

Reading matter on every page.

SECESSION GROAKINGS.

If there is anything strongly savoring of the ridiculous, if not the hypocritical, it is the long drawn sighs and lugubrious diatribes of the rebel press over the "terrible effect" of republican or "radical teachings."

Governor Worth, Treasurer Battle and Wade Hampton, or any speaker of that stamp can assemble the colored people and lecture them by the hour on politics and the love and gratitude they ought to entertain for their old masters, and the suspicion with which they should always view the Yankee, and all its right and regular and peaceable. The moment, however, that a republican speech is to be made, explaining in a lawful and peaceable way the objects and purposes of the great party that saved the government from ruin, and caused every colored bondman to be set forever free, then their seems to be nothing but groaning and wailing and all sorts of gloomy prognostications among those who abhor the freedom of speech only on their side, and many of whom really hate the old flag and the Union worse than they loath poison.

Now, in the estimation of every unprejudiced and discriminating person, all this extra excitement is assumed for the occasion—in short, is a mere trick of the partizan.

The meaning of it all, is, that as the republican party has been prevented from being heard at all in the South for more than ten years, it ought not to be heard for ten years to come. The popular and liberal doctrines maintained by that party upon the subject of free speech, civil rights, the dignity and importance of free labor and the urgent necessity of universal education, do not comport with the almost antediluvian ideas of confirmed secessionists, and hence this implacable hostility that exists.

The time for the indulgence of such narrow and illiberal views has passed away. Better at once recognize the fact that the republican party is too well acquainted with its own rights—too intelligent, resolute and powerful to be "whistled down the wind" in this way. It always stands ready to meet respectable opponents in a fair field of debate, but never dreams of being driven from its lofty and noble purposes by denunciation and slander.

INDEPENDENT USE OF THE BALLOT.

The right to vote, at all, is certainly a very great privilege, but the right to vote as one pleases, according to his own judgment of what is right and wrong, is still a greater privilege.

This is a thing worthy of serious study and thought, not only upon the part of every colored man who has been empowered to vote, but with every one who has enjoyed the right from the time he reached the lawful age.

To vote as some one else pleases and directs, against your own sense of what is right, is not freedom, but a species of abject slavery. What is the ballot worth, unless a man can assert independently, without fear, restraint or coercion from any one?

We make these remarks because we hear the revolting sentiment hinted at, and occasionally thrown out, that when the time arrives for voting, it will be an easy thing to use and control a large portion of the colored vote by those who happen to give the voters employment at the time.

Now, while it may be a very agreeable thing for one employed to be able to vote, willingly, with the employer, yet, if it happens he cannot vote without a violation of a sense of judgment and duty, he had better assert his manhood, even at the risk of being dismissed.

While we regard it a duty at all times to encourage the best of feeling between the employer and the employed, yet, we cannot suffer to pass unnoticed, attempts that may be made to frighten men from an honest discharge of what they may conceive to be their duty at the polls. If a man cannot have the control of his own mind or let his mind control him, he is, after all, practically a slave.

THE UNION LEAGUE.

It may be interesting to our contemporary of the Journal of Commerce to know, that the Union League of this City numbers among its members, over five hundred voters. We submit this item for the consideration of himself and friends, who have some ancestral notions about "The chosen of New Bern."

A TRIUMPH.

The general clamor and loud-mouthed professions of friendship for the negro, on the part of the people who within a few years, advocated the establishment of a new government, whose corner-stone should be slavery—the eagerness and anxiety displayed by their press to show a professed friendship for the colored race—must be evidences most gratifying and cheering to every true friend of humanity. Certainly Humanity and Liberty have never celebrated a greater and more beautiful triumph.

A few short years ago, thousands upon thousands of the inhabitants of these States advocated and supported slavery as a divine institution; they not only claimed the right of owning slaves, but that they were commanded by the word of God to perpetuate human bondage. That they might not only foster the institution where it was, but in order to extend it to new and hitherto free territory, they waged a bloody war of four years duration, they hazarded in that attempt, their property and their lives, and in it property, prosperity, position, domestic comfort, and many of the best lives of the nation were sacrificed. And now, within a few months of the end of conflict, the survivors of the battle, the men and women who formerly could see no wrong in their cherished institution, who did not hesitate to hurl libel, slander, hatred and contempt on the advocates of freedom who claimed for the colored man an equal birth-right, these same men and women step forward to-day and announce to the world that they, beyond all others, seek the happiness of the colored race, that they accord to it a full and cheerful political equality; they ask the privilege of being the political brother of the negro. How much of this profession of friendship and attachment may be genuine and heart-felt is a subject upon which as yet, men do not agree, but to the colored race, to the friends of liberty and equality it is a triumph great alike, whether the proffered hand be that of policy or of truth. The battle has been fought; the principles of human equality has been vindicated, and they who within a few years spoke of the colored man as belonging to an inferior race, created for their servitude, the slaveholder stripped of his pecuniary interest in slavery, proclaims his past life an error and avows his belief in the political equality of the human races.

By telegram from Berlin, the announcement comes of the death of the Hon. Joseph A. Wright, U. S. Minister to Prussia. In the demise of Joseph A. Wright, our country has lost one of her ablest and most patriotic men. Entering public life as a democrat, schooled in all the machinery of that party, Mr. Wright possessed the independence of character to assume a higher and more patriotic stand point, when the party with which he had affiliated espoused the defence of treason. At the breaking out of the late war, he took the stand in common with Douglass, that there could now be but two parties in the land: the friends and the enemies of the country. In the long to be remembered political campaign of 1862, in Indiana, his powerful influence and untiring efforts may be said to have been the means of carrying that State for the Union Republican party. He met, fought and conquered his former political associates, Voorhees, Hendricks and Wright. Mr. Wright was a native of Pennsylvania, he emigrated to Indiana when a young man, and was elected to Congress in 1848. From 1850 until 1857, he held the position of Governor of the State. Under the Buchanan administration he was appointed Minister to Prussia, from whence he returned at the breaking out of the war. In 1862, he was elected to the United States Senate to fill the vacancy which occurred through the expulsion of J. D. Bright. In 1865, President Johnson appointed him Minister to Prussia, which position he filled with credit to himself and his country up to the time of his death.

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CATCHING AT STRAWS.

The same rebel press, which during the past two years has carefully suppressed all intelligence of outrages committed by "Regulators" and robbers, against colored men and northern settlers, and which at the same time, magnified every crime committed by a colored man into a conspiracy against the white race—the same immaculate press has now found new food for venting its spleen, in the Richmond riots. The "Radicals," those horrid fellows, have done it all. The Radicals have incited the negroes; these Radicals are dangerous men, &c. The bitter chagrin which the secessionists feel at the liberation of the colored people is so apparent in all this tirade that it must be seen by all, except the sinking men themselves, who are grasping for straws in their dying agony. That some distur-

bances and riots might occur, immediately upon the liberation of millions of men who had been systematically kept in ignorance, was expected by every thinking man, but the freedmen of the South can point to their general conduct for the past two years with pride. No such number of men on the face of the earth, in their condition, have ever been more peaceably disposed.

PRO BONO JENKINS!!

In view of the minute details attempted by some of our contemporaries, in describing the arrival of Mr. Davis at Richmond, we have resolved to make an extra effort in obtaining news. We will (if we can) send a special long-hand reporter to follow, trail and accompany the late ex-President. He shall report the time of his excellency's rising and the time of his consignment to the downy pillow. How he looked, and how he smiled, what he said, and what he did not say, and what he would have said had it not been for the Radicals, shall all be reported. The color of his coat, and name of the tailor who made it, the size of the buttons upon it shall be described minutely; whether he wore patent leathers or French calf-skins, and whether he wears the same size as two years ago; what he eats and what he drinks, and where he eats and with whom he eats, it shall be recorded. What is said to him and what is said of him, what his opinions are on the Penitentiary question and other leading subjects—these all shall be given to the world. We will spare no expense. Vivat Jenkins. Vivat the REPUBLICANS.

POOR AMMUNITION.

In his eagerness to prove to the colored people how very little the Radicals have done towards giving them the ballot, and how very late the Radicals are in finally giving it, a writer in the Raleigh Sentinel says: "When assembled in Convention in Philadelphia, in September last, they declined committing themselves to negro suffrage." Who declined the Radicals? We think the writer in the Sentinel might refresh his memory without injury to the veracity of his statements.

OATH OF OFFICE.

The Registers and Inspectors of all elections held under the operation of the Reconstruction acts will be required to take the oath prescribed by act of Congress July 2, 1867, which, for the benefit of applicants for appointments and others we publish below:

"I, A. B., do solemnly swear, (or affirm) that I have never voluntarily borne arms against the United States since I have been a citizen thereof; that I have voluntarily given no aid, countenance, counsel, or encouragement to persons engaged in armed hostility thereto; that I have neither sought, nor accepted, nor attempted to exercise the functions of any office whatever, under any authority, or pretended authority, in hostility to the United States; that I have not yielded a voluntary support to any pretended government, authority, power, or constitution within the United States, hostile or inimical thereto. And I do further swear (or affirm) that, to the best of my knowledge and ability, I will support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign or domestic; that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same; that I take this obligation freely, without any mental reservation or purpose of evasion; and that I will well and faithfully discharge the duties of the office on which I am about to enter: So help me God."

The Prisoner of State.

Sometimes biography is history. Either by his own force, or by eminence of office, one man sometimes stands as the representative of a nation or an epoch, and includes its story in his own. Such a relation Jefferson Davis bears to the rebellion; he was its apostle, its defender, and its chosen leader; he was the President of the Confederacy so long as the Confederacy existed; long before its birth, when to others it was but a dream, he saw it as a reality in the future, growing larger and more menacing, and knew it as the instrument of his ambition, and the destiny of his people. After its death he clung to the life of it, he lived. Lee surrendered, Johnston surrendered, but he did not. As he had brought the battle on, he fought it out to the end, and even after the end maintained the mockery of resistance. To this day he remains "President Davis" to the people of the South. It is true that the rebellion was far greater than he, as the North in subduing the rebellion was greater than any of our leaders; yet the changes which in six years made Jefferson Davis a Dictator, a fugitive, and a prisoner, are those by which the historian will measure the swiftest and mightiest revolution of modern times.

Six years ago, Jan. 21, 1861, Jefferson Davis left the United States Senate, owing, as he claimed, allegiance to Mississippi, his State, which had seceded; in less than a month thereafter he was elected President of the Southern Confederacy, and May 29, arrived in Richmond, selected as the capital of the new Republic. There he ruled for four long years, encouraging the people of the South, denouncing the Union armies as cruel and mercenary invaders; there at times he wielded almost absolute power; there he prophesied the failure of our arms, explained away their victories, and exaggerated their defeats; there he remained while Grant fought his way through the Wilderness, while Sherman swept round from Atlanta to Savannah, and even when the Union troops were encamped around the walls, and threatened to cut off all escape. It was not till April 3, 1865, that he fled from Richmond to Danville, whence, three days afterward, when the capital had fallen, he fled to Greensboro, N. C., where he remained for several weeks, never to submit to the armies of the State of the Confederacy. Swift communication on this point came when, on April 9, Lee surrendered his whole army. Davis fled to Greensboro, N. C., where he remained for several weeks, never to submit to the armies of the State of the Confederacy. Swift communication on this point came when, on April 9, Lee surrendered his whole army. Davis fled to Greensboro, N. C., where he remained for several weeks, never to submit to the armies of the State of the Confederacy.

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