

THE WILMINGTON POST.

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IF YOU CANT CATCH HIM SHOOT HIM.

Our centennial friend Harlee of the Wadesboro Argus has gone into a fit of indignation over the fact under a recent order from the Postoffice Department, a custom that has prevailed ever since the war for route agents in the C. C. Railway to throw off at all way-stations the mail matter for that place has been forbidden, and persons living remote from regular postoffices are under the necessity of sending for their letters and papers.

If the ancient gentleman had taken a few moments to examine into the matter he would have found out that the route agents, while they were disposed to accommodate the people along the lines over which they traveled, had no right to deliver any mail matter whatever to any but sworn and bonded officers, agents or employees of the Postoffice Department, and if it had so happened at any time while the route agents were thus illegally delivering mails any loss should have occurred, there would at once have gone up a most terrific howl all over the country about the dishonesty and unfitness of those terrible radicals who had the mails in charge, and demand that they should every one of them, be decapitated immediately.

It afforded us considerable amusement to read the Argus conundrums as to the whereabouts of the "employed" Bernard who is always ready to resist encroachments upon the rights and privileges of the people; and the "defendant" Engelhard, who never flinches when aggression is made upon long established custom, and who poses his lance against upstart officials. Bullly for the eagle-eye and bully for the veteran.

SHORT AND SWEET.

The democratic press have been raising a howl all over the country on the supposition that Mr. Fish, the Secretary of State of the United States had been in communication with the principal nations of Europe, asking their views as regards the status of affairs as between the United States and Spain in the Cuba question, and the Confederate House of Representatives passed a resolution on January 23d requesting President Grant to give them information on the subject.

On the 25th the President, in answer to the resolution of the House, transmitted a report from Mr. Fish, of which the following is a copy:—

January 26th, 1876. The Secretary of State, to whom was referred the resolution of the House of Representatives of the 23d inst., that the President be requested, if not incompatible with the public interest, to communicate to the House of Representatives any correspondence which may have occurred during the past year between the Government of the United States and any European Government besides Spain in regard to the Island of Cuba, has the honor to report that no correspondence has taken place during the past year with any European government other than Spain in regard to the Island of Cuba.

Respectfully submitted, HAMILTON FISH. And so that terrible bugbear has played out.

Tucker, of Virginia, while the centennial appropriation bill was under consideration in the House, made a speech which ought to satisfy the people of the country as to the loyalty or disloyalty of the Democrats of the South. He took the ground that the United States are not a nation, but merely a confederacy, denounced the Union and those who stood by the Union, and declared secession proper and justifiable. He thought the south had no reason to rejoice that the Union had been maintained for a century, and therefore was opposed to the passage of the bill. It was probably on this same ground that the Legislature of Virginia recently refused to appropriate \$10,000 to defray the expense of representing that State at the centennial exhibition.

The House Judiciary committee are said to regard favorably the bill providing for the publication in the Congressional Record of the speeches of Senators and Representatives in the precise language in which they are delivered. It is to be hoped that the bill will become a law. The revision of speeches is becoming altogether too common a practice among the Democrats, and ought to be stopped. Cox and Hill both re-wrote their speeches on the amnesty question, and now Tucker, declared that this was not a nation, that States had a right to secede, and that the Union was altogether to be deplored, has withheld his speech for revision. It will probably appear in the Record brimful of patriotism, or at least, with the seditious passages toned down to harmlessness. The sooner the bill is passed the better.

The Ohio Grand Lodge Committee favors and recommends the recognition of the colored Masonic Lodges in that State.

There are three rebels in this country which recent developments cause to stand out in bold prominence before the American people—Jeff Davis, Gen. Beauregard and Ben Hill—the first for his direct knowledge of the horrors of Andersonville and negligence in relieving the same; the second because he desires to hold office and cannot do so until the political disabilities are removed, and, the third, because of his infamous resolution presented in the rebel House of Representatives, asking for the blood of every Union soldier caught on southern soil. A pretty trio for the consideration and pity of loyal men and women.

"When Mr. Blaine objected to pardoning Mr. Davis, no matter on what lying, false pretenses he put the exception, the southern Democrats should have, without raising the dead past, secured the amnesty of all they could and fastened the responsibility of a refusal to pardon Mr. Davis on Mr. Blaine and his party."—Vicksburg Herald.

Well, as long as the Republican party took the responsibility of preventing Jeff Davis from destroying the Union it will probably be able to stand the responsibility of making that crime odious by leaving him as he is at present, "a man without a country." The responsibility may be great, but it is most worthy to bear.

The most terrible plank in the platform of the New Hampshire Republicans is the resolution which says, "We are in favor of the strict enforcement of the constitution and laws of the United States in the southern States." This is all that we ask, but it should be remembered that the constitution and laws of the United States are very unpopular in the turbulent States of the south, and their enforcement in Mississippi and Louisiana would offend "the people."

The confederate Congress intend to inquire into the conduct of the late war on the Union side. They think an unfair advantage was taken of those who attempted to destroy the United States government.

New Orleans Republican. Who Will be to Blame? Congress, like our own Legislature, seems to have postponed the more important business of constituents to the discussion of federal politics. The party issues of the next campaign will settle the points of discussion in both bodies. We suppose the effect of the debate in Congress cannot be better explained than by the Washington correspondent of the New Orleans Times, who, speaking of Mr. Blaine's speech on amnesty, says:

It is difficult to understand how such a blunder could have been made. And of Mr. Hill's reply: Mr. Hill's speech was able, eloquent, and much of it unanswerable. But he undid it. It will never do to awaken the passions and sentiments of 1864-65. In this connection we take up the powerful speech of Mr. Morton, in the Senate of the United States. As it is probable the public have not all read that important document, we will give a short summary of some of its more salient points. The thesis of his speech is, "Has there been reconstruction in the South?" And the argument is adduced to prove that there has not been. In this the following points are made:

That Republicans were persecuted before the war.

That white people are kept out of the Republican party by social and business proscription.

That the white people of the South are intimidated by a violent element among them.

That the White League party has murdered negroes by the thousand, and intimidated them from voting by refusing them employment. This enumeration concludes with the charge that by this policy it is intended to "establish a solid South in the interest of the Democratic party," obtain control of the national government, and reconstruct the South on the white man's basis; to destroy the Republican party by making it impossible for men of Republican principles to enjoy and express their opinions in peace and safety.

Before this summary shall be dismissed with the usual contempt manifested with those with whom we may not agree, it may be well to consider who the speaker is. He represents the third State in the West and the fifth in the Union in point of numbers. He was one of the Republican Governors who sustained President Lincoln from the beginning to the end of the war. That the confidence of his constituents is unimpaired is proved by his election to the Senate, and that he continues in the same opinion by the fact that he has made the argument to which we have referred. It is no Republican secret that he is at present the very strongest candidate for the Presidency which the party can present, and that the Northern Republicans will adopt the issues of principle which he has announced in his speech from which we have quoted.

If, then, the next campaign is to be fought on issues which were deemed settled by the capitulation and amnesty, who is to blame for having reopened them? It is not reasonable to suppose that those who prevailed in the war, accepted a surrender of all armed forces and places, should desire to renew a combat where they had nothing more to conquer. Those who had supposed the issues in controversy in an amended constitution found this settlement accepted as part of the capitulation, and thereupon granted an amnesty so general as to relieve the great mass

of those who were in arms against the government. Certainly if those who had given such evidences of a wish to settle past issues had still nurtured suspicion or vengeance, either motive would have dictated the wisdom of holding control of their antagonists while they had it.

There are many evidences that the doctrines quoted by Mr. Morton from a little paper in Mississippi is the intent of the Democratic party. It is that "in the end a political unity will be enforced, and then the political rights which had to be controlled because dangerous will be destroyed." That such is the programme of the Southern Democracy is believed by the Republican party at the North and West. It is, then, wise in the South to have given excuse for this awakened power? The consequences may be an enhanced sense of sectionalism in the more powerful section. We know very well the usual protest against the abuse of a giant strength, but we would remind those who stand charged with starving people out of business, frowning them out of society and excluding them by acts of violence from the common rights of American citizens, that the Southern Democracy are the giants at home, although obsequious pigmies when protesting their allegiance in the presence of those stronger than themselves.

Whatever may be the opinion or testimony of the Republican as to these published charges of duplicity, cruelty and proscription, has nothing to do with the present inquiry. A powerful portion of the American people believe that the renewed agitation of the sectional question comes from the cause to which Senator Morton refers, and if this portion of the American people choose to make this question an issue in the ensuing election no power of speech or votes can prevent a second decision of the question first appealed to arms, and now demanding a new trial at the ballot box. End as it may, we should dread the effect of this new trial upon the south and upon the nation.

The Defeat of the Amnesty Bill.

Amnesty has been defeated, or postponed, as we feared would be the case, when we read Mr. Hill's ill timed and very imprudent speech in reply to Mr. Blaine. The gentleman from Georgia ought to have taken a hint from the sighs around him, and as it was a boon, not a right, which he was seeking for his Southern friends; offered, in a proper and amicable spirit, to accept all that he could get for them, and be thankful. But he did observe the pregnant signs of danger. He saw, or thought he saw, a sure two-thirds vote for any amnesty measure Randall might propose. He thought the well drilled Democratic forces, aided by some ten or twelve "fence" politicians, could force anything through the House, in spite of the Republican members. The Democrats were plainly told that there was no objection on the Republican side of the House to accord amnesty to nearly everybody named in the bill—in fact, to all save one. But they would not accept. They would have all or nothing, and have bill failed Mr. Blaine gave them an opportunity to regain lost ground, which was refused in a surly, sulky manner.

We believe it would be entirely proper to include Mr. Davis in the list of persons to partake of the luck. But there is no sagacity in refusing the privilege for all the others because one man cannot have it. A friend of amnesty on principle would vote for a bill which had but one name in it, if the addition of a second threatened the success of the first. Mr. Blaine and the Republican members asked for the dictation of a properly divisible question. Mr. Hill then came to the front with an aggravating, hectoring speech, and by his taunts and arraignments of the Republican party, confirmed and massed the opposition to Randall's measure. Speech is silver, but silence is golden. Mr. Hill clutched at the silver, and showed such a disposition as to make the Republicans recall their sympathy and confidence. A few well-timed remarks from some Democratic member of discretion instead, would have kept down the rising passion of the House and poor old Mr. Davis might have slipped in almost unobserved.

But Mr. Hill pointed him out too vividly. He as good as defied Blaine to say aught against him. The sturdy Yankee accepted the challenge and unhorsed the whole troop, putting the whole force of the Democratic majority to rout. He then still held out amnesty on his own terms, which was refused by Randall and Hill. The last named gentlemen are responsible to every unrelieved Southerner, except Mr. Davis, for the defeat of their application.

While we think it would have been ungracious in Mr. Blaine to let the whole bill pass, as it was first reported, we cannot blame him for resenting the impertinence of Mr. Hill's speech in the striking and forcible manner we have seen. Now, let the Democrats come to their senses, accept such amnesty as the Republicans offer, and hereafter bring up the cases of such as may be excluded. Mr. Blaine's bill, for example, would certainly pass the House and receive no opposition in the Senate, unless some indelicate orator, like Hill, should attempt to sound a war note, when we are not so sure that that would pass. The southern Democrats ought to see by this time that they can get much more from the Republican party by asking for it properly than by any amount of swagger and bluster.

N. O. Republicans.

The tax resistors in Mississippi are in a fair way to contest the State and defy all laws. The Natchez Democrat says: "If the Legislature does not very soon devise some way to compel the payment of taxes, the army of non-taxpayers will, in another year or two, be greater than the army of taxpayers, and then there will be anarchy and confusion worse than anything that has ever been known in this State. The non-taxpayers, consisting of delinquent sales of real estate for 1874 and 1875, already represent nearly one fourth of all the property in the country."

Every member of the Minnesota Legislature was here outside of the State, and is what is known as a carpet bagger.

Amnesty at Home.

While a Republican organ cannot take stock in the dispute of southern politicians among themselves, it can not help observing that while the Bourbon Democracy accept every act of amnesty and denounce northern Republicans for objecting to extend this privilege to the ex-president of the confederacy, these same Bourbons proscribe every southern man who fails to obey their partisan edicts. What is perhaps, even more remarkable many of those who were not in the field at all pursue with obloquy those who were soldiers throughout the war. Longstreet, Mosby, Forrest and others whose services contributed to defend the confederate cause, are almost excluded from social intercourse. No one has ever coupled the names of these men with any act of official or personal dishonesty, yet the fact remains that they are excepted from the Democratic amnesty entirely.

What is this Bourbon amnesty? Gen. McClellan led the flower of the Union army to the siege of Richmond. He fought seven of the most bloody battles of the war. He inflicted and suffered as much of wounds and deaths as was within his capacity. General McClellan was nominated as the Presidential candidate of the Democratic party in 1864. According to the authority of Mr. Greeley he received a Democratic vote in New York and Pennsylvania little less than that of his competitor, Mr. Lincoln. The northern Democracy then deliberately selected a candidate who had inflicted great military injury upon the south. The few southern States which voted in the election gave a large, though a minority vote, for McClellan, the war Democrat.

At the election of 1868, the Democracy again endorsed a war Democrat, Mr. Seymour, and Gen. Frank Blair, who led a colored regiment to southern invasion.

In 1872 the Democracy, north and south, nominated and supported Horace Greeley (and Grant Brown), a Republican and Abolitionist, who urged the march on Richmond, and a protectionist. He gave notice that he renounced no principle of his political record. He received the Democratic support of the south.

In these principal and decisive historical examples we find the Bourbon Democracy granting an amnesty to these military invaders, and to this Republican, one blast from whose Tribune was worth an army. The amnesty is granted to these men and endorsed in speech and action, while men who stood in the ranks to resist are now denied social recognition.

During the war, it is alleged, there was a correspondence between the northern and southern Democratic leaders. There were undoubtedly Democratic missions from the north which came into and conferred with the confederate councils.

The Republican cannot, of course, dispute among the Confederates, merits of their controversies during the war. History shows that there was much discontent with the administration of Mr. Davis, chiefly on the ground of bestowing the chief honors of executive appointment, military commissions and foreign representation upon Democrats. The most prominent men of the Whig, or Bell and Everett party were not recognized as their friends thought they should have been. We have heretofore stated the opposition of many of the strongest southern men to the violations of the constitution and bill of rights. This opposition to the Bourbon Democracy was only kept down from the imminent dangers of the war. It is kept down now only by the alleged abuses in the legislation and administration of the southern States, and by the unpopular military authority which the Democratic opponents of the law have rendered indispensable. This distrust of the Bourbon dictators, still exists, and with such a system of official reform as the Republicans have projected carried into effect, an alliance could be readily effected by which the business interests of agriculture and trade could be brought into close and kindly relations with the enterprise and labor, and this ambitious, dangerous and intolerant Bourbon element dispersed and disbanded forever.

We look, indeed, to this relation for the restoration of peace, the development of industry, and the renewed progress of the southern States. It thus appears that the Bourbons can forgive their enemies who fought against them, but pursue with inexorable hatred some who fought for them; that they can accept any amount of amnesty or appropriation from those they habitually denounce as tyrants, yet feel under no obligation to extend either clemency or courtesy toward their fellow citizens who disobey the orders of Democracy.

Such seems the intolerance of the Bourbon Democrats. Such was their unpopularity with the Whigs during the war. They now denounce Mr. Blaine for keeping open the wounds of war, while they denounce and proscribe any Confederate soldier who may exercise the right to support any political party he chooses.—New Orleans Republican.

The Keriboukianians of Ulster county, New York, are fitting up a canalboat in which to visit the Centennial Exhibition at Philadelphia next summer. It is to be modeled after the famous barge of Cleopatra, and will be decked with costly ornaments. An awning is to be placed over the entire length, beneath which the fair-sons and daughters of Keriboukian will dance to the melodious strains of bewitching music, lounge about the deck, and let the soft gentle zephyrs of adjoining mill ponds fan their feverish brows.

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Another Opinion.

We actually do not believe that there are more than thirty thousand Republicans in the whole of North Carolina from the mountains, who are the real paper without spelling the words. What a fearful commentary upon the ballot box!—Abusing its privileges, who cannot read the name of the candidates for whom they vote—"It is a crying shame."

And if we are not mighty badly mistaken, the last census shows that there are upwards of sixty-five thousand white men in the State who cannot read a paper even by spelling the words, and who cannot read the names of the candidates for whom they vote! Is not this, too, a "crying shame?" and what would you do in their case, Mr. Observer, remembering that most of them are Democrats? If it is a "crying shame" for ignorant illiterate Republicans to be allowed to vote, is it not equally shameful for ignorant illiterate Democrats to be allowed the privilege? And if, as you plainly intimate, illiterate men cannot properly exercise the elective franchise, why not disfranchise all such? Let us hear from you again, Mr. Observer; and be kind enough to give us your plan for obviating the evil of which you complain.—North Carolina.

The citizens at St. Paul, Minnesota, are too busy to ride in the street cars. A local paper says: "It is a variety to see a passenger in a car. The makes it easy for the horse, but hard on the stockholders."

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