

The Sentinel
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CONTEMPT OF COURT.

Judge Brooks of the federal court, has astonished the legal profession and the whole judiciary of the state, except Judge Logan, with new doctrine on the subject of contempt of court. With more propriety we might say it was old doctrine revived.

Five hundred years ago, when judges would get drunk, like Judge Watts, and fight, like Toussaint, was common when they wished to wreak their vengeance on personal enemies, to do so by alleging they were guilty of contempt of court.

Mr. Larkin, the clerk of the court, took part with Mr. Starbuck. Mr. Wm. Board and Mr. Laidley Mitchell, took part with their malice friend, Wilson. Judge Brooks commanded the peace, but neither Starbuck nor the other belligerents obeying him, he took his gold-headed cane and three pieces of wood from the head of Mr. Board.

A general fight ensued. Such a fight in Nash would be called a "battle royal." Judge Brooks ordered all the belligerents, except himself and those who fought on his side, under arrest for contempt of court. At first he refused bail, he then relented and required the parties to give bond in the sum of ten thousand dollars, to appear before him in Raleigh, in September. The parties demanded immediate trial. This was refused. They are now in close confinement in Salisbury under the charge of a United States deputy marshal.

Judge Brooks had no jurisdiction in the matter. It was no contempt of his court, for his court had adjourned the day before. The power in Judge Brooks' court to punish for contempt is statutory. We quote the following from the act of Congress on the subject of contempt:

"The power of the several courts of the United States to issue attachments and other writs, shall not be construed to extend to any case, except the misbehavior of any person, or persons, in the presence of the said courts, or so near thereto as to obstruct the administration of justice," &c.

Under this statute Judge Brooks can no more justify his arrest of the parties than he can the breaking of his cane over their heads. Great care is vain for cause over rebel heads.

"We are ruined by Chinese cheap labor," - *Brother Liberty*. Yes, says the *Richmond Dispatch*, that is a great trouble. The degradation of labor, the adulteration of the population, these are the questions that bear directly upon the "life of the nation" and raise a new struggle for the preservation of that life!

Away out in California, where John Chinaman is coming with a facility and rapidity that is alarming, the republicans have been forced to take ground against him. A regard for their own peace and security forces them to this course. While what they see of the Chinese fills them with dread of the consequences of their introduction in large numbers to fill the rich central plains of this continent, in lieu of that type of man which is supreme on this earth, and whose prevalence on this continent must secure for it the ruling power amongst the nations, it is no wonder that republicans in California should take strong ground against the Chinese. As we recently said to Greeley, even he, who is living in California, would be compelled to oppose the introduction of Chinese by "the environments" of his situation.

A telegram just from San Francisco affords an amusing illustration of how the matter of "environment" affects the opinions of gentlemen sometimes in a very curious way.

This is a case where a prominent gentleman living in California is amenable to the environments there, but who is subjected to another environment which is more potent with him. This gentleman is Mr. Geo. C. Gorham, secretary of the United States senate, who, according to the telegram, in a speech in San Francisco, "repeated the anti-Chinese and anti-slavery planks of the republican platform in California," and this satisfactory conduct on the part of the grand secretary of the senate would, the telegram says, "have a disastrous influence on the republican canvasses."

Now, were Mr. Gorham still a plain citizen of California, he would not dream of committing this folly. He would exhibit entirely to the "environments" of his California situation. But as secretary of the United States senate he must take a very different view of his interest. If he would exclude Chinamen, he runs counter to Mr. Sumner and his followers; and if he opposed subsidies to railroads, he would forfeit the support of Cameron and all the sagacious and ever-active guardians of the nation's welfare, who have not out how rich men may become by these subsidies.

Mr. Gorham knows which of the "environments" is most potent and not to be resisted with safety and advantage to himself.

But this Chinese business is not to be withheld down the wind by republicans, nor anybody else. The introduction of the inferior races of the east threatens the dignity and very "life of the nation," and that "life" must be defended at all hazards.

REVENUES.

High cottons are in vogue once more. The cottons which are in vogue in Ireland, those tipped with blue are pronounced "royal."

Colored linen is affected by Beau Brummick at the mode.

High London collars are now worn by both ladies and gentlemen.

Double-breasted vests will be in vogue for the broadcloth evening suit.

Lilac or lavender muslins are greatly in vogue for afternoon or evening toilets.

White lace bonnets with fine aigrettes are worn for riding.

Miss Bertie Gillock, of Stanton, swaled a peach seed a few days since which produced her death.

The small pox is prevailing among colored people at Yorktown. At least that is what the manufacturer of the article. If the government would shut fairly and justly with its citizens, no man need pay more than 15 cents a bushel for his salt.

The rules of all nations, first or last, have burdened their people with heavy taxes on salt. Somer or later the people have freed themselves of the tax, or the rulers, or both: No people pay such a tax of salt as the American people. When shall we rid ourselves of it!

More Radical Bohemian. The agent of Pennsylvania to collect the claims of that state for war advances says the Richmond *Whig*, has pocketed three hundred thousand dollars, and refuses to disgorge. He bases his claim on commissions. Most of the money was collected before this agent was appointed and yet he claims 10 per cent. commissions on the amount so collected. The Philadelphia *North American*, which took a week to make up an opinion, concludes "there are the gravest grounds for more than a mere suspicion of pecuniary fraud." In other words, it is a genuine radical swindle, and great efforts are being made to hush up the matter.

While this raid upon the Pennsylvania treasury is going on, we have news from Georgia that the carpet buggers there are indignantly pursuing their vocation. A Rev. N. P. Hotchkiss, railroad auditor, had been arrested for cheating and swindling the state - and his examination discloses stupendous frauds perpetrated upon the public. Hotchkiss, Blodgett and Hubbell, who appear to be partners, were a few years ago prisoners, and now roll in rich rags - the plunder of the tax payers of Georgia.

A suggestive conversation recently took place between an eminent lawyer and Judge Rodman, of the supreme court. Said the lawyer: "Our people became needlessly alarmed and voted against convention."

Replied the lawyer: "Do you say 'needlessly alarmed'?" I do not agree with you. There was very good reason for their fears, for it is pretty certain the United States government would have interfered and forbidden any changes to be made."

Lawyer: "What right has the government to interfere with our affairs?" North Carolina has the right to alter her constitution, and has no more right to interfere with our matters than it has with the people of New York."

Rodman: "Why, I thought you were a man of more intelligence than to talk of right. Do you not know that the States government would have interfered and forbidden any changes to be made?"

Lawyer: "Ah, well, if you set up that right to liberty is gone, constitutional rights are gone, and we live under a despotism."

Rodman: "You are right; we do live under a despotism."

Judge Rodman is a man of ability and a radical. He has spoken the truth - *Richmond Dispatch*.

IS IT A JUDICIAL QUESTION?

Misses, Editors: The right of the supreme court of the United States to examine into and pass upon the validity of questions connected with constitutional amendments, appears from the concluding provisions of the act which justify a brief consideration at this time.

Those who maintain the negative of this question allege, in support of their position, that it is incompetent for the supreme court to pass upon the fact whether or not amendments were duly proposed and duly ratified by the requisite number of states, according to the organic law of the land; that the supreme court is precluded from going behind the great seal of state which gives sanction to the proclamation of the secretary of state, that amendments are constitutionally adopted.

They go further and quote, as conclusive evidence in their favor, the statute of 1818, prescribing the duties of the secretary of state, and which reads as follows: "When a bill or resolution shall have been received at the department of state, that an amendment has been adopted, the secretary of state shall cause the amendment to be published in the newspapers, authorized to promulgate the laws, with his certificate specifying the date by which the same may have been adopted, and that the same has become valid as a part of the constitution."

Those who maintain the affirmative of this question do not deny the authority of the secretary of state in the promulgation of amendments, but do deny his right to determine, by proclamation, even with the great seal of state attached, what is and what is not part of the constitution, and to preclude all judicial investigation as to the negative of the act of the secretary of state, which they have strayed against the affirmative with such seeming confidence.

It is a truth, demonstrated by men in high and low places, that the promulgation of amendments by the secretary of state, and sometimes with, as the public laws of the country.

They are warped and bent to promote the aims of political demagogues, regard less of the rights of the people, and it is apparent to every person of ordinary intelligence, and who is at all acquainted with the principles of constitutional law, that congress possesses no rightful power to confer upon the secretary of state an authority to determine what is and what is not part of the constitution, and what is and what is not part of the organic law of the country.

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