

# The Democratic Watchman.

BELLEVILLE, PA.

FRIDAY MORNING, JAN. 24, 1868.

## Democratic Reconstruction.

The following letter, in answer to an invitation extended to Ex-Governor Bigler, by the Democratic Committee of the District of Columbia, to participate in celebrating the 8th of January, expresses the true doctrine. Its sentiment and principles must be adopted by a majority of the people of this country, or our doom will be that of Mexico. Read it, and let demagogues and fanatics heed the lesson:

CLEARFIELD, PA., Jan. 4, 1868.

Gentlemen:—It would be a great pleasure to me to meet so many true men on the 8th; an occasion so well calculated to call to mind agreeable recollections of the happier days of the Republic, and to awaken something of the spirit of the times of Andrew Jackson. But other engagements will deprive me of that pleasure and honor.

But the duties of the present, rather than the incidents of the past, I take it, gentlemen, are to occupy your thoughts, on the occasion in view.

The country and its institutions are imperiled. Ten States, who, since the war closed, were permitted to amend the Constitution, thereby making law for themselves and all the other States; the highest function that any State can perform, have since been denied representation in Congress, in flagrant violation of the latter and spirit of the Constitution, and have also been placed under military rule, and mocked by an invitation to adopt new forms of government on terms odious and oppressive, and which virtually forces the control, in this new work, into the hands of an ignorant negro population. Already the indications developed in this wild experiment, are of the most alarming character; menacing the future of these communities with renewed discord and strife, if not with a relapse into a state of anarchy, as much as was the case of the colored as well as the white race.

This condition of things cannot and must not be allowed. The restoration of the Union, with the rights and privileges of the other States, and with full local governments in the hands of the white population, is a work demanded by honor and sound policy, and, above all, as a vindication of the justice of the late bloody war for the Union, carried on for the Union, and for nothing else, according to the declared intentions of all men of all parties. What the rebels failed to do by insurrection, we cannot now permit to be accomplished without undying disgrace. Besides, the African has in no age of the world shown himself fit for government, and I fear he never will show himself. Until, therefore, he be schooled and trained to think about these duties, it were sheer madness to give him the control in the States, and to let him be free and let him be free in the use of that freedom and industry, and in future let him enjoy all that God and nature may have in store for his race.

But, besides all this, other troubles are upon us. The national debt is overshadowing—the expenditures of the government are without a parallel—the burdens of the people are intolerable—industry in its principal departments is paralyzed—cotton growing has been given over to India and its manufacture to England, and productive labor is greatly at fault; and what adds to the general alarm is, that discord, strife and corruption seem to abound amongst those to whom we must look for immediate relief. What God in His wisdom may have in store for our country, it is not for man to foresee; but, gentlemen from a human standpoint it would seem to be the duty of all to labor to rescue the country from the control of men who, wherever their intentions are, are by reason of their prejudices and biases rendered incapable of devising a policy suited to the whole country.

Let, then, the true men of the Democracy address themselves to this task with singleness of purpose. Let there be no contentions amongst us. No vain councils or selfish ends to gratify—nothing for men or sections. Let our single purpose be the rescue of the country from its present impeded condition, and let the means to the proposed end be boldly proclaimed in our National Convention. Let there be no trailing of our banner (the Constitution) in the dust—no running after strange gods—no bowing down to dumb idols, and no dependence upon the people. But with our purpose and principles emblazoned on our ensigns everywhere, so plainly that he who runs may read—let us leave the people to choose between us and those who are against us.

We must, it is true, think and talk about men for our candidate; but this can be done with due deference to the preferences of all, and in a spirit of true devotion to the cause. No man's individuality or desires can be of special account where the stake is so momentous. In the selection of candidates we should have no friends to reward or enemies to punish. But if there be one man better suited to the contest and the difficult duties of the Presidency than another, or all others, let him be our leader regardless of all other considerations. With such a candidate, so selected, and with our purposes and principles so presented, we can confidently trust the issue to God and the people.

With high regard, I remain your obedient servant. WM. BIGLER

Hon. J. D. Hoover, and others.

In Grant's letter to the President, concerning the removal of that drunken little jester, Shéridan, he said: "It is within the scope of the ability of but few to do what he has." That is true. At least let us hope that there are a few such inhuman wretches on the face of the earth. Then the "scope of the ability" is luminous. Washburne must have been away when Grant wrote this lachrymose letter. He has faith in Washburne's villainy, but he is not quite a fool.

## "Under which King?"

On the 20th of June, in the city of Chicago, will assemble what is denominated a political convention. Upon that occasion will be witnessed, for the first time in this country, the strange spectacle of negroes assisting in the nomination of candidates for the positions of President and Vice President of the United States. From the now excommunicated States, the delegations will be comprised of blacks and whites mixed, the negroes being in the ascendancy and largely outnumbering the whites. Unless we are greatly mistaken, from this occasion will date an important epoch in the history of American politics, as well as indicating the time when a party for some years the dominant political organization, forever disappeared from the arena of politics. These conclusions are arrived at in a logical manner, and, by the way quite easily demonstrated, as we shall proceed to prove.

In the first place, there is a deep-seated prejudice in the minds of a vast majority of the people, against according political and social rights to the negro. This pride of race is not confined within the lines of any political party; for while, perhaps, one of the great organizations is unanimously opposed to the dogma of making the blackman an integral element of our political system, the opposite party cannot control in more than one third of its members in favor of this idea. Hence, by cunningly dodging this question, it has been able to carry with it the element of success. Now, however, the field is a fair one and the issues are clear. The Radical Republican party, which hitherto has declared that the negro was not in the question, will stand again at the black apparition in the Chicago convention. Then the issue will be definitely made up, and the plain question to be settled will be that of a mongrel or a white man's government. Of little avail then will be party discipline and drill, nor will any appearance heretofore in vogue prevent a stampede from the Radical front. Then what will radicalism have gained? Perhaps one of the ten Southern States, now known as military divisions, and as an offset to this it will lose every Northern State, save Massachusetts, Vermont, Maine and Iowa—Sprague's farm not being included in the count. Nor is it all; losing these, its sceptre of power departs forever and with it the attempt to make the negro a citizen. Nor General Grant with the bloody banners of Shiloh and the Wilderness clustering about his brow, nor Chase, the father of greenbacks and the founder of Treasury, nor Butler, with his spoons and Dutch Jap cap, nor Colfax, stretching "across the Continent," can pluck victory from this abyss of darkness. The first namel of the probable Radical candidates maintains this usual wish list, looking wise. Not even his admirers are at all positive that he will accept the position of leading radicalism's forlorn hope. Individually, we hope he may be prevailed on to accept the mongrel nomination. It is a prompt confession of weakness, as well as an admission that if it ever possessed a living principle it has expired by limitation. A fine picture indeed, would it be painted by negroes and running upon a Democratic platform! But even should the Radical fugitives succeed in carrying sufficient electoral votes North to give them a majority when added to the Southern negro votes, let them not flatter themselves that the victory is theirs. Let them play and definitely understand, once and for all, that no man elected by the bogus Southern negro vote, can ever be inaugurated President of the United States. It is useless to reason with madmen, and madmen are these who are endeavoring to retain power by the use of such means. Upon such as these argument is powerless, and force while it should be the dernier resort is the proper means of confining them to the absurdity of what they now propose to attempt. When the Democratic party takes this position in a national convention, then the negro force will and for never will its advocates dare to take up the gauntlet of battle and permit the bayonet to be the arbiter. Therefore, let a fair understanding be had and let firmness on the part of white men prevent the horrible consequences which designing men are seeking to entail upon the degraded and ignorant blacks. In the interest of every friend of a White Man's government prepare for the worst, and let every believer in a common destiny for the Caucasian race ask himself the question, candidly and manfully, "Under which King?"—*Clinton Democrat*

## The Times and Manners.

Several things now begin to make themselves more or less obvious to the popular apprehension:

1. If Northern victory saved the Union, the stoutness of the Southern practice against central usurpation saved State Rights, or else it will soon appear that the Union was saved in vain. For if the South had not protested and fought consolidation would have gone smoothly on until the destruction of republicanism was complete. The war marked a crisis which is not yet over, and we begin to see signs that it will pass, leaving the North the glory of having saved the Union and the South the honor of having been the means of saving that which more than anything else makes the Union valuable and powerful—the right of the States to regulate their own domestic concerns without dictation from the Federal power.

2. It is now apparent to the South that the rising of one all absorbing crop by compulsory labor was a temporary arrangement. Whether the white race, needing this Southern territory, yet not ready to occupy it at once, nor able to do without some of its products, sent the negro here as a useful pioneer, or whether they may be the progress of civilization, that period was scaffolded and not temple.

The migration of the white race have been greatly affected by social and political convulsions; and, perhaps, the partial damming out of white population from the South, for a time by slavery and the sudden and violent removal of the obstruction, may lead to a grander utilization of the vast resources of this territory by white intelligence and enterprise than would have been effected without any such repulse and attraction.

tion. It may be, indeed, as some have suggested, that a very distinct race was made up of the white race, which had been rendered monarchical by age of aristocratic and monarchical rule, so that that republicanism might be instituted on this continent, perhaps the negro was sent to absorb and blot out of existence, so that these broad lands might be fully inhabited with less preliminary loss by the whites. Any how, it is plain that white immigration is the great leading remedy for emancipation, from which it follows very clearly:

3. That if the work of the negro here is not yet done it involves nothing which requires him to receive the right of suffrage or to be brought into the political system; but that while he remains a pest, he is a mere auxiliary, following implicitly whether he is led, and not assuming to be one of the leaders of progress. This would produce convulsion, and though that could not prevent the fulfillment of the white man's destiny, it would make his progress more uncomfortable and cause the negro much unnecessary suffering.

4. In other words, either the negro is to rule in this country or he is not. If he is to rule here, then the white race must leave. The two races cannot rule together, and the white race cannot submit to be ruled by the black. On the other hand, it is greatly to the interest of the blacks to be ruled by the whites. Such an arrangement is the best that can be made for both races, and the country. All that is necessary to this arrangement is, that the negro, while he is equal with the white man before the law, shall not be entrusted with the ballot. He ought not to want it, and would not if he were not deceived and misled by white emissaries.

But if all this be true, the negro must not be regarded as the essential basis of the labor system. If emancipation has taken place in the interest of the white race, the everything must be arranged on the foundation of the white labor, and the negro must be required to imitate the example of the white laborer. Those who cannot or will not do this, must do the best they can, in such refuse employment as may be left to them. But to talk as a foremost and abiding thing, of making contracts with negroes for labor, is to admit that they are the essential and not the secondary consideration. Only so far as we succeed in conforming to the various resources of the country and the varied utilities of the white race, can we be said to have accepted the situation. Until that be done the negro is in some sort a master in Israel with or without the right of suffrage. The country is not made a white man's country by calling it a white man's country, and until it really becomes a white man's country it will be a negro's country, no matter what it may be called. It can be made a white man's country only by the labor of the white race. —*Galveston (Texas) News*

## Why we are a Democrat.

Because God gave us reason, a passable knowledge of right and wrong as between man and man, and a desire to do by others as we would they should do unto us.

Because we love the simple, plain and unimproved form of government made by the honest statesmen of other days.

Because we believe in the inalienable right of self government, the right of the people to change their form of government when they become satisfied that it does not meet the ends for which it was created by them.

Because, with Andrew Jackson, we believe that "it is not in a splendid government, supported by powerful monopolies, that the people will find happiness, or their liberties protected," but in a plain system, void of pomp, protecting all, and granting favors to none.

Because we find that the cardinal principles of Democracy have their proof in the letter and spirit of the Constitution of the United States, the Declaration of Independence, and the teachings and warnings of Washington and the patriots of his day and generation, and because we see no necessity, or even excuse, to depart from the old landmarks in any event or emergency whatever, in peace or in war.

Because we love our country, its institutions, its progress among the nations of the earth, its early history, its meritorious revolutionary defenders, its glorious advancement in the arts and sciences, its rapidly grown greatness, its former complex yet simple system; its Constitutional checks and balances against the encroachments of power, its golden guarantee of protection to the humblest citizen, the equality among its superior and great races of white men who only have advanced civilization, its memorable statements, whose warnings we heed, and which makes us a truer Democrat as we see them disregarded.

Because we believe in the equality of the States in the Union, and that they are sovereign in all matters not delegated by them to the United States in the formation of the Union, while in the Union; but that they are sovereign in or out of the Union, as to the mode and measure of redress as between each State and its co-equal associates on vital question arising between them, whether it be in the form of a solemn protest or in open war.

Because we believe that the people of the several States enjoy inherent and original sovereignty, and that they can only be stripped of that free born right by open robbery and disregard of the law of nations.

Because we believe the people are entitled to God-given rights in or out of any Union, compact, combination or confederation.

Because we have faith in the people, the prime source of all earthly power, and the ultimate return of the "sober second thought."

There are some reasons why we are a Democrat. There are many others. —*Sentinel on the Border*

A negro shot and killed a white man in Washington city one night last week for running against him on the pavement. The murderer escaped. If it had been a negro that had been killed instead of a white man how the Radical papers would have howled over it. —*Clarion Democrat*

## The Groans of the Wounded.

Nothing could have been more gratifying to the press of Richmond than the dismal and wretched howlings of the "Convention" on Saturday. It was feared that the representatives of the negro secret societies in that body were so utterly dead to shame and callous to public sentiment that they cared not what respectable journals either said or thought about them. But when an individual, who has been indicted as an incendiary, shows that the harpoon of the press has been driven through a hide which rivals an alligator's in toughness, we feel that the press has not labored in vain.

And when Hunnicutt denounced the press of Virginia, we experienced the delight which a former felon when he fired upon a midnight depredator upon his hearth, and hears the scamp below with pain as he drops his plunder, jumps the nearest fence, and leaves blimp upon the rails. It is satisfactory to know that the lashings of an honest press are felt even by Pariahs and outlaws like those who have banded with the blacks in hostility to their own race. The impudence of the black and tan Radicals of the Convention in aspiring to the honor of abusing the press of Virginia, is comparable only to what sometimes occurs during the criminal assizes at the Old Bailey. A hardened reprobate who has graduated in picking pockets and grown grey in burglaries, is at last arraigned, tried and convicted for the grave crime of murder. His case is destitute of extenuating circumstances, and when the judge pulls on his black cap, Calverlot and Tyburn loom up with a tall black gallows as palpable and inevitable agents for the final exaltation of the condemned. Then it was that the offender, who is without hope of reprieve who knows that nothing will save his neck from the noose and the dislocation of the deadly drop, becomes desperate and insolent, and before the turnkeys can drag him from the dock, he pours forth his impotent rage and venom in the foulest denunciations of the crown advocate, who has proscribed him, of the jury, which has convicted him, and upon the judge, who has sentenced him to be hanged by the neck until he is dead. And as the miserable wretch is dragged from the crowded court-room to his cell, the gloomy corridors and passages of the prison resound with his abuse and blasphemy. But to the ravings of the felon, whose excess is soon to find its way to the surgeon's dissecting table, the vindictive counsel, judge and jury listen with feelings of mild compassion. In vindictive the majesty of the law, they feel that they have performed a duty to society, of which the abuse of the convict makes them doubly proud.

With just such feelings of placid satisfaction as those just described, do the journals of this State who have derided the brutal dominion of the negro, listen to the howlings of the creatures who are bent upon accomplishing the overthrow of their own race.

Deserving as they do to be scourged with a scourge of scorpions, when their yells of agony show that they flinch and quiver beneath the lash, all respectable journalists feel that they have not been wanting in their duty to their State, to their race, and to the best interests of the country.

No man of well regulated mind believes for a moment that the conspirators against the supremacy of the white race, who have poisoned the mind of the blacks and even threatened a savage war of races, deserve to have extended to them the wages of ordinary political warfare. The vain attempts which have been made to whitewash these agents of the secret negro leagues have imposed upon one, and the instincts of our people teach them that there is no length to which these men would not go if they were not restrained by the more sagacious members of the Radical party.

The character of the monstrous resolutions, which are daily offered in the "Convention," reveal the animus of the enemies of our race, which it has become the duty of the press to denounce and chastise. Where the designs of a band of men are palpably and unmistakably wicked, where negro domination, the dishonor, spoliation and proscription of the white race, and the elevation of the blacks are the objective points to which the conspirators are moving, is it not a crime in contemplation of law as well as ever perpetrated? When was the press of this country ever called upon to denounce a crime more horrible than this? Who will venture to say that the assassin is a greater criminal than the criminals who wish to disfranchise the brave, most gifted and noble of the white race, and desire to disfranchise the best of the black felons who owe their escape from the penitentiary to their point? Can we conceive of a wretch more deserving of chastisement than the renegade who seeks not only to make the negro our political equal, but to place him by our sides as a social equal to thrust him into our hotels, churches, and private houses as an equal?

These are the contemplated crimes which it has become the duty of the press to denounce, and while the ordinary offender bears quietly the punishment which the press administers, what right have these enemies of the white race to complain that they are crucified by their monstrous designs against the Caucasian race? —*Richmond Enquirer*

"THE COLORED TROOPS FIGHT NO BLY."—This has passed into a proverb, but after all there is some evidence extant that casts a shadow of doubt over the assertion. The records of the War Department show that fourteen "colored troops" deserted where one was killed; that about thirty died of disease to every one killed; that nearly twenty were murdered out of the service for disability where one was killed in battle. Look at the record:

Murdered out for disability.....	20,236
Died.....	31,885
Deserted.....	14,887
Misling, which means running.....	1,344
Killed in battle.....	1,514

—A North Carolina paper recommends the World especially to the affection of the southern people. The same paper censures the southern people for laughing at the peculiarities of the negro, but denies that it is for negro suffering "now." That now shows a bunch of wool as big as a negro's head.

## The Radicals and the Supreme Court.

The Radicals propose to take another onward step in their aggressions upon the peace, repose and safety of the country. The Judiciary Committee of the House of Representatives have instructed their chairman to prepare a bill to require a two-third majority of the Supreme Court to declare any law passed by Congress unconstitutional. If such a bill be enacted, it will require six out of the eight judges of the supreme tribunal of the land to agree in opinion before a law can be declared unconstitutional. This will put the chances of any act of a political character being placed outside of the protection of the Constitution at a frightful discount, and embolden the party in power to enact still more radical and indefensible measures with a view of retaining possession of power.

The first open attack of Congress was upon the Executive branch of the government. They traveled outside of the Constitution and denied the Chief Magistrate those rights and functions guaranteed him by the fundamental law of the nation. This alarmed the sober, law-abiding people of the country, and they expressed their opposition to such Congressional action in the resolutions of public meetings and at the ballot-box. The result of the late elections was a decided rebuke to the Radicals. From Maine to the Pacific, the unconstitutional action of Congress was denounced as a direct blow at the perpetuity of a republican form of government in the United States. But this verdict made no impression upon the leaders of the party in power. They are determined to carry out their scheme of elevating Congress to supreme authority. The Executive branch of the government being hampered and circumscribed by laws which have no warrant in the Constitution, the next step was to prevent the Judicial Department from declaring these laws inoperative. This movement is now initiated, and it cannot be all power will be centered in Congress. The President will be reduced to a mere puppet, the Supreme Court rendered powerless, and the people enslaved by a faction as despotic as that which governed France during the terrible revolution which convulsed that country, and finally gave it into the hands of a military chieftain, to stop the flow of blood, the march of anarchy.

This attack upon the Supreme Court of the nation is the most dangerous yet inaugurated by the faction which holds the majority in Congress. Heretofore the judiciary was held sacred—No matter how high the waves of party spirit mounted, they dashed in vain against this rock of the people's liberties. The opinions of this Court were received with confidence, and yielded to with ready acquiescence. No party dared intimate even a desire to interfere with the prerogatives of the man who wore the Judicial ermine of the nation. But now the Radical party proclaims its intention of so mutilating the powers of the court of last resort as to make each act passed by Congress operative, no matter how antagonistic it may be to the plain spirit and letter of the Constitution. In a word, the intention of the men at Washington is to merge the Executive and Judicial branches of the government into the legislative, and thus change the nation from a republic, protected by a constitution, to a despotism, where the life, liberty, and property of each citizen are at the mercy of a political faction. The issue made with the Supreme Court is one which touches every man in the country, and the response will be such as will sink the dominant party in Congress still lower in the estimation of all patriotic citizens. —*Age*

## Mongrel Brutality.

The New York Tribune says: "We proclaim that the South is wretchedly poor, and that many of her people are now, or soon will be, suffering for want of food; and still we say, Root Hog, or die!" The cold inhumanity, nay, the horrid brutality of this sentence, passes comprehension, unless we consider that the writer is actually flattered with a negro mania. He does not hesitate to confess that the let loose negroes "will not work," but he apologizes for their idleness and vagabondism, by laying it all to the "demoralizing influence of slavery." And yet he cannot point to a spot on the face of the earth where what are called "free negroes," are any more provident or industrious. Go to their own native country, and tell us where in five thousand years, a negro ever made, or earned by industry, so much as a shirt? When or where did he, in his native land, ever possess himself of so much as a pint of beads, except by the sale of his wives or his children? Where, on the face of the globe, can the editor of the Tribune point to a spot of what is called free negroism and industry, hand-in-hand? There is no such spot. The negroes of the Southern States, before the abolition of white supremacy, were the only men of that race (excepting in the Spanish colonies where they are held as *siyenos*) on the surface of the whole earth, who were either industrious or happy in their condition. And these Southern negroes will grow less and less industrious, year by year, as they recede from that happy time, when they were forced to industry and cared for by the whites. It is what is wrongfully denominated "emancipation," which has demoralized and destroyed them. This blackguard Tribune phrase of "root hog, or die," so inhumanly applied to the Southern people, is a good deal better buried in the teeth of the brutal Northern mongrels! —*N. Y. Day Book*

—Preceding the bloody strife in France the dominant party in the Congress of that nation, found it necessary to get rid of the Executive, and then the Judiciary, as the dominant party in our day and hour are attempting. The next step to complete the parallel will be to banish or head the minority in the legislative branch and the work is done. Are we to have the rule of the Jacobins repeated? —*Exchange*

—The price of gold reflects the unreasonableness of the political atmosphere. What are we coming to? Not a single Republican journal in this State has as yet raised a voice against the destructive theories propounded in Congress.

## The Sort of Union the People Want.

Ever since Congress commenced its so-called work of reconstruction, it has seemed to us that it started wrong—that it mistook its subject—that it has been trying to patch up a union of States, instead of a union of people. No one who regards the peace and welfare of this country above all other temporal interests, can contemplate the action of the present Congress, and its immediate predecessor in the matter of national restoration, without painful emotions. The States may be brought together again under one central rule. Absolute legislative power at Washington, backed by military force, may possibly accomplish that. But is that what is wanted? Is that the end to be sought and desired by the nation? Is it a government of force, and not a government of consent, that the people desire? Surely not. The people are the nation, and the nation, in order to be strong at home and abroad, must be united in fact, and not in form. What is most to be regretted in Congressional action during the last two or three years, are those measures which weaken, nay, destroy, those moral ties which brought the people of the colonies together originally and bound them in fraternal sympathy and affection as equal members of the same political family. The formal or legal bond of political association is comparatively valueless—indeed, without the popular sentiment of fellowship, of nationality, it is worth nothing—it is but a miserable sham and a mockery. The Confederation, as far as its written compact is concerned, may be re-established. But the danger is that the essential spirit of nationality, once inherent in the popular heart, will be utterly extinguished by inimical legislation—that the sentiment of social and political community or oneness will be converted into feelings of jealousy, repugnance, and mutual hatred, and that we shall eventually witness the melancholy spectacle of a great people—great at least in numbers and territory—connected together, tied together, chained together, by a federal law or contract, as some civil society, but nevertheless, and in spite of covenants and constitutions enforced by the bayonets of sectional and party despotism, utterly and irreconcilably separated and set against each other by the dreadful repulsion of reciprocal distrust, animosity and resentment. What would be the real and practical worth of a political union—a union of States—having the technical form and guarantees, but devoid of the moral principle, the vital instincts and affections of a social community and brotherhood which spring and can spring only from the heart and soul of fifty millions of people? Nothing. Let the Radicals in Congress take this hint and change their tack. —*Sunday Mercury*

**RADICAL RAPIDITY.**—On the first day of the session of our State Legislature, the Senator from Lebanon, in his place, stated that there are now three acts upon the statute books that have never passed the Senate. Has it come to this, that the people of Pennsylvania are not only to be cursed with the infamous laws which a Radical Legislature has the hardihood to pass, but that they are also to have imposed upon them, through the inactivity of somebody, a batch of bills, printed and published, which have never had the approval of one branch of the legislature? How are we to know, hereafter, that the statutes published have in reality been enacted by our representatives? The Legislature owes it to itself and to the people of the Commonwealth, to investigate this matter, and expose the parties who have perpetrated this fraud. If reports be true, illegal means have been frequently adopted to procure the passage of bills. The people have become familiar with incidents of legislative corruption—Bribery has been repeatedly charged upon candidates for office at the hands of our Legislature. And men have been known to sell their votes, and their influence, for money. But the people will be startled to learn that a step far in advance of all this has been taken, that bills which could not command a majority of the Senate—which were not even "passed" through their body, have actually been printed, published, and circulated by the laws of the State regularly passed by the Legislature. Let the cry go up from the people for a thorough investigation of this matter. There is no way in which greater evil may be practiced than by false and fraudulent certificates in the passage of bills. Our private legislation, legitimately enacted, is large enough. Heaven knows, without having counterfeit bills passing current among us. —*Valley Spirit*

**A BLOODY CHAPTER.**—A dispatch from Memphis, Tennessee, dated January 9, gives the following chapter of horror from that unfortunate State:—Last night a notorious thief named Jim Burns was arrested while effecting an entrance into H. Dent & Co's dry goods store. After he was conveyed to jail and upon entering his cell he discovered another prisoner named McCarthy lying asleep and assaulted him nearly strangling him. McCarthy, frenzied with pain, assaulted Burns in return, and before the guards could interfere gouged his eyes out of their sockets. A terrible affair occurred at Hyderabad, East Tennessee, on Tuesday. Sheriff Parkington attempted to arrest an old man, named Duncan, in the street. Duncan drew a pistol and fired, shooting off the Sheriff's thumb. Parkington's son, who was standing near then fired a pistol, killing Duncan whose son coming up at the moment, fired killing young Parkington instantly. Seeing his son slain, Parkington then shot young Duncan through the heart. The most intense excitement followed. Owing to the extensive relations of both parties further trouble is apprehended.

—We fear the so-called Georgia Convention must be pretty "hard up," if it resorts to desperate measures to "lose States votes on its authority, to meet its expenses." This, the telegraph tells us, the Convention proposes to do, but it is to be feared it will be almost as fruitless as a scheme as Mrs. Micawber's astute device to relieve Wilkins from pecuniary embarrassment.

—A military organization of negroes has been discovered in Virginia by the military authorities and one of its officers has been arrested.