

Evening Telegraph

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MONDAY, APRIL 10, 1871.

THE REPUBLICAN REVIVAL.

The darkest hour often comes before the dawn in the political as well as the physical world; and the history of the Republican organization during the last month affords a striking illustration of this trite truism. The disasters in New Hampshire were a natural result of the state of feeling existing at the time the election in that State was held, while the subsequent Republican triumph in Connecticut is a fair indication of the improved tone of public sentiment. The apparent persistence in a San Domingo policy which was offensive to a large portion of the Republican party, the removal of Senator Sumner from the chairmanship of the Committee on Foreign Relations, and sundry other acts of the administration, aroused a wide-spread feeling of hostility which not only found expression in the rapid diminution in the strength of the Republican party, but threatened to overwhelm it with ruin. Many of its politicians and leaders were for the moment impressed with the belief that party exigencies would not permit the renomination of Grant in 1872, and they began to look with anxious eyes for an available successor. It was no easy task, however, to discover an entirely satisfactory substitute. Hosts of aspirants were ready to spring up; and a small regiment of cunning Congressmen, stonorian Senators, war Governors, and military heroes were each thought of, and talked of, as possible candidates, by small knots of their sycophantic admirers and friends. But we cannot all be Presidents, after all, and it is by no means the easiest task in the world to pick an available candidate out from forty millions of people. Supposing Grant to have one or even many faults, it requires no ordinary skill to discover a candidate who has more positive virtues and more well-defined claims to public support; and just as the politicians were becoming sorely puzzled by the difficulties with which they saw they would be environed, if the Presidential course for 1872 was fairly opened to the three-year-old colts of politics, a sweeping reaction came, which went far to solve the puzzle in the simplest of all ways, by indicating that there would probably be no necessity for seeking a new candidate. The President reasserted his original doctrine that he would have no policy to enforce against the will of the people; he executed a skilful flank movement against the anti-San Domingo agitators; the Republican party was united in solid column upon a moderate anti-Ku-klux bill; the necessity of looking after the politics and politicians of the country was at last distinctly recognized, and by a sudden change of tactics the administration improved its position as rapidly as any well-disciplined army ever improved its position on the battle-field.

Apparently, the tide which had been setting steadily against the Republican party has at last been changed. But let not those who undertake to check its destinies be over-sanguine, and neglectful of the necessity of continual exertion to keep the current of popular feeling in its present direction. Many thousands of Republicans are still soured, or indifferent to the continued triumph of the party, and it would be well to adopt the best possible means of conciliating them. The income tax continues to be odious to many influential members of the party, and as it is inherently unjust as well as unpopular and unnecessary, the President should take decided ground in favor of its repeal. Let him publicly announce, also, his hostility to a continuation of the present policy of collecting a hundred millions per annum more of revenue than the legitimate wants of the Treasury require; let him declare for protection of home industry (for every determined free-trader will inevitably become his secret or open foe); and let him advocate an increase in the volume of the circulating medium of the country;—and he will gain friends from the ranks of the Democracy as well as consolidate the Republican party. Senator Morton, in his late speech at Washington, underrated the importance of financial questions. The vital issues of the present and the future are connected with them, the Ku-klux and San Domingo issues being mere episodes of the national drama that is nearest to men's hearts; and if Grant wishes a reelection to follow a renomination, he should show that he is able to grapple with all the existing financial problems.

AN OLD OFFENDER IN TROUBLE AGAIN.

SIMON K. LANDIS had a hearing before Judge Peirce on Saturday on the charge of selling an obscene publication, and was remanded for trial, with a strong probability that he will again be convicted and sentenced to the penitentiary, unless his friend and admirer Governor Geary interferes as he did in the Ficken case, and grants him a pardon before a jury of his fellow-citizens has an opportunity to pronounce upon his guilt or innocence. Geary's former pardon, which contained the opinion that Landis' publication is a valuable scientific medical work, was offered as evidence by his counsel on Saturday, but was refused by the Judge with the rather caustic remark that the Governor's opinion was no criterion, in which his Honor expressed the undoubted sentiment of a very large majority of the intelligent and respectable people of this Commonwealth. When Landis was convicted and sentenced to the penitentiary, it was sincerely hoped by the decent part of this community that he would be kept securely under lock and key for as long a period as the law allowed. For a number of years past he has

been an unmitigated nuisance in this city, and he should have been suppressed long ago. He has offended not merely in the publication of the book, which an intelligent jury decided was an improper one, but there is scarcely a household in Philadelphia that has not been outraged by the filthy circulars thrust under the doors and thrown in at the windows for the women and children to pick up and peruse; and the only wonder is that some indignant husband or father has not taken the law into his own hands, and given Landis his deserts with a stout piece of cowhide. With regard to the pardon extended to Landis after he had once been safely lodged in the penitentiary, considerable mystery exists, and the Governor apparently dare not brave public indignation by giving the particulars with regard to it. All the papers relating to this pardon have been removed from the record, and are either in the custody of the Governor or have been destroyed, and his Excellency refuses to state who the applicants for the pardon were or upon what grounds it was urged. If the pardon were a proper one, or if it were obtained in a proper manner, there would be no necessity for this concealment; and the mere fact that Geary has destroyed the record is a sufficient evidence that there was something in it the public ought to have been informed about. If the Governor interferes again, either before or after trial, to prevent Landis from obtaining his deserts, he may rest assured that he will be more narrowly watched than he was the last time, and that another nail will be driven in his political coffin that will keep him down so tight there will be no resurrection for him.

THE FRENCH COMMUNISTS.

It is difficult to understand the persistency displayed by the Parisian Communists in fighting for visionary and impracticable ideas, and in entailing new miseries upon an unhappy country before the invading armies are withdrawn from French soil. The true explanation of their outbreak must probably be sought in a variety of influences, prominent among which is the charm their popular writers have thrown around Socialistic doctrines. Thousands of French workmen regard Republicanism and Socialism or Communism as synonymous terms, and they have no faith in a revolution which does not tend to equalize wealth as well as political rights. They know that the revolution of the last century uprooted all the institutions then existing, sweeping away the nobility and their titles to land as well as their old line of monarchies, and they insist that measures equally drastic shall be adopted now. The broad doctrine of one of their philosophers that "property is robbery," false and monstrous as it is, has been practically applied in France on more than one occasion, and to more than one class of objects, heretofore, and the agitators of the present day desire that it shall be universally enforced now. Such a preponderating force is arrayed against these men and their doctrines that they cannot possibly achieve a permanent triumph, and their continuance of a contest can only be explained by the fact that the extraordinary measures adopted during repeated revolutions, combined with attractive presentations of Socialistic doctrines, have tended to disseminate a powerful, though not a controlling, sentiment in favor of Red Republicanism. The advocates of a rational republic, an immense body of peasants, as well as the monarchists and Imperialists of the nation, are all opposed, in feeling and principle, to the Communists; and the latter would be overthrown by a fair test of popular feeling at the polls, as well as by a military contest made after all sections had equal opportunities to marshal and equip armies. In the present difficulty the Germans will also throw their preponderating weight against the Communists, if such intervention should become necessary, so that the Parisians are maintaining even a more hopeless contest than that they vainly sought to wage against the invaders; and the main effect of a continuance of their desperate struggle will be an intensification of the miseries of the population among whom they reside.

GRIM-VISAGED WAR having shown his wrinkled front in the coal regions, the hearts of the militiamen of Pennsylvania have been agitated by visions of glory to be gained in guarding coal-breakers and in dispersing disorderly bands of irate miners by the mere flashing of their bayonets. The first reports from the scene of war have been both exciting and satisfactory. Major-General Osborne on Saturday telegraphed that he was holding the reserves well in hand and that ammunition was plenty, which had the effect of restoring public confidence and in creating the impression that the rebellion had been successfully nipped in the bud. Many a battle has been gained merely by the commanding general holding the reserves well in hand and by having plenty of ammunition, and this report from Major-General Osborne is an assurance of the permanent triumph of law and order in the coal region. Let him continue to hold the reserves well in hand, and the belligerent miners will doubtless acknowledge themselves vanquished without risking a combat, and the W. B. A. will abandon murder and arson as means of gaining their ends, and will rely rather upon the writs of *quo warranto*, by which their friend Governor Geary is endeavoring to compel the railroad companies to submit to such terms as Messrs. Siney & Co. are willing to grant them.

A STRONG EFFORT is being made to repeal the law creating the Public Building Commission. The chief trouble seems to be that there are not enough of commissions for all who want to be commissioners, and therefore public improvements must be embarrassed if not defeated. Of course, if the Building Commission is wrong, all the commissions are wrong. Is there to be a new deal all around? If so, we beg to know in time, so that we can look into the emoluments of the snug places to be vacated, and give timely notice to the public. We promise one hundred clever claimants for every vacant chair.

THE GORDIAN KNOT that has tied up all legislation has not yet been cut, and all business is at a stand in the capital. Major Jack Cummings worked three days in a vain effort to untie the tangle by a speech that reviewed everything, from a considerable period before creation down to A. D. 2496. The House adjourned on him several times, and once or twice, in utter despair, was on the point of adjourning *sine die*, but the dead-lock still remains. By-and-by, sensible, practical men, on both sides, will take up the points at issue and settle them fairly and justly. Extreme men on both sides will rave, and swear that things have gone to pot, but nobody will pay any attention to them, and legislation will go on. Call up the reserves of sensible men without delay.

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