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THE RADICAL PROGRAMME.

Speech of Thaddeus Stevens, Delivered at Bedford, Pa., Sept. 4, 1866.

After alluding briefly to the distracted condition of the country at the termination of hostilities, and recapitulating some of the difficulties which surrounded Congress in its legislation at the last session...

"When the war ended, the work of reconstruction would have been easy had all the Departments of Government confined themselves to their legitimate spheres. The rebels were submissive, and asked only to be allowed their forfeited lives. Having lost all by treason and the fortunes of war; having destroyed their State Governments under the Constitution, and voluntarily severed their connection with the United States, and thereby lost all claims to protection under the Constitution...

All the powers of our Government are lodged in three departments, whose duties are wholly distinct from each other; neither can encroach upon the other without disturbing the harmony of the country. The Constitution says: "All legislative powers herein granted shall be vested in a Congress of the United States, which shall consist of a Senate and House of Representatives."

Hence it follows that to Congress alone belongs, not only the right, but the duty to rebuild the States; to give them Republican governments, and to admit them into the Union, if they should be judged fit, to resume the privileges which they renounced and sought to destroy.

The President, as Commander in Chief of the army, had a right, and he used it, to appoint military Governors and hold them in military subjection until the law-making power had an opportunity to act. Instead of calling Congress together or awaiting their regular session, he usurped all the duties of the law-making power and proceeded to give constitutional and civil governments to the conquered States, directing in the most arbitrary manner the terms of their organic laws, and controlling the actions of their legislatures.

Congress met and calmly proceeded to reconstruct the Government. It proposed amendments to the Constitution, not only abolishing slavery, but placing all men on a perfect equality before the law. Every human being is declared to have equal civil rights, and Congress is invested with power to enforce a remedy. This does not touch social or political rights.

THE SENTINEL WEEKLY.

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RALEIGH, MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 1866.

NO. 36.

"I WOULD RATHER BE RIGHT THAN BE PRESIDENT."—Henry Clay.

white man's vote in the Rebel States counts nearly as much as two white men's votes in the free States. This amendment meets with the violent opposition of the President.

Congress passed a Civil Rights bill to guard the rights of all—the President vetoed it. Congress passed the Freedmen's Bureau bill—the President vetoed it. He preferred to let the freemen and refugees starve, and remain exposed to mobbing and murder.

Congress passed a law to admit Tennessee—he disapproved of it and sent a message with his objections, but kept the bill and signed it (an unconstitutional act) because it admitted his son-in-law as Senator.

Congress passed a law liberally increasing the pensions of the wounded soldiers; the increase was not all desired. I tried to make the last pension \$12 instead of \$8 per month. The committee thought they had done all they could afford; but I doubt not it will prevail at the next session.

Consider that this is no Constitution, because your Convention was not a legitimate Convention, and that which we had and have; and that it cannot be made a Constitution, even by popular sanction. It is a mere usurpation, and ought to be rejected by the people as the easiest, simplest and most efficient method of setting the points at rest, and avoiding many perplexing and dangerous questions before the judiciary.

The Chief Justice is right. Not a Rebel State has this day a lawful government. They are merely territories, conquered by our arms from the "Confederate States of America."

little countenance. The republican mind had not examined, and was not ready to accept so radical a proposition. And so the session was spent in inaction. You may find my proposition together with the reasons for it in the last number of The Globe; I wish it might be copied into your excellent paper so that you may judge of it. I trust you will examine it well, so that you can inform us of its propriety.

In my opinion, Congress was derelict in another particular. I have always held that while but few of the belligerents should suffer the extreme penalty of the law, yet that a sufficient fund should be levied out of their property to pay the expenses and damages of the war. Congress in July, 1862, declared all their property forfeited, and directed the President to seize it for the benefit of the United States; more than ten billions of property this became vested in the United States.

I admit Congress became denigrational in the last few days, when all manhood was melted out of everybody. They did some things to seduce the Fenians into our ranks. The measures were right, and so I voted for them. I will speak plainly on this subject.

The most effective argument (if argument it can be called) which will be issued by our opponents is the effort made by the Republicans to give equal rights to every human being, even to the African.

The Protestant will listen to a devout sermon from the text "Of one blood made be all the nations of the earth," and go forth to the next political meeting to shout down with the negro.

The President and his squad (it does not deserve the name of party) contend that the war made no changes in the condition of our institutions, under the Constitution. That "the rights and liabilities of all our former citizens, Rebel as well as loyal, remain unchanged."

Here is their fundamental article to which all the others conform. Mr. Raymond's address says: "The Constitution of the United States is today precisely what it was before the war, the supreme law of the land, anything in the constitution or laws of any State to the contrary notwithstanding."

This strange, wild and wicked doctrine was unanimously adopted by the convales. What! Six millions of Rebels who had renounced the Constitution, who had murdered five hundred thousand of our citizens, who had loaded the nation with debt and drenched it with blood, when conquered, had forfeited no right; had lost no jurisdiction or civil authority; and these conquerors had acquired none, because there was a Constitution which, while they obeyed, protected them, but which they had discarded and torn to pieces by war!

As I said before, the great issue to be met at this election is the question of negro rights. I shall not deny, but admit, that a fundamental principle of the Republican creed is that every being possessing an immortal soul is equal before the law. They are not and cannot be equal in strength, height, beauty, intellectual and moral culture, or social acquirements; these are accidents which must govern their condition according to circumstances.

Mr. Beecher and the Freedmen. In his last or second letter on reconstruction Henry Ward Beecher says: "Either the advantages of Union are fallacious or the continuous exclusion of the South from it will breed disorder, make the future reunion more difficult, and especially subject the freed man to the very worst conditions of society which can well exist."

The most interesting, as well as the most general topic of conversation in official circles here is the tour of the President. The demonstrations of applause which have greeted him in most places delight and encourage his friends, while his enemies do not predict, from the manifestations of hostility and disrespect shown him at a few points, a rejection of his policy by the people, and that he will be impeached and removed from office by the next Congress.

The President's Tour—Ingrates in Office. The most interesting, as well as the most general topic of conversation in official circles here is the tour of the President. The demonstrations of applause which have greeted him in most places delight and encourage his friends, while his enemies do not predict, from the manifestations of hostility and disrespect shown him at a few points, a rejection of his policy by the people, and that he will be impeached and removed from office by the next Congress.

The Philadelphia Press says, with exultation, that not one-tenth of the indignities which have been offered to President Johnson in his tour to the Northwest have been made known to the public. It is but little to the credit of the Republicans that this should be so, and a beautiful commentary on free speech. At Indianapolis, where the violence was greatest, and where life was taken, the President had not opened his lips, so that he could not be charged with provoking it.

At a dinner party given to the President and his associates in St. Louis, Mr. Seward offered the following well-timed toast: "The Mayor of St. Louis—may he ever be conservative in his administration of city affairs, and radical in his hostility to his friends."

Public Meeting.

One of the largest meetings we have ever seen assembled in this town, met at the Court House on Tuesday, at noon, and organized by calling A. Little, Esq., to the Chair, and appointing Col. Jos. White, Secretary.

After a statement from the Chair of the object of the meeting, on motion, Hon. T. S. Ashe, one of the delegates from the Third District to the recent National Union Convention held in Philadelphia, who was present, was requested to give to the meeting an account of his trip to Philadelphia, history of the Convention, and his views on matters in general.

Mr. Ashe took the stand, and for about an hour fixed the attention of the audience with an interesting speech. We have not room or the opportunity to follow him in his remarks, but will give only the principal points touched upon by him.

After alluding to his appointment by the District Convention as a delegate, he stated that he accepted the office with some reluctance, anticipating that if he attended the Convention his intercourse with Northern citizens might be anything but pleasant. But he was happy to say, that as soon as he came in contact with citizens from all parts of the country—the North and Northwest especially—he had been most agreeably disappointed.

With these preliminary remarks he took up the Declaration of Principles and reviewed them separately. Before doing so, he stated that the resolutions had been adopted altogether by the Convention by acclamation, and were not voted upon separately as many seemed to suppose. During his review and clear exposition of them the audience evinced their appreciation of them by applauding.

At the conclusion of his remarks, Mr. J. R. Hargrave offered the following resolutions, which, upon being seconded, were unanimously adopted: Resolved, That we approve of the proceedings of the late National Union and Constitutional Convention, at Philadelphia, because we find therein a full and clear recognition of the constitutional rights of the Southern States in their relations to the Federal Union.

Resolved, That we will discontinue any schemes that may be designed or may tend to thwart the present plans of the Federal administration in its efforts to restore the Union as it was before the late attempt to secede.

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The circulation of the SENTINEL makes it one of the most desirable mediums of advertising in the State.

Advertisements, occupying the space of 10 lines of minion type or less, which we call a square, we charge as follows for insertion in the weekly:

Table with 2 columns: Term, Price. Includes For one insertion (1.00), For two insertions (1.50), For one month (3.00), For two months (5.00), For six months (12.00), For one year (20.00).

JOB WORK executed with neatness at the SENTINEL OFFICE.

The Maine Election.

The New York World, one of the most reliable and sagacious journals in the country, sees no cause for discouragement in the result of the recent elections in New England. It says:

"We entertain no apprehension that the great belt of middle States will follow the example of Maine and Vermont. The chief reason why we are so confident is that the chief reason why those States are found in the fact that they are so remote from the Southern people, that they regard them with the same kind of irrational hostility that nations used to feel towards each other before the modern facilities of communication and intercourse existed. In Maine and Vermont not one man in ten thousand ever sees a Southerner in the whole course of his life. Away on the Canada frontier, where what is done in the South has less effect on their prosperity than on any other part of the country, it might be supposed that the people of Maine and Vermont would be more ready to concede the right of self-government to those on the Gulf and the Rio Grande, than the people of New York or Illinois, who by their large commerce and intercourse are directly affected by all that touches the prosperity of the South. But distance does not operate in that manner. It tends to convert into natural enemies those who know nothing of each other. It is the same illiberal feeling of blind hostility that existed between England and France when a narrow frith interposed made enemies of nations; but which has happily given way before the benign influence of increased commercial and social intercourse. The same reasons explain why New York, and especially that part of its citizens who are conversant with the South and have the greatest stake in its welfare, desire to treat that section with kindness and magnanimity, while Maine and Vermont are so easily excited to look askance on the Southern people, and think they do God service by trying to deprive them of self-government."

Brownlow in Boston.

Boston, Sept. 12.—The "Southern Loyalists" from the Philadelphia Convention had a reception this evening.

Horace Maynard advocated the perpetual exclusion from political power of all who voluntarily participated in the rebellion.

Governor Brownlow spoke of a Convention of rebels and copperheads that is to meet at Nashville to overthrow the State Government. He had notified Seward of this Convention, but he had replied in a sneering and contemptuous letter, which the speaker would shortly publish to the world. However, he would call an extra session of his Legislature, and would meet that Convention, in their efforts to overthrow his government, fully armed.

Disturbance at New Orleans.—Death of John Henderson, Jr. NEW ORLEANS, Sept. 14.—A slight disturbance took place last evening in this city, caused by the arrest of two colored women. An attempt was made to rescue them by some colored soldiers. The police were soon reinforced, and were met by the negroes with a volley of bricks and an invitation to "come on." The police, assisted by several Federal officers, succeeded in restoring quiet.

NEW ORLEANS, Sept. 14.—The military officers are punishing severely the negro soldiers who participated in the riot on Wednesday last. Four are now hanging by their thumbs.

Among the intemperate who are gadding about in the North as representatives of Southern Unionists are P. R. RANDOLPH, colored, of New Orleans, and J. J. BREWSTER, negro, of Baltimore. Both of these lesser lights shone forth on Wednesday evening, in Tremont Temple, Boston. They made their several speeches to the great edification, doubtless, of the audience assembled to do them honor. BREWSTER repeated, for the benefit of his auditors, that very stale and facetious remark that the South is entitled to no rights but funeral rites, and his co-laborer, who immediately followed him, amused the company by offering for sale for fifty cents what purported to be an overdue promissory note of President Johnson's.

The Radicals of Mr. Beecher's congregation, in order to neutralize the influence of his late letters, gave the Southern Radicals a reception in Beecher's church. The "travelling managers," as the papers call them, marched in, and were greeted with wild applause. They were welcomed to the church "where the principles of abolitionism and the doctrine of Sharpe's Rifles were first set forth into the city,"—so the orator said. Maynard was the first to reply; after which the big organ burst into "John Brown," at which the audience grew frantic with excitement, and shouted in a vociferous manner the chorus, not forgetting the line, "we'll hang Jeff. Davis on a southern apple tree." Such scenes would be incredible, were that Satan has been loosed in this country.

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Henry C. Lay, Missionary Bishop of Arkansas, has recovered the communion service stolen from the church at Van Buren during the war. It was discovered in possession of a discharged soldier in western New York, and he gave it up for the price of old silver—\$108.