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## WEDNESDAY, MARCH 13, 1867.

"The Bending of the Bruised Spirit." THE adoption of the Military bill over the veto. and the certainty of its being at once put into active operation, has fired once more the Southern heart; and our Southern files give us numerous instances of how the stung and outraged soul exhibits its emotion. Blair, in his "Rhetoric," tells us that violent passion seizea on metaphors, and compares itself to a "turbulent sea," a "roaring wind," or an "earthquake." The Southern mind has adopted the old mode of expression, and the only objection we find to it is, that its figures are like the Irishman's, who "smelt a mouse; he saw it floating in the air, and would nip it in the bud"-decidedly vigorous, but slightly vague. We earnestly trust that the literary tone of the Southern editors may improve, and have thought of requesting Wheeler or Tuckerman to compile a dictionary of varied metaphors, so that the same ones might not be repeated so often. We do not know what the South does look like, but if it resembles a "seething caldron," a "bedaubed escutcheon," a "ripened, bursted, and rent body politic," and "a beautiful clime whelmed beneath a dead sea," it must present an appearance of pleasing variety. Yet such are its distinguishing features, as described by the various editors from different stand-points. If its physical condition is anomalous, its moral and political state is fearful to contemplate. It must, indeed, be laboring under a series of all the ills to which flesh is heir. Thus the Richmond Whig tells us that they are "saddled with a despotism," and the Enquirer assures us that they are "bucked and gagged." The unfortunate animal-for the metaphor makes the South be personated by an animal-is yet further incommoded, for the Mobile Advertiser declares it is covered "with the inevitable links of the chain of sequence and destiny." "Saddled," "bucked," "gagged," and "chained," it is then "bedaubed," as the Louisville Courier announces, and yet, notwithstanding its unhappy condition, the Norfolk Inquirer urges it to "rouse itself from its apathy." We do not wonder that it does not respond to the appeal, if the picture of its condition as given by the Southern editors be a true one.

Notwithstanding the unanimity with which they agree that the state of the South is helpless, yet no two of them appear to concur as to the proper line of conduct in this emergency. The Richmond Whig gives the sensible advice that "the sooner we eat our peck of dirt the sooner we shall feel refreshed:' while, on the other hand, the Memphis Avalanche declares that "the men who recognize the Military bill are no better than the radical scoundrels who are seeking to rob us of our liberty." Some of them are utterly cast down, and see no hope, and dare give no advice. The Memphis Bulletia treats its readers to a translation of the trite sentiment. "Tout est perdu mais l'honneur;" while the Wilmington Dispatch asks, "What, then, shall we do? We must do nothing ;" and adds, "We must get so that we will not care a continental whether school keeps or not"-an ultima thule doubtless very desirable, but to us decidedly incomprehensible. A dozen smaller papers, taking their cue from their more influential contemporaries, declare against "drinking the dregs," and "committing moral suicide," and the like. We cannot but feel keen regret that the prevailing tone of the Southern press is anything but what it ought to be. All counsel passive resistance, all unite with the Macon New Era, and agree that "the only good reason for not appealing to arms at this juncture is the hopelessness of success." We regret this disposition, because we see it necessitates yet more radical remedies in the future. We would not have it necessary that the strong arm of the Government should be bared, and that, by one sweeping act of confiscation, the South be reduced to beggary. Yet what may be necessary, if the advice of the Southern journals is discarded, we know not. Six months ago, and the adoption of the Constitutional amendment would have made them have all their rights as loyal citizens. To-day a yet severer measure is required. If that is refused, they know not on what conditions they may have to come back to-morrow. THE REJECTION OF MR. COWAN .- Ex-Senator Cowan was rejected by the Senate yesterday, as a nominee for the position of Minister to Austria. This, we suppose, closes the public life of Mr. Cowan. Elected to the Senate by the Republican party of this State, he basely deserted its principles, and went over to the enemy. Rejected by the people whom he had betrayed, he next endeavored to obtain a reward for his political treachery in the shape of a Incrative Federal office. But the Senate. which knows him so well, and has been cognizant of his entire course, has just decided that he is not a fit person to represent the Government of the United States at a foreign court; so that nothing is now left for Mr. Cowan to do, except to return to the shades of private life.

Tun Reconstruction bill has proved an Ithuriel's spear in revealing the true character of the contest now going on in our country in regard to the late Robel States. It has shown that contest to be nothing less than a struggle

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on the part of the old aristocracy of the South to retain its political power at the expense of the masses of the people. In support of this view, let us take the daily arguments of the New York World, which may be regarded as the representative journal of the Democratic party, urging upon the late Rebels of the South the propriety of taking action in conformity with the provisions of the Reconstruction bill. The World denounces the bill as unjust, oppressive, and unconstitutional; still it urges the Rebels to action under it. Why? The gist of its argument is, that such action is necessary to prevent a union between the white and black loyalists of the South, which would give to them the control of its local governments. It says to the late Rebels, If you are wise, you can control a part of the negro vote. If you do not, the negroes will unite with the radicals and carry the day. This is the one idea which it labors to impress

Now, what does this show? Does it not most clearly establish the fact that the Rebel element of the South, when standing alone, is a minority of the whole Southern people ? That it is an aristocracy existing only by the disfranchisement of a large portion of the masses? Hence, we see that the whole effort of the Democratic party in this reconstruction business has been to preserve the ascendancy of the old Southern aristocracy. When, therefore, we read in Democratic journals daily diatribes about the "rights of the South," we must understand by that expression merely the special privileges of the Southern aristocracy. When we read that the South lies prostrate at the feet of the North, we must remember that it means nothing more than that the Southern aristocracy is losing its unjust power. When the Reconstruction bill is called harsh and unjust and oppressive, we must bear in mind that it is harsh and unjust and oppressive merely in this respect-that it takes exclusive power and privileges from the hands of the few, and puts them in the hands of the many. It is no more harsh and unjust and oppressive than an act of Parliament establishing universal suffrage would be to the British aristocracy. Democratic "devotion to the Constitution" in this reconstruction business simply means devotion to the special privileges of the Southern aristocracy. Democratic friendship for the South is nothing but friendship for the minority.

Now, our late civil war was nothing more nor less than an effort of this Southern aristocracy to overthrow the Government of the United States, and to found upon its ruins a slave empire. It staked its all upon this grand venture. Having lost, it now has the effrontery to claim that it shall be allowed to put its feet upon the necks of the Southern masses. The Republican party says, and most justly says, that in the reorganization rendered necessary by the suppression of the Rebellion, the Governments of the South should be established upon a republican basis. We have no right, even if we had the disposition, to restore the old oligarchy to its power over the people. We have no right to exclude a single innocent man from his equal voice as a member of the political community. If Congress has any right to reconstruct the South at all-and it most undoubtedly has-it has no right to reconstruct it upon any other than a republican basis. To do so would be to violate the fundamental principles of our form of government, and to discard the spirit, if not the letter, of the Constitution. The abolition of slavery has made the late slaves members of the political community. They are no longer chattels and things, but persons. There is, therefore, no constitutional ground for excluding them from political power. On the contrary, it would be unconstitutional to do so. Congress has no right to establish an aristocratic form of government in any State. Yet it would do so were it to put the power in the hands of a minority. There is, therefore, no constitutional method of reconstruction except upon a republican basis. That there is no just one except that, is too plain to need argumentation. REPUBLICAN TRIUMPH IN NEW HAMPSHIEE .----The old Granite State wavers not in her alle. giance to the pure principles of republicanism. At her annual election yesterday, the entire Republican ticket was elected by three thousand majority. This gives us three more Republicans in Congress. The Democrats for a month past have been felicitating themselves over the victory they were going to win in New Hampshire. Perhaps they will learn after a while that revolutions do not go backward.

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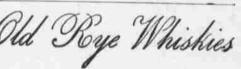
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MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS .- The Republicans of Camden carried that city handsomely yesterday by some two hundred majority.

In Bangor, Me., the entire Republican ticket has just been elected by a large majority.

MEXICAN NEWS .- A despatch from San Francisco announces the occupation of the City of Mexico by the Liberals on the 17th of February. This date would seem to conflict with previous accounts, and throws discredit upon the despatch. The capture of the city by the Liberals, however, is a foregone conclusion.

ENGLAND ARMING .- An English journal says: \_"At no time since the Russian war has the establishment of Woolwich Arsenal been more actively engaged than at present, notwithstanding the numerous new resources of improved machinery and mechanism which have advanced with the time. A moderate supply of the new rifles and ammunition is despatched periodically by the ordnance store vessels to the whole of the out stations, and, in cases of emergency, by railway and other means. On Friday night a large number of cases of the new cartridges and ammunition were sent off from Woolwich Arsenal as a reserve for the army in Ireland."

