wheat and guano drills than all the rest of the State put together. Attention has but recently been directed to the Navassa Guano, manufactured at the works of the Company here, as a fertilizer, and about seventy tons have been introduced into Catawba this season. Mr. Hagan himself is an evidence of the thrift and energy characteristic of the county and its people. He went there a few years ago not worth a cent, according to his own statement, and he is now running five plantations. We hope that Wilmington and the people of Catawba may become better acquainted, and that the community of interest between them may be strengthened and intensified.

Destructive Fire in the Country.
A fire occurred Thursday night, about 10 o'clock, at Oaks Farm, the property of Mr. F. M. Moore, on Brunswick River, about a half mile from the Navassa Guano Works, and four miles from Wilmington, which resulted in the destruction of his barn and crop of rice, estimated at about six thousand bushels. Mr. Moore was in this city at the time, a white watchman being in charge of the farm. He has no intention as yet as to how the fire originated. The property was valued at about \$12,000. The barn was insured for \$2,000 in the Liverpool and London and Globe, and the rice for \$3,000 each in the Liverpool and London and Globe, and the Virginia Fire & Marine and Merchants & Mechanics, of Richmond, Va., represented by Messrs. J. W. Gordon & Bro., the whole amount of insurance footing up \$8,000.

Referring to Mr. W. T. Walters, of Baltimore, in connection with the Western and Atlantic Railway, Gov. Brown, of Georgia, recently paid that gentleman a very high compliment, which is supplemented by the Augusta *Chronicle* in the annexed paragraph:

"Wm. T. Walters is a man of affairs such as few can equal or surpass. He is devoted to the South and her people, and has done more to aid this section practically, and sometimes to his detriment, than any person of our acquaintance in this region. He will, as Gov. Brown says, prove a mighty factor for good in the management."
Mr. Walters is well known in Wilmington by reason of his connection with two of our leading railways, and we believe he is entitled to all we have quoted in his behalf.

Leading Democrats in New York city say that Bayard can get 20,000 more votes in that State than Tilden can get. Rah!

U. S. District Court.
The following cases were disposed of yesterday:

- United States vs. Henry Harris; judgment according to law.
- United States vs. Frank Lander, charged with violating the revenue laws. Defendant found not guilty.
- United States vs. L. F. Vann, charged with counterfeiting or publishing minor coin. Defendant found not guilty.
- United States vs. James Mathews, charged with retailing liquor without a license. Nol. pro. entered.
- United States vs. James C. Sutton, charged with retailing liquor without a license. Defendant found not guilty.
- United States vs. Daniel Simmons, charged with violating the revenue laws. Defendant found not guilty.
- United States vs. A. Empis Hill, charged with violating the revenue laws. Defendant submitted, and judgment was not craved. Recognized for appearance at the next term of the Court.
- United States vs. H. T. Cheney, charged with selling liquor without a license. Defendant recognized for appearance at the next term of the Court.

Several unimportant revenue cases were disposed of by this tribunal yesterday, but most of the day was consumed in the trial of George Davis, colored, charged with stealing a bag of mail from a car on the W. C. & A. R. R., some time last year, and concealing it in a swamp near Charleston, where it was subsequently found by a detective sent by Col. Brink, our postmaster, to work up the case. The principal witness in the case was a colored man by the name of Aaron Godbold, who swore that he saw Davis when he took the mail bag and placed it in a box in the car, from which place of concealment it was subsequently removed to the swamp referred to after it had been rifled of its contents of value. Much testimony was introduced both by the government and the defence, the former to corroborate the testimony of Godbold, and the latter to throw discredit upon his testimony, upon which the government relied for a verdict.

The case was given to the jury at 4 p. m., after a very able and careful charge by His Honor, Judge Brooks, and a verdict of guilty was soon afterwards returned, whereupon the prisoner was sentenced to one year at hard labor in the Albany penitentiary.

J. L. Holmes, Esq., appeared for the defence, and Mr. District Attorney Albertson for the government.
The Grand Jury were discharged last evening, and it is probable that the Court will adjourn at an early hour to-day.

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Horatio Seymour Speaks.
[From his Address at Utica.]
New York is by right, by tradition, by interest, a Democratic State. This county, in its better days, upheld the principles of Jefferson and Jackson. As I stand here at the request of the young men of the Democratic party in this city, to speak particularly of our county and city tickets, which are made up of those who are in the early stages of life, I wish to say to them, as one who has run most of his course, and who feels a deep interest in the welfare of those who are coming on the stage of active exertions, that I exhort them always to keep in view their duties as citizens, to become intelligent in regard to all matters that concern the welfare of the American people, and to be earnest and active in upholding the side which they shall deem to be in the right. I do not wish to do injustice to our political opponents. I respect their convictions, but I believe that when American citizens shall study the principles which give life to our Union and prosperity to our States, the Democratic party will regain its ascendancy in all sections of our common country."

How Chandler Elected Hayes.
[Philadelphia Press, Ring Variety Organ.]
His second service was after the Presidential election of 1876, when, as Chairman of the National Republican Committee, he announced to the people the election of President Hayes by a majority of one vote in the Electoral College. To maintain that majority it was necessary to hold the votes of Florida, Louisiana, Oregon and South Carolina, in all of which States there were early indications of trouble. Senator Chandler assumed the task of making good his assurance. He authorized the employment of persons to enter the necessary proceedings in the courts, to prepare the required proofs, and generally to protect the interest of the Republican party in those States and in the Electoral Commission. These expenses he met out of his private funds, and it is understood that the cost of attorneys and agents and their necessary expenses involved an outlay of over \$40,000, for which he did not receive reimbursement.