

Colored Democrats.

That there should be such a thing as a colored democrat is one of the curious anomalies of politics—something of the nature of a white blackbird. But it is a fact. There are some American citizens of African descent who vote the democratic ticket. There is an organization calling itself The United Colored Democracy of Greater New York, and on the evening of July 11 this organization held a meeting and ratified the Kansas City nominations. Among the resolutions adopted at this meeting of the United Colored Democracy of Greater New York is one which protests against "the open or covert efforts to disfranchise our race coming from any source whatsoever."

If intended as a joke, this resolution will meet with cordial acceptance and create much merriment in certain parts of the country—parts where there is no pretense of concealing the "efforts to disfranchise our race;" parts where the colored vote is wiped out of existence; parts where electoral votes for Bryan and Stevenson are to come from with such absolute certainty that they are reckoned as already cast. In those parts the disfranchisement resolution of the United Colored Democracy of Greater New York will be regarded as distinctly humorous and deliciously funny.

Curiously coincident with the date on which the United Colored Democracy of Greater New York met and ratified and passed resolutions comes a story from Nebraska which bears directly upon the question of the measure of support of the national democratic ticket naturally to be expected from colored voters. E. N. Jenkins of Thayer County, a man of undisputed veracity, asserts that during the civil war, 1861-'65, Adlai E. Stevenson, democratic nominee for Vice-President, was at the head of an organization in Illinois that had for its purpose the prevention of persons of African blood being brought into that State. Mr. Jenkins says:

During the war Lieutenant Phillip Jenkins, a Woodford (Ill.) County man, was taken ill and had to be sent home from the front. He was unable to take care of himself, and a young negro was sent along to attend him. When he reached home the so-called Copperhead element made a big fuss. They found an old law on the statute books making it a crime to bring a negro into the State, and under its provisions the Union soldier, fresh from the battlefield, with his wounds still bleeding from the Confederate bullets, was arrested. Adlai E. Stevenson then was a

young lawyer practicing in that county, and volunteered to prosecute the Union soldier.

The trial came on and the jury disagreed. A second time Stevenson had the case brought up. By this time Jenkins had sufficiently recovered to get back on the firing line, and on the showing that the defendant was at the front fighting for the Union, the judge threw the case out of court. I went to Lincoln for the purpose of seeing how the man looked who prosecuted my father so many years ago. I do not know whether he is as narrow minded now as in those days, but I thought I would like to take a look at him, even if he is Bryan's running mate.

Much interest will doubtless be felt regarding this war reminiscence among Afro-Americans living in localities where their votes are received and counted the same as though they were the votes of white men. In these localities, however, colored democratic organizations are not numerous, and from them no electoral votes for Bryan and Stevenson are expected.—American Economist.

The Kansas City Platform.

The platform, the framing of which cost so much labor and awakened so much contention, was read by that populist from South Carolina, who only a few weeks ago, addressing a graduating class of whom a colored youth was a member, declared that "if you scratch a nigger, you will find a savage"; that same senator who boasted in the Senate of the United States last spring that in South Carolina they had legislated against the negroes, counted them out and killed them, and tried in every way to annul an amendment to the Constitution of the United States made in their behalf. How most impressive must have been his emphasis on the iniquity of governments being carried on without the consent of the governed!

The plank against imperialism is but froth, but the foam thrown up against the piles of the wharf by the incoming tide. It is on a parity with Tilden's "reform" cry in 1876, when the records showed that there were 70 per cent. less defalcations under Grant than under Washington. There was not a man in the convention that did not know that the cry was but an empty slogan, intended for campaign purposes only. Every man there knew that the Philippines were acquired precisely as California was acquired, and that what has been done there has been in exact accord with what Jefferson did in Louisiana; and that the same spirit has governed, though less harshly,

that sent General Jackson to govern Florida; that what has been done has been in exact accord with what was done with California, and is now being done in Alaska. The charges in the resolution are a base slander of President McKinley and a direct snub offered to the opinions of Admiral Dewey and every distinguished American who has been familiar with affairs in the Philippines. The only harm which the resolution can possibly do will be in causing the deaths of more of our soldiers in those islands.

Quite as contemptible is the reference to Porto Rico. There was an island that had been war swept and storm swept; the people were starving, and objects of charity; the need of ministering to them was imperative and imminent, and the Congress of the United States, under the express direction of the Constitution, levied a Tariff of about one-fourth the Dingley Tariff schedule against certain of her products, and in the same bill directed that every dollar thus collected should be made a free gift to that unhappy people. But all that is treated as legislation intended to build up monopolies at home and destroy forever the liberty of the men and women of Porto Rico.

And the resolution was read by Tillman!

The denunciation of trusts was expected. It was quite as pronounced eight years ago. The people became excited, and on election day turned over the executive and legislative functions of the Government to the Democracy. We all know what followed. Monopolies are furiously denounced, and this was expected. The trouble is that these monopolies, as a rule, give a very large proportion of the skilled labor of the country employment, and there is not one of them that has not as many democrats as republicans as stockholders, and were Mr. Bryan President to-morrow he could not interfere with one of them.

The denunciation of the Protective Tariff is covert, but it is pronounced. It shows that the ancient Bourbon spirit is still dominant—that spirit that learns nothing and forgets nothing.

The whole instrument is a patchwork of complaints and repinings; it advocates what it repudiates in practice every day; much of it is untrue in fact, and where a remedy is prescribed the programme is untenable. It was shouted for by thousands of men in the convention, who were secretly rejoicing that its provisions can never be carried out.

In its framework it is bungling and crude.—Salt Lake Tribune.

How the Farmer Gets Even.

Democrats are trying to make the farmers discontented because they are paying a little more money this year for their wire nails and wire for fencing. Of course they never point out to the farmer that his extra profit this year on two or three bushels of corn will pay for any increase in the price of a keg of nails, and that his profits on all of his farm products in this year alone will pay for many times the cost of his barbed wire, beside leaving him a handsome surplus to put in bank or pay off his mortgage. The Gazette always likes to prove its statements. A neighbor in Carl township called at this office last week and stated that it would be necessary to repair a division fence that both were interested in. To do so this paper was called upon to purchase a spool of barbed wire. The merchant asked just double what was paid under the Free Trade policy of Cleveland. But let the reader glance a moment at the difference in the condition of then and now.

When the Cleveland policy prevailed there was sold out of the pasture where the wire was used, good cows at \$10 per head. Today such stock commands \$50 per head. Late one fall, in the Cleveland reign, the very thriftiest of high grade spring calves were taken out of the pasture indicated, and luckily found a purchaser who consented to take the bunch at \$4 per head. Last fall buyers were anxious to give \$20 for calves that were dropped in May and June that ran in the same pasture. The neighbor that came for the wire, in the course of his conversation, said that last year he had disposed of four calves—raised on separator milk—at \$19 per head. He thought he had done well and he had.

Now, where does all this kick come in about the price of wire? The men that mine the iron, the men that transport it, the men who take the ore and make it into wire, and those who barb it, as well as the merchant who sells, thanks to the tariff all are busy. Being busy, they have enormous appetites, which they are satisfying in part by paying the Adams county farmer \$50 for his cow, \$20 for his calf and \$5 per hundred for his live hogs.

A little more Tariff on the Gazette plate, please. Never mind if wire has doubled in price.—Corning Ia. Gazette.

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