

The Democratic Watchman.

BELLE FONTE, PA.

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The Time for Ministers to Give Up Political Preaching.

Now is the time for ministers of the Gospel to give up political preaching. We are satisfied that a majority of those pastors who have mixed politics with their theology in the proportions of nine to one, for some years back, have done it against their better judgment.

They have yielded to the fashion of the times, to the example of powerful and successful preachers to the real (or supposed) irresistible current of feeling of their congregations. We have always held them, as a class, to be above the sordid aims of politicians.

They have preached for money, not for vulgar applause; but because they had not sufficient moral strength to resist the tremendous pressure which was brought to bear upon them by church convention and assemblies, and by active and influential occupants of pews.

In some instances the pressure from the pew was not real, but imaginary. The pastor, observing the tendencies in other churches, sought to anticipate it in his own, with unnecessary precipitation, put himself at the head of his flock and led into politics.

Still, as a general rule, the motive power, when it did not originate outside of the church, came from the pews and forced the pastor to write political addresses under the name of sermons, and pray for the success of a party more than for the coming of Christ's kingdom.

Their Bible was their text book—their point of departure, chiefly in the sense that they departed from it—but their body of theology was too often taken from newspaper editorials or from the platforms of excited public meetings held during the previous week.

Many preachers reflected the varying shades of Radical sentiment as truthfully that by stepping into their churches on Sunday a person could learn the condition of the political atmosphere as from a barometer. There was a little granite of religion in the reading of the scriptures (not always selected with reference to topics of the day) in the short prayer possibly, and in the formal benediction, beyond all doubt, but these were merely trimmings to the huge bonnet of pure politics.

This political preaching has been the shame and scandal of Christ's Church. It has been the chief cause of indelicacy, not only outside of the church, but within its pale, not only in the pews, but in the pulpits.

What are Their Promises?

The Republican party promises largely, but the trouble is their promises are not to be depended on. It seems to be a point in the tactics of that party never to tell a truth when its utterance would militate against its interest.

The papers of the party are filled, from day to day, with the most groundless assertions, stories of Democratic atrocities without any foundation to rest upon, and yet they have the audacity to call themselves a moral party, when the course they follow violates every moral principle, and is directly antagonistic to every law that the Supreme Ruler of the Universe, or the Saviour of mankind is believed to have given.

In the case of the woman caught in the act of adultery, when she was brought before Christ, and his judgment demanded, instead of replying, he stopped and wrote in the sand; and when they still insisted for judgment, his reply was, "He that is without sin among you, let him cast the first stone at her."

The rebuke was deserved, and, as we learn from John, ch. 8, v. 9, was felt by all those who had brought before him the woman for condemnation, as they left the temple without casting a stone, and the woman and the Saviour were left in the temple together.

Then Jesus, lifting himself up from his stooping posture, inquired, "Where are those thine accusers? Hath no man condemned thee?" And when she had answered, "No man, Lord," he replied, "Neither do I condemn thee, go, and sin no more."

Here is a lesson for all men, of all parties. The South sinned. Admit it. Is the sin never to be forgiven? Or before it is forgiven, are her people to be forced, by the bayonet, into the adoption of principles and practices which their consciences and judgments alike condemn?

This seems to be the doctrine of the Radical party, and a more atrocious doctrine could not well be conceived or practiced. It is so contrary to sound judgment, to elevated statesmanship, to humanity and christianity, that the mind and heart revolt from it, and the imagination tries in vain to discover a single reason why some people should continue in power, a party so irrational, arbitrary and unchristian.

There is not a man among them who can, conscientiously, throw the first stone at the South, and yet they refuse to leave the temple, and keep up a cruel warfare against her, from the lowest and most detestable motives, and against the dictates of reason and justice.

Enter Radical rule our Government, and at this day, the most arbitrary on the face of the civilized and christianized world, and we are rapidly rushing into a future which no man can foretell. We are fast tending toward events that may not only convulse a continent, but a world, and what the result will be, is only known to that omniscient eye that traverses the whole universe and sees the future as clearly as the present.

—Heraldry Patent

Representation of Minorities.

This question is an abiding, by the results of the late election, an importance which, before, was not extended to it. It brought out all its glaring inequalities. New York elects a Democratic State ticket by 27,000 majority, and yet chooses eighteen Republican Congressmen to thirteen Democrats.

If the State was properly represented, there would be about seventeen Democrats to fourteen Republicans. In Ohio the Democrats have but six members and the Republicans thirteen. Have the Republicans twice as many votes in this State as the Democrats? Everybody knows they have not.

Why, then, should they be entitled to more than twice the number of Representatives? We talk of this being a popular government, and the people being represented in it. Yet here are 250,000 voters having six Representatives, while 267,000 voters in the same State have thirteen Representatives.

There is an easy and proper remedy, which we have several times suggested for this state of things. By way of illustration, take our own State of Ohio. It has nineteen members of the House—Let the members be chosen by general ticket, the same as we do electors, running all over the State.

Let the members be chosen by general ticket, the same as we do electors, running all over the State. Each and every party, whether there are two or more, will nominate nineteen candidates. When the total vote is ascertained there should be selected from each ticket a number of men equal to the proportion of votes cast for it in comparison with the whole number.

Thus, if there were 500,000 votes given in all, 250,000 votes for each ticket, there would be nine Congressmen selected from each organization, and the party having the largest fractional number would have the odd member. The members taken from each ticket would, of course, be those having the highest number of votes.

This is a reform which underlies all other. It is one for which the Democracy should pronounce in all their conventions. It is one which the Republicans can not oppose without being guilty of an intentional fraud upon the people. Let the watchword, therefore, be reform in Congressional representation, and let members of Congress be selected upon a mathematical rule.

Hard Times and the Remedy. Before the election, says the Milwaukee News we declared the purposes of the Democracy, by way of averting "hard times," to be:

Establish the favoration of government to eastern bankers and equalize the currency. To pay of three or five hundred millions of the national debt in greenbacks, and stop the interest.

General Grant and the Burning of His Letters.

The telegraph has already stated—and in this instance we presume correctly—that General Grant has given orders to his Chief of Staff, Major Rawlins, to open all the letters which are addressed to him, to select those of an office-seeking character and burn them, at regular intervals, without showing to or making any reference to him them.

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There is no doubt that the course pursued by General Grant, of burning thousands of letters from his personal and political friends, will not conduce to his popularity. We will say further that there is no doubt that many of these so-called office seekers were of a nature to justly claim attention at the hands of the President elect.

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Startling—General Hindman's Murder Planned by Radicals. The country has not yet recovered from the thrill of horror caused by the announcement of the murder in Helena, Arkansas, of Gen. T. C. Hindman, who, while in the midst of his family, was shot down by some unknown assassin.

Gen. Hindman had been prominent in the ranks of the opponents of Radicalism in Arkansas, and his terrible blow won for him alike the admiration of his Republican fellow citizens, and the eternal enmity of the Radicals. When he fell by the assassin's hand, it was evident that he died a martyr to the cause in which he so earnestly and powerfully labored.

But it is disconcerting to find that by a coup d'etat upon the part of the so-called Legislature is worthy of the party which so loudly proclaimed its devotion to the Union and the Constitution.

What we have Gained. One of our exchanges very aptly remarks: We frequently come across this question in Radical papers, "Shall all that has been gained by the war be lost?" Now what has been gained that the people did not possess before the war?

Slavery for the negro has been blotted out, but double the number of white slaves have been added. That is a gain in the number of slaves. We had thirty-four States in the Union before the war, we have twenty-seven now.

The Forty Fifth Congress.

Though General Grant is to be the President of the United States after March 4th, 1869, he will not have such an overwhelming majority in the next House of Representatives as has cured the nation for the last four years.

Radicals.....162 Democrats.....142 Radical majority.....200 Two-thirds.....112 According to the latest returns hand, the N. Y. World estimates that the political complexion of the next House of Representatives will be as follows.

Radicals.....138 Democrats.....77 Radical majority.....61 Two-thirds.....41 In this calculation it is assumed that the Radicals will elect three Congressmen in New Hampshire next March and two of the four to be chosen in Connecticut in April, though in the latter State they may not secure more than one, as was the case at the Congressional election in 1867.

The country will be the gainer by the increase of Democratic Representatives and Democratic brains in the next Congress. The experience of the two last Congresses has shown how disastrous a thing it is for one party to have an overwhelming majority in the national legislature; and though the Democrats in the Forty-first Congress will be too few to check all Radical legislation, they will still be strong enough in number and brain to prevent a repetition of much of the ill-advised and hasty action which has well nigh made the mere name of Congress a by-word and a reproach in the opinion of all honest men.

The Florida Outrage. Fearful that they would be beaten in Florida, even over the bayonet and over the negro vote, the Radical managers at Washington caused the negro and carpet bag Legislature to pass a law vesting in themselves the choice of Presidential Electors, and taking it away from the people altogether.

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—The Macon Telegraph says the vote of Georgia at the late election shows that the radical party has lost its influence with the negroes. In the "Black Belt," a scope of country containing two-thirds of all the negroes in the State, Grant and Colfax failed to carry five or six of the counties. The registered negro majorities in some of these counties is 2,000.

—The Philadelphia Ballot says Grant will select his Cabinet in a way "to please himself." How can he "please" himself before the loss the "Magrath" hold him by, for four years, "up?"

OUR SHOT GUN.

The majority against negro suffrage in Missouri is 23,435. —Radicalism would strip us of all rights except the right to pay taxes and the right to starve.

—Seventy-two persons have already been announced as "sure" of appointments in President Grant's Cabinet. —Some follow by the name of Clayton has declared martial law in eleven counties in Arkansas.

—Congress will meet next Monday, to continue legislation in the interest of the negro. —A white carpet-bagger in Tennessee discovered a negro woman who had a little money, married her and made off with the cash.

—In the late election the Radicals found that "money is power." The Democrats acknowledge that it was the power that defeated them. —Prentice says that if Butler is the head of the Republican party, and Forney is the tail, he would advise the party to shake its head and switch its tail.

—Leonard Myers has notified Dr. Moffett, congressman elect from the third district, that he will contest his right to a seat. —The Democrats of Yazoo City, Miss., have established a school for the children of colored men who voted the Democratic ticket.

—There will be more than twenty contested election cases in the next House of Representatives, and including those from the South, possibly double that number. —Parson Brownlow, says he would rather go to hell with a loyal negro, than to go to heaven with copperheads.

—The Radical papers are disposed to make mirth of the fact that Gen. Frank Blair has bought a lot in Kicksapoo. Don't Kicksapoo a man when he is down. —Now, farmers, laborers, mechanics, hooray for Grant, Colfax, seven percent in gold for money, decline in the price of grain, curtailment of wages, and a financial panic. Hooray!

—There is said to be a back town in Texas which allows nothing but gold or silver coin for currency. It ought to be suppressed by act of Congress, and all its white inhabitants disfranchised. —Poor man, you may now expect hard times—the money market is against you, how at their feet and pay their taxes.

—The money market at present is so fearful much like the approach of a great financial crash; if the crash must come, it will argue well for Republican money any good time. —It is said that the earthquakes are working northward from the tropics. —Could not one of them be induced to make a call at Washington about the second week of December? —It is reported that the Russian government is busy in suppressing a new religious heresy. But the American government is busy in suppressing an old-fashioned liberty.