

(New Orleans Republican.)

The New Trial.

The recent speeches of Mr. Bayard of Delaware, and Mr. Tucker, of Virginia, appeal from the decision of the war and the amendment of the federal constitution. They reaffirm the doctrine that the States possess an unqualified sovereignty, and that the Union is composed of a confederacy of States and is not the work of a majority of the people.

It is not necessary to examine the original articles of agreement, nor to trample over the ground scarce quiet from the deadly struggle which has seemed its surface. We do not suppose any one claims that a people are bound to abide by the disputed constructions of any other people or period. It might even be granted that the Union was a confederacy, but such an admission would no more stop the people from forming a new and more perfect union than it did our ancestors from passing from a confederacy into a Union.

The question of a statehood independent of the Union has been settled by the successive renunciations of the doctrine of nullification by the few that held it, and of secession by the powerful organization which asserted that right. Is there a representative man who now claims that under the decision of the late peace a State can pronounce upon the validity of a federal law? Is there one who can affirm that a State has the admitted right to quit the Union? In what, then, consist the rights of the States? In a simple right of petition to the courts or to Congress. Try this question as we may, it must come back to this inexorable obligation. The rights of the States must be decided by the whole people of the Union, either by legislative or judicial action.

Why these speakers should awaken this question again excites our surprise. It can have but one effect—to renew the issue which it was hoped the war had settled. The speech of Mr. Hill has been deprecated by the Northern Democracy, and the Washington correspondent of the Chicago Tribune says that Mr. Tucker denied the nationality of the United States. The Northern Democracy could not acknowledge the speech as their doctrine, and so, says the correspondent.

Holman (Democrat) was impelled to rise and denounce this exhibition of Calhounism, and to insist that the United States is a nation. The Northern Democrats who have accepted the results of the war, Union men and doughfaces, stand aghast at this exhibition of Calhounism. The assault upon the Republican party by the political associates of Tweed, because of alleged corruption in office, is intended to cover the flagrant antagonism of principle among the Democracy. It has been hoped the storming body would carry the works under that outcry. The steady refutation of that imputation by the Republicans is rapidly relieving them from danger of a surprise.

The next campaign is beginning to be understood among the people as a new trial of a very old issue, which the returning soldiers understood to have been settled by the war. How far those who appealed to war for a decision of the disputed construction can justify themselves in attempting to revive this dispute, we cannot imagine.

The new States of the Union are far more numerous than the old; they are many instances more powerful; yet these States value the protective power of the whole people more than a right of separation which brings also the responsibilities of self-protection. Nevada is a State just as Carolina is. Nevada relies upon the protective power of the whole American people. The Carolina doctrine is that the State can protect herself better than the whole people. Events seem to have proved the fallacy of this last theory, and the new States, each equal in abstract and conceded rights, are of opinion that the doctrine of Mr. Calhoun neither comports with those ideas or these interests. If the States of the Union are to be the people of the United States who prefer to try the old issue at the ballot-box after it has been decided in the field, they have the undoubted right to discuss it.

The proposed reduction of the salaries of our diplomatic officers is simply a piece of infamous demagogism. The world over the diplomatic representatives of the United States are respected because of the importance of their government, and are consequently expected to act the same as their contemporaries from other governments. The salaries paid to them now are not sufficient to support them in their efforts to do this, and they are consequently compelled to draw upon their private means. These facts are known to the Democratic demagogues in the House, as well as the further fact that the Senate will refuse to concur in the proposed reduction. They will claim, however, when the Senate thus refuses, that they attempted to cut down expenses and were prevented from so doing by the Republican majority in the upper House. This specious claim, presented in the coming campaign, will serve as political capital—about all of that scarce material that the Democrats will be able to discover.—Washington Republican.

And now the Spanish diplomatic representatives are blandly telling the various courts of Continental Europe that the Madrid government will—just as soon as it has suppressed the Carlists—send sufficient reinforcements to Cuba to quell the revolutionists. This sound very much like the thousand and one promises Spain has made, and always broken, respecting the abolition of slavery on the island, the cessation of brutal outrages and other features of civilized warfare which have existed there for nearly eight years.

The Platt-Goode Contest.

When Mr. Harris, of Virginia, was appointed chairman of the Committee on Elections it was openly announced that the purpose of the appointment was to secure Goode of the same State in the seat he occupies by the most unblushing fraud and usurpation, and to prevent the consideration of the case of Mr. Platt until the close of the Forty-Fourth Congress. Mr. Harris, we regret to say, is giving color to such assertions by endeavoring to force on the committee the adoption of a rule in considering the contested election cases by which the case of Platt vs. Goode will be the last considered. If this rule is adopted no argument can convince the country that its purpose is anything but to make this case the last to be considered, and to enable Goode to hold on to a seat and draw pay to which he has no right whatever.

The Democratic press and party have for years denounced the Republicans for unfair and partial treatment of Democratic contestants in Congress, so we defy them to show one case so flagrant as this will be if Harris succeeds in his attempt. No Republican Congress ever yet made the Democrats contesting wait until all other cases were heard before taking up a Democratic case. Mr. Platt is the only Republican contesting a seat held by a Democrat, and we submit that no precedent can be found in a Republican Congress which justifies hearing fifteen cases where Democrats contest seats held by Republicans and putting off the only Republican contesting a seat held by a Democrat until the last. If Mr. Goode possesses the high sense of honor the Norfolk press ascribe to him, we do not understand how he can consent to continue to hold a seat and draw pay to which he is not entitled, and he should be as anxious as Mr. Platt to have this case decided, and Mr. Harris should be the more anxious for its speedy settlement, for delay through his action in the only case in which he can be supposed to have a personal interest will inevitably excite suspicion that he is using the position he occupies to advance his personal ends.—Washington Republican.

Postal Telegraph. The bill introduced by Senator Cargent "confering certain privileges upon telegraph companies," provides for the establishment of a new postal telegraph system, of which the following are the main features: Every postoffice in the United States, situated at any point on a telegraph line, shall also be a telegraph station, at which any telegraph company maintaining such line may establish and operate its instruments. If in any case it is apparent that the duties of postmaster and telegraph operator could be filled by one person, the Postmaster General may appoint a suitable person for both duties, and all postmasters shall receive messages for transmission by telegraph, and cause them to be delivered, the telegraph company paying to the government a postage of one cent on each. The charges for telegraphing all messages to be received at or delivered from postoffices shall be fixed by the Postmaster General, but must not exceed the following:—For ten-word messages, less than 250 miles, ten cents; for distances between 250 and 500 miles, fifteen cents; from 500 to 1000 miles, twenty-five cents, and for all greater distances, fifty cents; the address and signature to be free of charge, and for additional words, the rates to be in like proportion.

The bill, however, authorizes any such telegraph company to maintain other offices in important towns or places "for the receipt, transmission and delivery of messages of an important character," and to charge duties for them higher than the foregoing; provided that government business shall have precedence whenever the head of an executive department so requests, and that it shall be done at the lowest rates fixed by the bill. The government is to have the right to purchase any line accepting the privileges of this bill at any time within three years after commencing operations under it, and at the actual cost, with six per cent interest added. The last section directs the Postmaster General to advertise forthwith for proposals, and to award the contract to any responsible party undertaking to form the telegraphic connections and carry out the objects of the bill for the lowest tariff not exceeding the prices above named; the contract to be for a term of twenty years, unless the government shall during that period purchase the line.—Washington Republican.

When Gen. Joseph E. Johnston told Jefferson Davis at Greensboro, in 1865, that the struggle was hopeless, and that it was best for the country that the arch-traitor opposed any proposition for peace unless it provided for his own safety. He was willing that every village and hamlet in the land should be laid waste, and that the wives and children of the poor conscript soldiers should perish with hunger, rather than that he and his so-called Cabinet should risk a trial for treason. This is the man whom Joe Davis, Waddell, Vance and other Democratic Congressmen are trying to have again made eligible for a seat in the United States Senate. Think of the wires and conscripts, signed, ex-Confederate soldiers, think of it.—Ed.

When the rebellion broke out a Captain of Police at the Capitol building deserted his post and went to fight in the ranks of treason. He was a native of Virginia, and appointed from that State. The Democratic control of the House of Representatives brings this villainous official into the public service again. An ex-Confederate Doorkeeper appoints him to a responsible position. Now he hails from California, having removed to that State soon after the surrender of the Confederacy. After his appointment who will doubt the love of Democracy for those who tried to destroy the Union.

Under the new constitution of Texas, nine of a jury may render a verdict. This will lessen the expenses of acquittal on murder charges.

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MISCELLANEOUS.

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Table with columns: STATIONS, ARRIVE, LEAVE. GOING WEST. Salisbury, Third Creek, Statesville, Plott's, Catawba Station, Newton, Canova, Hickory, Morganton, Bridgewater, Marion, Old Fort, Malone.

Table with columns: STATIONS, ARRIVE, LEAVE. GOING EAST. Salisbury, Third Creek, Statesville, Plott's, Catawba Station, Newton, Canova, Hickory, Morganton, Bridgewater, Marion, Old Fort, Malone.

Wilmington & Weldon R. R. Company. OFFICE GENERAL SUPERINTENDENT, Wilmington, N. C., Dec. 19, 1875. CHANGE OF SCHEDULE. On and after Dec. 19th, Passenger Trains on the W. & W. Railroad will run as follows:

Table with columns: MAIL TRAIN, EXPRES AND THROUGH FREIGHT TRAINS. Leave Union Depot, daily, Sunday excepted.

PROSPECTUS! ON Saturday, the 31st day of January, 1876, the undersigned will commence the publication of the Pythian Echo. The Echo will be the organ of the Knights of Pythias in this State, the United States and in the families of the entire Brotherhood. While the Pythian Echo will be published in the interests of the Knights of Pythias, it will ever bear in mind the three cardinal principles which unite us—Friendship, Charity and Benevolence.

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