

Evening Telegraph

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THURSDAY, MARCH 17, 1870.

THE MAIDEN SPEECH OF THE NEW NEGRO SENATOR.

THE speech delivered in the United States Senate yesterday by Revels, the negro Senator from Mississippi, marks an era in the history of the race he represents and in the politics of this country only second in importance to the issue of the Emancipation Proclamation. The coming man has come. He has made his debut in the highest tribunal of the land, and, awakening the profound attention of his colleagues and the crowded galleries, he has carried off the highest oratorical honors. The Democrats are endeavoring to weaken the significance of this triumph by asserting that the speech is not original, and it is alleged that a phonographic reporter is ready to swear that his leading points were dictated by Governor Bullock. That there may be some color of truth in this allegation is not improbable, for it would have been foolish in Revels to violate the usual custom of the Senate by making a set speech so soon after his entrance into that body without taking counsel with his friends. The greatest of white orators often do the same thing, and dozens of white Senators and Congressmen habitually employ the ready-writers who abound in Washington to prepare their speeches. It is a well-known fact, however, that Senator Revels is a fine orator, and abundantly able to deliver effective speeches of his own composition, so that we should not be at all surprised if his effort yesterday was substantially original. That it was wonderfully well delivered no man pretends to deny. There is nothing at all strange in the development of a good negro orator. Fred Douglass, as a public speaker, was, in his palmy days, the peer of any orator in the land, and there is scarcely a Democratic speech-maker now in the country who can equal him on the stump or the rostrum. Whatever may be the deficiencies of the negro race, they are certainly not deficient in voices, nor, when properly educated, in oratorical power. They are even more likely to produce fine speakers, under favorable circumstances, than the Anglo-Saxon race, which is more noted for its working than its talking capacity. Revels got off a good speech, a very good speech, in the Senate yesterday, and this is a comparatively rare occurrence even in the Capitol where white speech-makers most do congregate. There is a world of difference, however, between oratory and statesmanship, and the political speaker only rises into a really important and useful personage when he combines both these capacities. Revels, as a speech-maker, is far superior to either Grant, Washington, or Jefferson. It remains to be seen how far he combines practical wisdom with his other gifts, and whether his race, when entrusted with power, will be unlike the merry monarch "who never said a foolish thing and never did a wise one." The immediate object of the demonstration yesterday was to defeat the Bingham amendment which had passed in the House by the votes of the Democrats and the conservative Republicans. The leading provision of this amendment is that none of the offices now filled in Georgia shall be vacated, whereas Revels wishes to take a new departure in the reconstruction of that State, and especially to turn out of office the judges who decided that negroes were, under the State laws, ineligible to office. The appeal made to the feeling of the Senate to promote this end was adroit and powerful. The story of the position, conduct, and claims of the colored race to protection was never better told than yesterday; and if strong words well strung together can gain the desired object, Senator Revels may win the rare honor of seriously affecting the deliberations of the Senate on an important question. It remains to be seen, however, whether the judgment of the House will be reversed and the whole reorganization of Georgia torn up by the roots. If this is really done, a crowning seal will be placed on the triumph of Revels; if it is not, his speech will pass into Congressional history, with thousands of others, as a fine but fruitless effort.

For these evils he considered the ballot a remedy, and here it is probable that he and many other advocates of the reform will be greatly mistaken. That the dark ages still exist in some parts of Ireland is due, more than any other cause, to centuries of British misrule and tyranny, and it will require some more potent measure, than a reform in the method of conducting elections to bring about a better state of affairs. Indeed, many of the English friends of the ballot appear to have a very exaggerated idea of its value as affecting the purity of elections. This is not altogether unnatural or to be wondered at, but it is likely to produce some disappointment when the reform actually goes into operation. No one in the United States doubts for a moment that the only proper way of voting at public elections is by ballot, but we do not consider it by any means as a perfect guarantee of purity or a perfect protection for the voter. No system that could be devised would be this, but we contend that the voter is entitled to such protection as secret voting gives, and that he has, independently of every other consideration, a right to vote for whomever he chooses without anybody but himself being informed of the nature of his choice. That the ballot will produce any great or material change in the British party machinery for conducting elections immediately is scarcely probable, but that it will ultimately bring about decided improvements and place an additional power in the hands of the Liberal party is certain. It will remove an incentive to riot at the polls, and it will relieve tenants and employes of manufacturing establishments of the necessity that now exists of depositing their votes at the dictation of men who have the power of withholding from them the means of support for themselves and their families. These considerations alone are sufficient to induce a decision in favor of the proposed reform, especially as the old system has nothing whatever in its favor except that it has been the custom from a remote antiquity.

GENERAL AMES resigned his position in the regular army, a position so good that it was not worth his while to resign it unless with something decidedly better in his grasp, to accept the seat in the United States Senate to which the reconstructed Legislature of Mississippi elected him. Revels, his colored colleague, was admitted to his seat some time ago, and has already begun to feel so comfortable in it that he has made his maiden speech. General Ames, however, is still out in the cold. The Democrats made a determined effort to have Revels' credentials referred to the Judiciary Committee, but failed. When Ames' credentials were presented by Senator Robertson, of South Carolina, on the 25th of February, they were referred to the Judiciary Committee, without ceremony and apparently without opposition, and with the Judiciary Committee they still remain. This unusual reference and delay look as if the committee regarded the General's claims to a seat as rather unsatisfactory. At the time of his election to the Senate, General Ames was an officer of the regular army, on duty in the State of Mississippi as military commander and provisional governor under the Reconstruction acts, and if the law which applies to such cases in general is applied impartially to his case, he was not a citizen of the State which attempted to bestow upon him the highest honor within its gift. It is quite probable that the Senate will ultimately take this view of the case, and that the Legislature of Mississippi will be called upon to elect some one else as the direct successor to Jeff. Davis.

THE STATE HOUSE of Representatives yesterday made an appropriation of \$600 to pay the clerk of the Treasury Investigating Committee, after an unsuccessful attempt on the part of somebody with a conscience to have the amount reduced to \$400. After performing this virtuous deed, the next subject that engaged the attention of our honored legislators was to a proposition to pay Thomas Wilson, Sergeant-at-Arms, the sum of \$237.90 for witness fees and services rendered in attending the Police-Bill Investigating Committee. Strange to say, there was a decided opposition to this, which would seem to indicate that the Sergeant-at-Arms is not in the good graces of some of the members. What this committee was ever appointed for, unless it was to give its members an opportunity to have a good time in Philadelphia, nobody outside of the Legislature probably knows, and what services Sergeant-at-Arms Thomas Wilson rendered what will entitle him to the amount named, unless for ordering the whisky and cigars consumed by the committee during their arduous labors, nobody knows but himself. Mr. Brown, who offered the original resolution appointing the committee, stated that there had been a provision to the effect that there should be no expense to the State, and further, that there had never been an order issued by the chairman to have a single witness subpoenaed. The matter was finally postponed for the present, in order to have the bill itemized, and we presume that the Sergeant-at-Arms understands the disposition of the average Pennsylvania legislator well enough by this time to feel tolerably sure that he will ultimately get the money.

THE IRISH LANDOWNERS who reside outside of the island, and seldom or never set foot upon the soil they own, are said to expend \$40,000,000 in gold annually. Some of them own property in England also, from which a portion of this immense sum is derived, but by far the greater part of it comes from the revenues of their Irish estates, and for this large drain upon the wealth of the country there is absolutely nothing given in return. A country far richer in resources than Ireland would soon be impoverished by such a system. The land bill recently introduced by Mr. Gladstone in the House of Commons does not attempt to deal with this question

in any way, but sooner or later the attention of the British Government must be directed to it, and some scheme devised which will tend to counteract it. The vexatious land question of Ireland can never be satisfactorily disposed of until the evils of absenteeism are in a measure remedied. It is a difficult subject to handle, and will tax the ingenuity and consistency of the Prime Minister to the utmost.

THE WORLD apparently moves a little when some one has the courage to introduce a bill for the abolition of the game laws into the British House of Commons. It is not too much to say that those laws have caused more suffering, misery, and indefensible outrage than all the other obsolete statutes of the English law-books combined, and yet the sporting instincts of a British patriot would induce him to consent to a severance of the Church and State, to the introduction of the ballot, to universal suffrage, or almost to the abolition of royalty itself, rather than that his pheasants and rabbits should not be protected by penalties dread and dire against the ravages of plebeian poachers. It is not surprising to learn that the bill met with a bitter opposition, and that it was withdrawn. The next time, however, it will probably be accorded a hearing, and in a few years it may even be passed, in spite of the opposition of those who will look upon it as an attempt to knock away one of the main supports of that much-vaunted but very shadowy instrument popularly known as the British Constitution. Quite as strange things have happened without causing the downfall of nations.

THE HON. ROBERT R. BUTLER, of Tennessee, has come to grief. Mr. Logan, in the House of Representatives yesterday, made a report from the Committee on Military Affairs, to the effect that Butler had appointed to the West Point Military Academy a young man who was not a resident of his district, and had secured from a contractor the factor of the appointee a sum of money. The report of the committee was accompanied by two resolutions, each being signed by half the members of the committee, one of them providing for the expulsion and the other for the censure merely of Mr. Butler. The report was ordered to be printed, and will come before the House to-day for its action, with what result remains to be seen. Mr. Butler is the Representative from the First district of Tennessee, and was born in Wytheville, Virginia, on the 24th of April, 1827. He was in early youth bound out as an apprentice to the tailoring business, which seems to be such an excellent school for statesmanship in Tennessee, but after attaining his majority studied law and engaged in its practice with some success, being elected a county judge in Virginia in 1856. In 1859 he was elected a member of the lower house of the State Legislature, to which position he was re-elected in 1861. During a portion of the war he served as Lieutenant-Colonel of the 13th Tennessee Cavalry. He was a member from Tennessee of the Republican Convention held at Baltimore in 1864, and a member of the State Constitutional Convention in 1865. He was next elected a State Senator of Tennessee in April, 1865, and in June following was appointed a circuit court judge. Soon after Tennessee was restored to representation he was elected a Republican Representative in the Fortieth Congress from the First district, and was re-elected to the Forty-first Congress almost without opposition, receiving 10,107 votes, against 75 votes for Powell, Independent, and 75 votes for Kyle, Democrat.

RAILROAD TRAVELLING.—An important paper on this subject was recently read before the English Society of Arts. The writer, Mr. G. W. Jones, complains of the exorbitant charges made for passenger traffic. The source of this mistake was in the selection of the mile as the standard of measurement. It would be better to select a "stage" of ten or twenty miles, the travellers going but a portion of the way having to pay for the entire stage. The shorter distances would be compensated for by the longer distances. Mr. Jones also suggested the employment of railway omnibuses. He proposes the division of the country into railroad circles of 80 to 100 miles round, embracing a population of from 100,000 to 750,000. These circles should be pierced with lines of light passenger trains, starting every half hour, travelling at the rate of twenty-five miles an hour, and charging by the "stage" of fifteen miles. This would increase the railroad traffic beyond imagination. The money rate would be one penny for third-class, threepence for second-class, and sixpence for first-class accommodation. The saving on tickets alone would be £150,000. Mr. Jones calculates that, according to this plan, travellers might be taken to Holyhead, a distance of 264 miles, for 1s. 6d., 4s. 6d., and 9s., according to class, and to Edinburgh, a distance of 405 miles, at fares of 1s. 1d., 5s. 9d., 11s. 6d. This plan was favorably received, although Mr. Allport, the oldest railroad manager in the country, declared that its adoption would ruin every company in England.

THE PUBLIC LANDS.—The public lands of the United States previous to the purchase of the Russian possessions embraced about 1,446,716,072 acres, to which was added by the acquisition of Alaska 329,929,000 acres, making a total of 1,816,245,072 acres, or more than 2,837,882 square miles. Of this territory the Government has made grants as follows:—

Table with 2 columns: Description and Amount. Includes grants for military services, agricultural colleges, railroads, and other improvements.

General James W. Ripley, United States Army, died on Tuesday last in Hartford, Connecticut, in his seventy-sixth year. General Ripley graduated from West Point among the early cadets on June 1, 1814. He took high honors on his graduation and was immediately commissioned second lieutenant of artillery. His army life extended without intermission from the war of 1812 to the late Rebellion, a period of half a century. He received a first lieutenant's commission April 20, 1815, and became captain August 1, 1825, while a member of the 4th Artillery. In May, 1833, he was transferred to the Ordnance Department. His major's commission was received July 7, 1839, and that of lieutenant-colonel December 31, 1854. He assumed the office of Chief of Ordnance Bureau August 3, 1861, when he labored incessantly in gathering and arming the forces of the Union army for the suppression of the Rebellion. His great labors seriously impaired his health, and on the 15th of September, 1863, he was placed upon the retired list at his own request, and returned to his home in Connecticut. He

was succeeded by General George D. Ramsey as Chief of the Bureau of Ordnance. General Ripley was an able officer and a sincere patriot. In the darkest days of the Rebellion he never doubted of success, and labored with all the energy of his nature to promote the success of the Union arms. He was one of the first to recognize the importance of arming the negroes, and in this, as in all other matters connected with the welfare of the army and the country, he was in advance of most of his contemporaries. General Ripley was much esteemed for his social qualities by his brother officers and by a large circle of friends in civil life, and his death will be sincerely mourned.

Milwaukee grows, Milwaukee is rich, Milwaukee is liberal. Indeed, the Wisconsin says "a million dollars is nothing to Milwaukee when she can do a kind action or encourage enterprise, and she offers it just as freely as she would offer a thirsty man a glass of water."

SPECIAL NOTICES. For additional Special Notices see the Inside Pages.

AD INTERIM! For the brief space between now and the opening of our New Spring Importations, we will dispose of the remainder of our Winter Stock (much of which is not inappropriate for Spring Wear) at moderate prices.

JOHN WANAMAKER, No. 515 and 599 CHESTNUT STREET.

ACADEMY OF FINE ARTS, NO. 1025 CHESTNUT STREET. SHERIDAN'S RIDE, LIFE-SIZE PAINTING BY THE POET ARTIST, T. BUCHANAN BRAD. THIRD WEEK OF THE EXHIBITION. GALERIES THROUGHDAY AND EVENING. OVER 20,000 VISITORS.

AMERICAN ACADEMY OF MUSIC. THE STAR COURSE OF LECTURES. HUMOROUS LECTURE BY JOHN G. SAXE, ON MONDAY EVENING, MARCH 21. SUBJECT—FRENCH FOLKS AT HOME.

AMERICAN ACADEMY OF MUSIC. CHORAL CONCERT IN AID OF THE HOME. SATURDAY, MARCH 19, 1870, at 3 P. M. THE GRAND CHORUS, composed of the Baptist Sunday School, will be conducted by Mr. G. R. SANDER.

MUSICAL FESTIVAL AND READINGS AT CENTRAL CONGREGATIONAL CHAPEL, EIGHTEENTH and GREEN STREETS, on FRIDAY EVENING, March 18, at 8 o'clock. Tickets, including supper, \$1.

HIBERNIAN SOCIETY.—THE ANNUAL Meeting of the society, for the election of officers, will be held at the CENTRAL HOTEL, on WEDNESDAY next, 17th inst., at 4 o'clock P. M. Dinner at 5 o'clock. Tickets for admission can be procured from Mr. Philip Powell, No. 140 Walnut Street. \$1 25. DENNIS B. KELLY, Secretary.

OFFICE OF THE WESTMORELAND COAL COMPANY, No. 230 S. THIRD STREET, corner of Walnut Alley. PHILADELPHIA, March 16, 1870. The Annual Meeting of the Stockholders of the WESTMORELAND COAL COMPANY will be held at the office of the Company on WEDNESDAY, April 6, 1870, at 12 o'clock M., when an election will be held for eleven Directors to serve during the ensuing year. F. B. JACKSON, Secretary.

PHILADELPHIA, MARCH 16, 1870.—The Members of the Philadelphia Branch of the American Social Science Association are notified that the second volume of the "Journal" for 1870 is ready for delivery at the office of the Secretary, Room 12, southeast corner SIXTH and CHESTNUT STREETS. All subscriptions in arrears are payable to O. H. OLARK, Treasurer, First National Bank.

CITY TREASURER'S OFFICE, City Warrants registered in 1868 or 1869, to No. 30,000, will be paid on presentation at this office, interest ceasing from date. JOSEPH F. MAROCC, City Treasurer.

BOOKS, STATIONERY, ETC.—THE SHERIFF'S SALE of the real estate of the late JOHN W. BROWN, deceased, will be held at 10 o'clock, at No. 734 CHESTNUT STREET, advertised in our columns. Unusual chance for bargains.

CLOTHING. ROCKHILL & WILSON. FINE CLOTHING. GREAT FALL IN PRICES. GREAT FALL IN PRICES. LESS THAN GOLD RATES, LESS THAN GOLD RATES. The balance of our heavy stock will be disposed of at such low prices that purchasers would find it to their advantage to supply themselves with Fine Clothing for next Fall and Winter.

ROCKHILL & WILSON, 603 and 605 CHESTNUT STREET.

BARGAINS IN CLOTHING. GOOD BUSINESS SUITS, OVERCOATS, EVANS & LEACH, No. 628 MARKET STREET, PHILADELPHIA. HATS. \$8.00. HATS. \$6.00.

WARBURTON'S NEW SHAPES FOR SPRING. Easy Fitting and Ventilating (Patented). In consideration of the kind compliance of my numerous patrons (during the past season) with my new rule of business, CASH! I now make a reduction in prices as above. Said reduction is greater than is warranted by the recent decline in gold or existing rates of wages for labor—the latter never having been so high as now, nor so little disposed to follow the turn of gold. Further reductions will be made when feasible; in the meantime the prices for Dress Silk Hats will be \$5.00 for fine and \$3.00 for extra fine. A very rare superior quality, \$10.00.

W. F. WARBURTON, Hatter, No. 430 CHESTNUT STREET, 315 3/4th. Next door to Post Office. THE FINE ARTS. "THE NINE MUSES" Have Been Retained on Exhibition AT EARLE'S GALLERIES, No. 816 CHESTNUT STREET, \$2 1/2. FOR A FEW DAYS LONGER.

C. F. HASELTINE'S Galleries of the Arts, No. 1125 CHESTNUT STREET. THE AUTOTYPES AND LANDSCAPES. NEW CHROMOS.

RUITS' GARDEN MANUAL AND ALMANAC for 1870 contains one hundred and twenty pages of useful information to country residents, distributed gratuitously from RUITS' SEED WAREHOUSE, 317 1/2m. Nos. 922 and 924 MARKET ST., above Ninth.

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CROCKERIES, ETC. 1870. BUY THE BEST. BUCK'S FRESH TOMATOES, WINSLOW'S GREEN SHUAR CORN, MERCIER'S GREEN GREEN PEAS, ASPARAGUS, LIMA BEANS, GREEN GAGES, FRENCH AND ITALIAN PRUNES.

New Crop Green and Black Teas, At greatly reduced prices. Families supplied in quarter and half chests at wholesale price.

HAMS! HAMS!! HAMS!!! NEWBOLD'S JERSEY HAMS, STOKES' JERSEY HAMS, MARYLAND HAMS, S. DAVIS' CINCINNATI HAMS, IOWA HAMS.

WARRANTED GENUINE OLD Government Java Coffee, Roasted every day, at 40 cents per pound, at GOUSTY'S East End Grocery, No. 118 South SECOND St., 217 third. BELOW CHESTNUT STREET. FINANCIAL.

A RELIABLE HOME INVESTMENT. \$1,000,000 First Mortgage Sinking Fund 7 Per Cent. GOLD BONDS OF THE Fredericksburg and Gordonsville Railroad Company, of Virginia. Principal and Interest Payable in Coin, Free of U. S. Government Tax.

THE mortgage is limited to \$150,000 per mile of completed and equipped road—the estimated cost of the road to the Company, furnished and equipped, will exceed \$30,000 per mile, thus giving the bondholders an annual margin of bonded debt of the other Virginia roads being from \$20,000 to \$20,000 per mile—this is less than via Richmond and West Point, 124 miles less than via Norfolk.

SAMUEL WORK, BANKER, No. 25 South THIRD Street, PHILADELPHIA. 314th. A FIRST-CLASS SECURITY. WE OFFER FOR SALE \$1,000,000 Louisville and Nashville Railroad First Mortgage Sevens AT 87 1/2%.

AND ACCRUED Interest from October 1 LENGTH OF ROAD 390 MILES. THE ROAD IS COMPLETED AND FULLY EQUIPPED AT AN ACTUAL COST OF OVER \$16,000,000, AND HAS PAID FROM 7 TO 8 PER CENT. DIVIDENDS ON ITS STOCK FOR THE PAST EIGHT YEARS.

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