

THE RALEIGH REGISTER.

J. C. L. HARRIS, Editor.]

"Ours are the plans of fair delightful peace—unwarped by party rage to live like brothers."

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PARTIES NOT MADE TO ORDER.

They talk about a re-cast of parties in national politics—a bubble which is never entirely hushed except in the heat of a Presidential campaign—has begun and certainly has a more apparent foundation than usual. Things political have become wonderfully mixed. The old Democratic party died in 1872 and underwent a sort of regeneration at Baltimore, where the platforms of twelve or more years were swept out of existence. In the following years there was a disintegration of the Republican party. Thenceforward, bereft of its great leaders and deprived of any rational excuse for being, it has been fighting against fate. That it would have perished beyond hope of resurrection in the last campaign but for unobjectionable candidates and a good platform nobody doubts. As it was it was saved by fire and the smell of brimstone still clings to its garments. And now the President whom that party placed in power has by a rare stroke of policy deprived the opposition of the most valuable part of its stock in trade in abandoning the claim of Federal intervention in State affairs and in turning the carpet-bagger and the scalawag out to shift for themselves. This has not been done without loss of strength by the army with which the President has heretofore trained, but the defection is at present confined to generals without troops. Men in both parties can hardly tell to which they belong, and the leaders of both are vexed with forebodings of such wholesale desertions as will result in complete obliteration of the old clearly-marked lines of division. Under such circumstances the call for a new party is not unnatural and its formation would be a most likely issue.

Some steps in this direction have already been taken, but they are founded upon no false theories. Witness the publication in a Washington paper of a proposition for the organization of a Whig-Republican party, with a platform calling for a bi-metallic currency, protection to American industry and a generous internal improvement policy on the part of the Federal Government. This is very well as names and platforms go, but the Washington editor ought to know that parties are not thus called into being. They do not spring fully armed and equipped from the brain of the able editor or the able statesman. Parties, like poets, are born, not made, and their growth is nearly always gradual. Moreover, the days of their youth are not unfrequently as long as the period of their maturity and power, if not longer. The seed must be sown, warmed by the earth, wooed by the sun and watered by the rains of heaven before the plant buds, blossoms and bears fruit. The adoption of this measure alienates one faction from an existing party; an offense to one man and another who has a following detaches another section the same party; patronage begets corruption and corruption breeds popular distrust; and thus another element is dislodged; people lose faith in leaders whose frailty is exposed, and learn that no party, however revered for great achievements and glorious traditions, is wholly good, and that no party can keep itself pure by asseverations of pious purposes. At last a great crisis arrives, when new issues come to the front and it is necessary for the voter to choose with whom he will serve. Then it is that the discontented elements forget slight differences and weld themselves together to effect one grand purpose. The new party, long in process of formation, suddenly shows its strength, and men, unmindful of the hidden influences at work in years, hail it as the creature of a day. Such influences have been at work in this country since 1863, when the Republican party attained the zenith of prosperity. They new party will assert itself when the fullness of time has come—when the country needs it. But no hot-bed process can give it vitality. People will array themselves under the old standards and the old leaders until these fall and those prove faithless. Until then it is the part of the wise to watch and wait.

There is no occasion for haste. The spirit of the partisan presents the opportunity of the independent voter. He is not to be deceived by the cry that the salvation of the country depends upon the preservation of an unbroken front in a line of battle formed in past ages! Can a crack in his whip, but it has no lash for him. He perceives the rottenness in the carefully willed sepulchre. He is not frightened into subservience by the bugbear of a hated name. In the next few months all of the old arts of the politician will be tried, and all the old wares temptingly displayed to keep business active at the old stands. All the people have to do is to keep cool when the politicians grow warm. As parties now appear there is not the difference of tweedledum and tweedledee between them. The platforms of Cincinnati and St. Louis differed only in words, and that difference in words has been obliterated by the Southern policy of the administration, adopted and executed in defiance of small-fry statesmen. There is nothing to prevent a fair trial of the administration by every honest voter lending to its support in all that is right

and its condemnation in all that is wrong. So, too, with the Democratic Congress shortly to convene in extra session. Let every act of either be judged upon its own merits, regardless of party complication that may ensue. Let parties work out their own salvation; the country is safe whether they rise or fall. If the Republican party can purify itself, very well; if the Democratic party can be disinfected, so much the better; if a new party is needed to effect the desired reforms, it will lift its standard in due time and good men will rally around it.—*Philadelphia Times.*

HUMAN BATTERIES.

EXPERIMENTS THAT GAVE REMARKABLE RESULTS.

It has been known for some time that the human body becomes much charged with electricity in the altitudes and exceedingly dry atmosphere of the high plateau between the Sierra Nevada and Rocky Mountains, but it has heretofore been unknown that such accumulated electricity is a cause of great danger to persons handling explosives. Two very serious and sad accidents have happened within a few months at the mouth of the Suro tunnel, both through the sudden and apparently unaccountable discharge of a number of exploders in the exploder-house. In the first case Henry L. Foreman, formerly connected with the Signal Service Bureau at Washington, a gentleman of scholarly attainments, a good mathematician and astronomer, was engaged in examining some of these exploders when 200 went off, completely destroying his eyesight and otherwise seriously injuring him. These exploders are large copper gun-caps, an inch and a sixteenth in length and three-sixteenths of an inch in diameter, and most kinds are charged with fulminate of mercury.

Two insulated gutta-percha wires connect with each cap, through which the electric spark is sent (after they are placed in cartridges of the different combinations of nitro glycerine) which sets off the cap, and the concussion caused thereby explodes the powder. The second accident referred to happened but a few weeks ago in the same place and probably in the same manner, by which Thomas Coombs lost his left hand and part of his arm. He was engaged in forming ten exploders into a coil around his hand, when suddenly they went off, shattering that member in so fearful a manner that it had to be amputated. These sad occurrences led Mr. Suro to at once institute some careful experiments, for he was strongly impressed with the belief that it was body electricity, and not concussion, which had caused these explosions. Electric exploders made by different parties were taken, one after the other, and placed in a strong wooden box, which again was placed in another box in Mr. Suro's parlor. This room is covered with a heavy Brussels carpet, walking over which causes the human body to be speedily charged with electricity. Mr. Hancock, the chief blaster, assisted in the experiments, and held the wires while Mr. Suro walked round the room two or three times, with slippers, sliding his feet gently over the carpet. After doing this he approached the end of one of the wires with his forefinger, and instantaneously a loud report was heard, the exploder having been discharged. This first experiment was with one of the San Francisco Giant Powder Company's exploders. Now one of the Electrical Construction Company's was tried without effecting its discharge. Next, one of George M. Mowbray's, of North Adams, Mass., which did not go off on the first trial, but it did on the second with a very loud report. After this another of the giant exploders was tried, which went off by the time Mr. Suro's forefinger had reached within two or three inches from the end of the wire.

These experiments have clearly established the fact that exploders may be set off by electricity accumulated in the human body, and the men about the tunnel were at once informed of the fact. Instructions were also issued for handling them hereafter, and a sheet-iron plate was placed in the floor of the exploder-house, to which is connected a wire reaching into the water flowing from the tunnel. The men in handling exploders now stand on this iron plate and have instructions to wet their boots before entering and to put on India-rubber gloves before touching the exploders. If these precautions are properly carried out there will be no danger of explosions hereafter. Any electricity accumulated in the human body will at once be carried off through the iron plate, while the rubber gloves, being non-conductors, form an additional protection. No accidents from these exploders have ever occurred inside the tunnel, for since the place is very wet, no electricity can be retained in the body. But little doubt exists that both Mr. Foreman and Mr. Coombs have met with their misfortunes in the manner indicated.

THE GREAT LONDON DOCTOR.

The illness of the Prince of Wales was the event which made the reputation of Sir William Gull so truly national. He had been a lecturer of Guy's Hospital for four and twenty years when he was called

away by a sudden summons to Sandringham. This was not, however, his first induction to the Prince, as he had previously attended him. The Prince had been struck down by the commonest and deadliest of diseases, typhoid fever, the most fatal and the most easily preventable of disorders. We talk of Bulgarian atrocities; but every year there are atrocities far more dreadful committed in this country by the butchery of some hundred thousand people whose lives might be saved by some care and common sense. The average duration of life in England has been lengthened several years on clear historical evidence; there is no reason why the average length of human life should not extend, say seven years more, if only people could be advised to give anything like the same attention to prevention which they do to cure. It is to be said to the credit of the doctors, by whom an increase of business would naturally be regarded with not unfavorable eyes, that they insist loudly and constantly on the demands of sanitary reform; but it is the insensate army of their patients who will not consent to timely care to abbreviate the labors of the medical man. Royalty itself was stricken down, and the whole land became learned for a while on the pathology of typhoid fever. Dr. Gull packed up his portmanteau and started at once for Sandringham. We will not say that his patients were left to look after themselves, for there is no lack of able men to help such a man at such a need. Sir William was in attendance night and day at Sandringham, and lavished human watchfulness and skill. There was nothing that he did not do for the Prince. He was not only physician, but nurse. That memorable illness is a glorious page in our English history. To all human seeming it could only end fatally. We were hoping against hope. It was almost only the great London physician who held that while there was life there was hope. In answer to a nation's prayer our Prince was given back to us. But the human means of preserving life were mainly the treatment and constant attendance of Dr. Gull. This proud and glorious position will give him a lasting name and his own proper niche in the history of the reign. It is not that a thousand other brave men would not have equally done their best; but the supreme chance came to this particular individual, and he used it to the very best. Hardly any rank or remuneration could adequately repay such services; but the Queen, with the applause of the public and the profession conferred on him a baronetcy. This is the limit beyond which medical honors in this country are not supposed to go. Yet France had its Baron Niel; and perhaps the Crown will so far compromise between tradition and justice that, when a great physician has realized a fortune and retired, the British peerage will admit him within its ranks. The House of Lords is constantly recruited with accessions from the bar; and certainly the profession of medicine is at least as salutary and blessed as the profession of arms or of the law.—*London Society.*

THE REVIVAL OF AN OBSOLETE PASTIME.
In these days when polo and lawn tennis and croquet are so popular, and everybody is racking his brains to invent a new game with which to amuse the youth of America, we should like to suggest the revival of a pastime that was much in vogue among a former generation. It is sad to think that such a healthy and lively means of pleasure should have gone out of fashion as much as it has, and that only unpretentious persons in out-of-the-way places devote themselves to it. It is a spring and autumn amusement designed for the country. To play the game fairly requires a twenty-acre lot. Each player needs to begin with a team of good horses and a very peculiar looking chariot which cuts through the sod with a sharp point, and has only one wheel at the side to serve rather to guide its course than aid in its running. The driver hangs on behind, laying hold of two light handles which project in the rear for his convenience. The rate of progress across a field is of necessity slow, but the course is very exciting, especially where the ground is stony, in which case the driver, tying the reins of the horses about his waist, is compelled to use great dexterity and strength to keep his chariot in its proper furrow and is jolted like a couple of lovers sitting on a buck-board. The game consists in traversing the field from one side to the other day after day until the whole surface is overturned, when the ground presents a series of long, regular ridges of clay, drying in the sun and looking desolate but extremely picturesque. This sport is so fascinating that those addicted to it continue at it from sunrise to sunset, scarcely taking intermissions for their meals, and they grow brown, hardy and manly with the exercise. To prepare the field for the continuance of the game is a work of great pains and no little time. The monotonous ridges of brown or yellow clay have to be broken down to an even surface, and to effect this an ingenious instrument called a harrow has been invented, which is a great number of iron teeth. When this is dragged rapidly backwards and forwards over the field, it reduces it in time to a

pleasant level plain marked with delicate wrinkles. It is then necessary to sprinkle in the ground some cereal, such as wheat, oats or barley, in order that by means of a new growth preparation for another sod may be laid. And when this grain crop is cut down the ground is in such a condition that it will be ready for a renewal of the game during the next season. In this prosaic description we have aimed merely at giving a definite idea of the sport, and have avoided any idle disquisition on its beauties. Suffice it to say that when it was popular the whole country blossomed like the rose and the foundations of our prosperity were laid; and if our young men could be induced to take up this obsolete pastime again and desist from flocking to cities for more artificial amusements, spending their precious time in summer travels and squandering their spare cash in European tours instead of investing it at home, something of the old-fashioned contentment might return to the land. The passion for pleasure and dissipation has gone through all classes and driven the people into wild and unwise extravagances, wherefore we should be glad to see the popular tendencies take a more wholesome direction, and earnestly commend the revival of ploughing among all such young Americans as have leisure and opportunity to indulge in that noble pursuit.—*New York World.*

THE HORRORS OF WAR.

In 1811 the opposing Russian and Turkish Armies stood facing each other on opposite banks of the Danube. During the night between the 8th and 9th of September the Turks succeeded, by making a feint, and so attracting the Russians to a spot some three miles below the real point of passage, in throwing a force of 2,000 men and four guns across the river, a short distance above Girgovo. The first attempts of the Russians to drive this small body back into the river were successfully withstood; reinforcements were rapidly brought over from the right to the left bank, until, finally, 30,000 men and 50 guns were assembled on the northern shore. Every effort to advance further and drive back the Russian Army, which had fallen back into an entrenched position, was, however, repulsed; the Turks themselves being obliged after a time to construct intrenchments, to withstand the counter-attacks directed against them. Unable to drive back the invading force, the Russians desisted from any further active measures against it, but, bringing a strong flotilla of gun-boats up the Danube, to prevent supplies being carried across the river into the Turkish camp on the left bank, they quietly awaited events. The provisions of the Turkish force, thus completely isolated, unable to advance because of the Russian force in front of it, unable to retreat because of the flotilla which effectually prevented any bridge being thrown across the river, soon began to run short. The weather became cold; but there was no fuel with which to kindle fires. Under these circumstances the sufferings of the men were very great. For some time there was horseflesh, but it had to be eaten raw, as even the tent-poles had been cut up and burned. Hundreds died daily, and their comrades had not strength to bury them. Disease was consequently soon added to famine, so that when finally, on the 8th of December, peace was concluded, but 4,000 men, who are described as being but living skeletons with scarce sufficient strength to stand upright, were left out of the 30,000 who three months before had crossed the river.

THE WAR CLOUD.

In the East all the signs are of early and great operations on the part of the Russians on the Danube as well as on the Asiatic frontier of Turkey. The vigor and brilliance which have marked the movements of the Muscovite armies for the past few days effectually answer all the suspicions of weakness and indecision which had been called forth by their previous apparent inaction. It is obvious now that to neither the insufficiency of transportation, the ill quality of munitions, nor the inefficiency of the troops, has been attributable the deliberation which has so far characterized the campaign of the invaders; and that Russia, with the cold wisdom of war, has been simply spending time so as to call forth every element of her immense power, and to deliver her first blow with the full effect of her superiority in men and material. The history of the next few weeks bids fair to be as eventful as that which heralded the march of the Germans across the Rhine, and though the gallantry and fanatic devotion of the Moslem rank and file may bring local and temporary advantages from their assailants, it cannot be doubted that the general issue will be conclusive of the fate of Turkey. Unaided, Turkey will inevitably be crushed; and there is nothing in the present situation to induce the belief that Great Britain will interpose, if at all, until a sharp lesson has been taught her unruly ward.—*Richmond Whig.*

A STRANGE PLANT.

A plant, supposed to be new, has been found in Nicaragua, which, if what is said of it is true, is a great vegetable curi-

osity. It has been named "Phytolacca Electrica." It is said to possess very pronounced electro-magnetic properties. The hand is sensibly benumbed upon touching the shrub, and the magnetic influence is left at a distance of seven or eight feet. The magnetic needle is sensibly perturbed, becoming more and more so until it reaches the centre of the shrub, when the disturbance is transformed into a very rapid gyratory movement. The intensity of the phenomenon varies with the hours of the day, and at night it is hardly perceptible. It attains its maximum about 2 P. M. In stormy weather the energy of the action is augmented. No insects or birds have been seen on the shrub.—*Exchange.*

THE RUSSIAN CAMPAIGN.

THE ADVANCE IN ASIA AND SITUATION IN EUROPE—STRENGTH OF THE ARMIES.

LONDON, May 27.
One of the best roads in Asia Minor runs from Batoum along the river Choruk through Artvin to Olti, and thence to Bardaz. The road crosses the river about fifty miles northeast of Pertakrek and follows a tributary of the Choruk to Tortoum, guarding the northern entrance of the pass leading into the valley of the Kara, or Western Euphrates. Thence it runs through a swampy valley, south of which lies Erzeroum. The importance of this road cannot be overrated. It is the best and shortest line of communication between Erzeroum and the sea coast. The object of the Russian attack on Batoum is thought to be less to obtain possession of the town than to control this road and cut off communication with Erzeroum. They have succeeded and pushed their advance already to Artvin. From Ardahan one road runs southward to Kars, another to Ardandusch, where it branches west to Artvin and south to Tavagesh and Olti. A third road leads from Ardahan via Urut across the Chaly mountains to Olti and Bardaz. On their retreat from Ardahan the Turks used the roads leading westward and southwestward, part escaping to Ardandusch and part across the Chaly mountains to Olti.

Dispatches received during the past week from Turkish sources report that the Russians have since occupied the Olti road from Kars to Krzeroum, which divides a short distance from Kars, branches running nearly parallel, the northern through a pass in the Soghian range a little south of Bardaz, and the southern through Delimusa and across a similar pass to a junction with the northern branch at Chorusan. One road leads from Erzeroum through the valley of the Arras to Kagisman. Here it branches northward to Kars, communicating by a side road with Getscheven. A more important road to Erzeroum is the highway leading via Aralych across the Persian frontier to Burslan, Sulumursa and Persian frontier to Burslan, Sulumursa and Bayazid. This road was used by the Russians in their advance on Bayazid. The Erivan column at last accounts reached Jeranos.

THE PLAN OF ADVANCE.

The plan of the Russian advance is thus clear. The centre of the Asiatic army, under General Melnikoff, is estimated at 30,000 men and 240 cannon; the right wing, or Rion corps, under General Oklobjio, numbers 45,000 men and 140 guns; the left wing, or Erivan corps, under General Tergukadoff, 50,000 men and 156 guns. The Turks have about 70,000 men in the neighborhood of Erzeroum and about 76,000 at Kars. It is impossible to give a reliable account of the number of guns, as those sent from Constantinople may be still at Trebizonde or on the road.

All signs indicate that the Russians intend to attack Mukhtar's position by two flank movements, one from the line of Artvin and Ardandusch, the other from Bayazid. The Turks are already fortifying Erzingan, in anticipation of being forced to leave Erzeroum. A revolt in the Caucasus can be productive only of petty annoyance in view of the precautions adopted, and the advance of the Russian army of civil functionaries, so that by the time the Russian commanders get to Erzeroum all of that pashalig east of the river Choruk will be a Russian province. The districts of Sturagel Bayazid and Dyadin are already under Russian administration. That Erzeroum will be permanently occupied is the conviction openly expressed in authoritative circles in Tiflis.

THE SITUATION ON THE DANUBE.

On the Danube a new element must be taken into account in defining the present situation or discussing the probabilities of the future, namely, the Servians, who, it is confidently asserted, have occupied the chief positions on and near the Timok, with 20,000 men and 45 guns, under General Horvatovitch. Their headquarters, and 10,000 men are said to be at Negotin, 6,000 men at Saitchar, 2,000 at Kladova, 2,000 at Poglova and Bilivanovatz, and a second corps, 8,000 to 10,000 strong, is said to be concentrating at Banjui, under Ranko Alempich. From Gruja, on the Roumanian bank of the Danube and Radjevatz, on the Servian, is a chain of sentinels to Turnseverein and Kladova, within call of each other, to watch and give notice of the movements of the Turks. Russian or Roumanian detachments also occupy Korb and Ostrov, islands in the Danube opposite Turnseverein and Olganashi. The system of Russian advances seems to be that points first occupied by one corps are ceded to another as it marches up, when the first continues its march to the real destination. Thus the men are spared the fatigue of continuous march, while the line remains

unbroken. The Turks have in Widdin about 60,000 men and thirteen batteries; in Adlic, 5,400 men and four batteries; in Bregova, 2,000 men and two batteries, and twelve battalions at Sofia, with six batteries and 4,000 Bashi-Bazouks further down the Danube. The Russians will probably cross in force between Orsova and Nikopolis and again between Sistova and Rastchuk. To oppose this the Turks have at Orsova five battalions and one battery; at Nikopolis, eight battalions and two batteries and about 2,000 cavalry, besides a garrison of 2,000 men; at Sistova are five battalions and one battery; at Rastchuk is a field army of 56,000 men, with 54 guns; at Sillistria, 32,000 men; at Schumla, 52 battalions and ten batteries, and at Varna, about 20 battalions.

THE LEFT WING.

The left wing of the field army is 48,000 to 50,000 strong, and rests on Widdin, 20,000 men garrisoning the fortress. The centre rests on Rastchuk, where the garrison is also 20,000. The right wing in the Dobrudsha will consist of 45,000 men, to be made up of forces from Sillistria and Varna, each of which will retain a garrison of 16,000. A reserve of 64 battalions is to be formed at Schumla, which would bring the Turkish field army up to 220,000. But these 64,000 reserves are as yet in the future.

The Danube is still too swollen and rapid to admit of an attempt at the construction of a bridge. The destruction of another Turkish monitor in the Matchin channel will tend to further paralyze the efforts of the Turks to obstruct Russian operations by means of the Danube flotilla.

J. WILKES BOOTH.

ABSURD STORIES ABOUT HIS REMAINS—THE TRUE STORY.

A number of absurd stories are going the rounds of the press as to the disposition of the remains of J. Wilkes Booth. The latest is by Capt. Oliver P. Leslie, of Pittsburg, who states the body was sunk in a lake seven miles below Alexandria, Va. The incontrovertible facts are as follows: The remains were ordered to be delivered to the friends of Booth by President Andrew Johnson. John H. Weaver, the undertaker of this city, was sent to Washington by his family to bring them here for interment. A box was taken up from the arsenal building and delivered to him. It was brought by him to Baltimore, and was examined by him and a reporter of *The Gazette* at his room on West Fayette street, near Holliday. They found in it a skeleton wrapped in an army blanket. When the blanket was taken off the skeleton was covered with a powder having the appearance of soap-stone, and on being rubbed between the fingers it disappeared just as soap-stone will do. On the right foot was an army shoe, cut open at the top its entire length, as if to accommodate a swollen foot. On the other was a large cavalry boot. The reporter of *The Gazette* examined the bones in and above the shoe, and for some time could find no injury. Believing the remains to be those of Booth, the reporter made a persistent examination, and at last discovered the leg was fractured clean through just above the ankle. The fracture was clearly marked, and the portion below the fracture being lifted out of the box, the ends of the bones were of a pure whiteness, leaving no doubt as to the fact that Booth in leaping from the box had fractured his right leg and not sprained it. Still, the identity of the remains were not satisfactorily established, especially as there was no portion of the spinal vertebrae missing and no mark of any bullet upon them. A brother of Booth's was sent for, who was told by Mr. Weaver of the doubts as to the identity of his remains, and Mr. Weaver requested him to think of some peculiarity; if any existed, in the structure of his brother that would forever remove any doubt. After thinking for a brief while the brother said all that he could remember was that his brother had a tooth plugged with gold in a peculiar manner. He described the location of the tooth, and drew with a pencil the shape of the plug, which was of unusual size. The teeth were taken out, and the tooth was found plugged just as described by the brother, and forever settling at rest any question of the identity of the remains. The remains were buried in Greenmount cemetery in the same lot with his grandfather, father, and other children of the family.—*Baltimore Gazette, 24th.*

FRANCE AND GERMANY.

How seriously the blunder of Marshal MacMahon's unwise anti-Republican advisers has affected Europe is manifest in the prompt recall of Bismarck to Berlin, and his instant appearance at the capital of the German Empire. The only interpretation that can be put upon this movement is that the German government was so serious as to demand the counsel of the ablest man in the Empire; and not only that, but that the emergency was so pressing as to admit of no delay. For all this, however, the present threatening condition of affairs may pass harmlessly away, for neither France nor Germany can desire war at this time. France, in the last few years, has learned grand lessons of the priceless value of peace, and Germany, though naturally watchful and jealous of the slightest questionable movement in France, can hardly entertain an idea of an aggressive movement on her part looking towards war. Though largely the gainer in a money part of view by the result of the war of 1870-71, that money did not compensate her losses in other ways, and an augmentation of such losses she is too wise to incur without strict, unavoidable necessity.—*Philadelphia Ledger.*