

Ink-Stings.

Huntington editors dine off a peck of krait and a pig-tail. Boston is drilling girls for barbers. Better drill them for mothers. Congress will probably pass a free banking bill. Hurrah for the "shin-plasters!" Congress met on Monday last. As a consequence, Washington is full of scoundrels. At Portland, Oregon, the squaws and the Chinese are running opposition in sawing wood. Go it, China! Go it, squaw! Tobacco chewers may congratulate themselves that the Bible sustains them in their nasty habit, as follows: "He that is filthy, let him be filthy still."

Traugh, of the Hallidaysburg Standard, contemptuously calls "Dad" Lewis's sauer kraut "pickled manure." All that Traugh wants is to be kept full of swill. The Radicals are not all satisfied with the President's message. They expected something stunning—something overloaded with wisdom. They didn't get it. Senator Sumner's lecture on "Caste" has at last been cast upon the public through the newspapers. We are gratified to be able to announce that Sumner won't deliver it any more. Senator Drake has prepared a bill making the enactments of Congress superior to the decisions of the Supreme Court. This is about the kind of a quack we expected to hear from that Drake.

We have usually considerable respect for the opinions of The Day, but when it pronounces Grant's message a brief, well written and perspicuous document, we don't think it knows what it is talking about. The Globe calls Cremer's paper at Huntington the "guerrilla organ." We guess in this case the term is not misapplied. Guerrillas are dangerous chaps, and the fellow shoots so straight that he keeps old "Dad" a dodgin' like the d— every week.

The Huntington Globe ("Dad" Lewis) slanders Lock Haven after the following style: Lock Haven has a lot of young girls who go regularly to the depot on the arrival of each train to swing handkerchiefs and exchange glances with the gay young gentlemen in railroad cars. We shall not be surprised to hear of several elopements in that section if such coquetry does no good.

We wonder if "Daddy" contemplates a visit to Lock Haven himself, after that? Tut, tut, Daddy—you're too old a man to play Lothario now, and besides you eat too much sour kraut. The smell of your breath would kill your prospects entirely.

What we Were—What we Are—and What we are Coming to. Yes! "That is the question" The question which calls for the consideration of everyone who has any interest in, or cares anything for, the well-being of the country. It is useless to waive this question—there is no getting around it, beneath it, or over it; the only proper course is to set it fairly and squarely before our eyes, and look at it in all its bearings. Let us, then, do this thing. Let us pause awhile, and consider—What we Were; What we Are; and What we are Coming to. The question naturally divides itself into three heads. Let us consider them each separately.

I. What we Were. Ten years ago, before the advent of Radicalism, we had a Free Government; no Federal Debt, of any account; no Bonds; no Bonded Aristocracy; no Down-trodden South; no Over-taxed North; no Military Rule; no Negro Bureau, for the maintenance of lazy Negroes and useless Officials; our Credit was good, and we were respected abroad; we had Freedom and Prosperity, and the Country was the Land of the Poor.

II. What we Are. We are a people who, by reason of being untrue to the liberties bequeathed to us by our forefathers, have come under the domination of an unprincipled clique of political husksters and office-seekers. We have come to that state in which our freedom is but a name; our "equal rights" a farce; the administration of the laws a sheer mockery, where wealth or influence is brought to bear; our governmental machinery, state and federal, is made subservient to the basest purposes of official corruption and venality; the government, by its policy and legislation, is fostering and building up a privileged class, the only passport into which is wealth; the poor are ground

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to the earth by taxes, while the property of the rich is comparatively exempt from imposts; the national debt is rapidly increasing; the credit of the country abroad is shaken; the monetary pressure all over the country, induced by the stock-gambling and malfeasance on the part of the country's financiers, is spreading distrust among, and producing misery to, all but the mounted classes of the land; the corruption and vices of the rulers are fast spreading their contagion among all orders of the people; society is becoming rotten at its core; wealth is made the criterion of all excellence; gold is the standard of honour, virtue and patriotism.

III. What we are Coming to. We are fast drifting into that social and political condition, than which the evils of a military despotism would be far more preferable—as, under military rule, there is at least that security for life which is not obtainable under the sway of oligarchy or mobs. But, be assured, it is to this we are coming—unless, indeed, a miraculous change is soon wrought in the administration of the Federal and the State Governments. But, alas! the age of miracles has passed away; so to this we are coming. First, the people will hear with their wrongs until those wrongs become insufferable; and they will then rise against their oppressors. Second, Anarchy and Civil War will be the result of this rising; until, Thirdly, the friends of law and order, glad to escape alike the tyranny of mobs and oligarchs, will rally round any military leader possessing the energy, firmness and tact to wrest the governing power from the faithless and effete oligarchy which has wrought the ruin of the country. It may be said that this is only a prediction. But its fulfilment may, nevertheless, not be far off.

Woman Suffrage.

It is barely possible that woman suffrage may yet be a remote and distant dream. There is an element of the far sex that is now making a decided disturbance in this direction. One too, that has been at work for a long time, which seems determined to snatch from man his long, safe and undisputed right, and which, from its energy and perseverance, deserves success, although success might not result in good to its authors or their sex in general. If the issue does come, however, ever, how shall we vote? We have thought over this subject with tears in our eyes. Gallantry, chivalry, every courteous impulse of our nature, impels us to take our stand in favor of the ladies. Their handsome faces, pleading eyes, sweet lips and winning smiles all speak powerfully in advocacy of their cause, filling our hearts with a tenderness that makes it almost impossible to deny them anything. And yet, other considerations bid us be firm. When we think of the wife at the polls, or upon the huntings and the husband at home holding the baby, we confess our heart grows stronger—the languishing eyes lose some of their persuasiveness, and, with the sweetness of the kids, we feel mingled a portion of the bitterness of a neglected home.

No,—we think we will have to decide in the negative. Much as we should like to oblige you ladies, we think it would not do. Thinking it all over, we decide that we are not a woman's rights man; at least, not in the sense that woman's rights are understood by SUSAN B. STANTON, LUCY STONE, BLACKWELL, ELIZABETH CARY STANTON and others. In our estimation, the elective franchise is not woman's road to complete happiness. We doubt if it be not, on the contrary, the path to discontent. That women have rights, none are freer to accord than ourselves. But their rights are the right to get married, to have babies, to keep their homes in order, to write for the papers and magazines, and to become bright and shining ornaments in the world of letters, science and art. Their great right is the right to be wives and mothers—to "put up the child in the way he should go"—to send the youthful twig that manhood's tree may spring up firm and erect, not stunted, gnarled or bent.

These are what the DEMOCRATIC WATCHMAN conceives to be the "rights" of the women of to-day. With politics

they ought to have nothing to do, more than to have an intelligent understanding of the position of parties and the interests of government. This can be obtained by reading and study, and is of far higher importance than the mere privilege of going to the polls to cast a vote as a paragon. Let women, if they will, be the power behind the throne, but let them exercise that power through their husbands, fathers, brothers and sons. Do not let us have the spectacle of women descending to the slime and filth of party politics, to accomplish an object which in their souls they despise. Let them do the brain work if they can and will, but let Heaven's sake not let us have them belittled with the mire of a partisan conflict. Be intelligent wives and mothers—be good and affectionate daughters and sisters. This is what we seek—what we hope to see in our country. Read, study and reflect, and give to the world, in prose or verse, in song or story, all the benefit of your reading, studying and reflection. In this has woman's true sphere—and here are all of "Women's Rights."

The President's Message.

The great length of the President's Message to Congress precludes us from publishing it in full, but we have endeavored to give the more important portions. It is not by any means a first class state paper, because there is nothing laid or decided in its tone. On the contrary it exhibits a vacillating, indecisive spirit, as if afraid to meet the great questions of the hour. As a composition, it will do for University or Academy, or County High, but would hardly do credit to THOMAS JEFFERSON or ALEXANDER HAMILTON.

The President begins by congratulating Congress on the unimpeded progress of the country, &c.; and then proceeds to speak of

WHAT HAS BEEN DONE SINCE THE REBELLION.

On this subject, His Excellency uses the following language: Ever since the rebellion of 1861, the sympathy and assistance of nations with which we were at peace, eleven states of the Union were, four years ago, left without legal state governments. A national debt had been contracted. American commerce was almost driven from the sea; the industry of the country had been taken from the control of the capitalists and placed where all labor rightfully belongs, in the keeping of the laborer. The work of restoring state governments loyal to the Union, of protecting and fostering free labor and providing means for paying the interest on the public debt, has recently received ample attention from Congress. Although your efforts have not met with the success, in all particulars, that might have been desired, yet on the whole they have been more successful than could have been reasonably anticipated. Seven States which had passed or pronounced secession have been fully restored to their places in the Union. The eighth, Georgia, held an election at which she ratified her constitution, republican in form, elected a Governor, members of Congress, a State Legislature, and all other officers required. The Governor was duly installed and the Legislature met and performed all the acts then required of them. By the reconstruction acts of Congress, subsequently, however, in violation of the constitution which they had just ratified—as we decided by the Supreme Court of the State—they unseated the colored members of the legislature, and admitted to seats some members who are disqualified by the third clause of the thirteenth amendment to the Constitution, an article which they themselves had contributed to ratify. Under these circumstances I would submit to you whether it would not be well, without delay, to enact a law authorizing the Governor of Georgia to convene the members originally elected to the Legislature, requiring each to take the oath prescribed by the reconstruction acts, and none to be admitted who are ineligible under the third clause of the fourteenth amendment.

The freedmen, under the protection which they have received, are making rapid progress in learning, and no complaints are heard of lack of industry on their part, where they receive fair remuneration for their labor. The means provided for paying the interest on the public debt, with all other expenses of the government, are more than ample.

The loss of our commerce is the only result of the late rebellion which has not received sufficient attention from you. To this subject I call your earnest attention. I will not now suggest plans by which this object may be effected, but will, if necessary, make

it the subject of a special message during the session.

At the March term, Congress, by a joint resolution, authorized the executive to order elections in the States of Virginia, Mississippi and Texas, to submit to them the constitutions which had previously been formed in convention, and to submit the constitutions, either entire or in separate parts, to be voted upon at the discretion of the Executive. Under this authority, elections were called in Virginia. The elections took place on the 6th of July, 1869. The Governor and Lieutenant Governor elected have been installed, the Legislature met and did all required by this resolution, and by all the reconstruction acts of Congress, and abstained from all doubtful authority. I recommend that the Senators and Representatives be promptly admitted to their seats—that the State be fully restored to its place in the family of States. Elections were called in Mississippi and Texas, to commence on the 30th of November, 1869, and to last two days in Mississippi and four days in Texas. The elections have taken place, but the result is not yet known. It is to be hoped that the acts of the legislatures of these states, when they meet, will be such as to meet your approval, and thus close the work of reconstruction.

THE CURRENCY AND RESOLUTION OF SPECIE PAYMENTS.

next engages the President's attention. He says:

Among the evils growing out of the rebellion, and not yet referred to, is that of an irredeemable currency. It is an evil which I hope will receive your earnest attention. It is a duty and, one of the highest duties of government to secure to the citizen a medium of exchange of fixed and unvarying value. This applies a return to a specie basis, and no substitute for it can be devised. It should be commenced now, and pushed at the earliest practicable moment, consistent with a fair regard to the interest of the debtor class. Immediate resumption, if practicable, would not be desirable. It would compel the debtor class to pay beyond their contracts, the premium on gold at the date of their purchase, and would bring bankruptcy and ruin to thousands. Fluctuation, however, in the paper value of the measure of all values, gold, is detrimental to the interest of trade. It makes the man of business an involuntary gambler, for in all sales where future payment is to be made parties speculate as to what will be the value of the currency to be paid and received. I earnestly recommend to you, then, such legislation as will insure a gradual return to specie payments and put an immediate stop to fluctuation in the value of currency. The methods to be chosen for the purpose of this result are as numerous as are the speculations on political economy. To secure the latter I see but one way, and that is to authorize the treasury to redeem its own paper at a fixed price whenever presented, and to withhold from circulation all currency so redeemed until sold again for gold.

The vast resources of the nation, both developed and undeveloped, ought to make our credit the best on earth. With a less burden of taxation than the citizen has endured for six years past, the entire public debt could be paid in less than ten years; but it is not desirable that the people should be taxed to pay it in that time. Year by year the ability to pay increases in a rapid ratio, but the burden of interest ought to be reduced as rapidly as can be done without the violation of contract. The public debt is represented in great part by bonds, having from five to twenty and from ten to forty years to run, bearing interest at the rate of six per cent, and five per cent, respectively. It is optional with the government to pay these bonds at any time after the expiration of the least time mentioned upon their face. The time has already expired when a great part of them may be taken up, and is rapidly approaching when all may be.

It is believed that all which are now due, may be replaced by those bearing a rate of interest not exceeding four and one-half per cent, and as rapidly as the remainder becomes due, that they may be replaced in the same way. To accomplish this it may be necessary to authorize the interest to be paid at either of the three or four of the money centers of Europe, or by any Assistant Treasurer of the United States, at the option of the holder of the bond. I suggest this subject for the consideration of Congress, and also simultaneously with this, the propriety of the redeeming of our currency, as before suggested, at its market value, at the time the law goes into effect increasing the rate at which currency will be bought and sold, from day to day, or week to week, at the same rate of interest as the government pays upon its bonds.

On the subject of the tariff, the President is very indefinite and recommends the postponement of the whole subject for the present. He then says:

THE REPORT OF THE SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY.

Shows the receipts of the government for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1869, to be \$370,943,747, and the expenditures, including interest, bounties, &c., to be \$331,490,597. The estimates for the ensuing year are more favorable to the government, and will no doubt show a much larger decrease of the public debt. The receipts in the treasury,

beyond expectations, have exceeded the amounts necessary to place the credit of the sinking fund as provided by law. To lock up the surplus in the treasury and withhold it from circulation would lead to such a contraction of the currency as to cripple trade and seriously affect the prosperity of the country. Under these circumstances the Secretary of the Treasury and myself heartily concurred in the propriety of using all the surplus currency in the treasury in the purchase of government bonds, thus reducing the interest bearing debt of the country, and of submitting to Congress the question of the disposition to be made of the bonds so purchased. The bonds now held by the treasury amount to about seventy-five million dollars, including those belonging to the sinking fund, and I recommend that the whole be placed to the credit of the sinking fund.

In regard to our relation with Cuba.

The President puts a wet blanket over filibustering in the following manner: For more than a year a valuable province of Spain, and a near neighbor of ours, in whom all our people cannot but feel a deep interest, has been struggling for independence and freedom. The people and government of the United States entertain the same warm feelings and sympathies for the people of Cuba in their pending struggle, that they manifested throughout the previous struggle between Spain and her former colonies in behalf of the latter. But the contest has at no time assumed the conditions which amount to a war in the sense of international law, or which would show the existence of a de facto political organization of the insurgents sufficient to justify a recognition of belligerency. The principle is contained, however, that this nation is its own judge when to accord the rights of belligerency, either to a people struggling to free themselves from a government they believe to be oppressive, or to independent nations at war with each other.

The United States have no disposition to interfere with the existing relations of Spain to her colonial possessions on this continent. They believe that in due time Spain and other European powers will find their interest in terminating those relations, and in establishing their present dependencies as independent powers, members of the families of nations. The dependencies are no longer regarded as subject to transfer from one European power to another. When the present relation of colonies ceases they are to become independent powers exercising the right of choice and of self-control in the determination of their future condition and relations with other powers.

The United States, in order to put a stop to bloodshed in Cuba, and in the interest of a neighboring people, proffered their good offices to bring the existing contest to a termination. The offer not being accepted by Spain, on a basis which we believe could be received by Cuba, was withdrawn. It is hoped that the good offices of the United States may yet prove advantageous to the settlement of this unhappy strife. Me while a number of illegal expeditions against Cuba have been broken up. It has been the endeavor of the administration to execute the neutrality laws in good faith, no matter how unpleasant the task—made so from the suffering we have endured from lack of like good faith towards us by other nations.

On the 26th of March last, the United States schooner Lizzie Major was freighted on the high seas by a Spanish frigate, and two passengers were taken from it and carried as prisoners to Cuba. Representations of these facts were made to the Spanish government as soon as sufficient information of them reached Washington. The two passengers were set at liberty, and the Spanish government assured the United States that the captain in making the capture had acted without orders, that he has been reprimanded for the irregularity of his conduct, and that the Spanish authorities in Cuba would not sanction any act that could violate the rights or treat with disrespect the sovereignty of this nation. The question of the seizure of the brig Mary Lowell, at one of the Bahama islands, by Spanish authorities, is now the subject of correspondence between this government and those of Spain and Great Britain. The captain general of Cuba, about May last, issued a proclamation authorizing search to be made of vessels on the high seas. Immediate remonstrance was made against this, whereupon the captain general issued a new proclamation limiting the right of search to vessels of the United States, so far as authorized under the treaty of 1795. This proclamation, however, was immediately withdrawn.

He alludes to the proposed canal across the Isthmus of Darien, as follows. As the subject of

AN OCEANIC CANAL.

to connect the Atlantic and Pacific oceans through the Isthmus of Darien is one in which commerce is greatly interested, instructions have been given to our minister to the republic of the United States of Colombia to endeavor to obtain authority for a survey

by the government, in order to determine the practicability of such an undertaking, and a charter for the right of way to private enterprise for such a work, if the survey proves to be practicable.

Passing over some unimportant matters, we next get the views of the President on our

RELATIONS WITH ENGLAND.

Towards the close of the last administration a convention was signed at London for the settlement of all outstanding claims between Great Britain and the United States, which failed to receive the advice and consent of the Senate to the ratification. The title and circumstances attending the negotiation of the treaty were favorable to its acceptance by the people of the United States, but its provisions were wholly inadequate for the settlement of the grave wrongs that had been sustained by this government, as well as by its citizens. The injuries resulting to the United States by reason of the course adopted by Great Britain during the late civil war, in the increased rates of insurance in the diminished production of domestic industry, and in the protracted war and the increased cost both in treasure and in the lives of its suppressors, could not be adjusted and satisfied as ordinary commercial claims which continuously arise between commercial nations; and yet the convention treated them simply as such ordinary claims, from which they differ more widely in the magnitude of their amount, Great is that deferred, not a word was found in the treaty, and not an interference could be drawn from it to remove the sense of the unkindness of the course of Great Britain in our struggle for existence, which had so deeply and unjustly impressed itself upon the people of this country. Believing that a convention thus misconceived in its scope, and inadequate in its provisions, would not have produced the hearty, cordial settlement of the pending questions which is alone consistent with the relations which I desire to have established between the United States and Great Britain, I recognized the action of the Senate in rejecting the treaty to have been wisely taken in the interest of peace and as a necessary step in the direction of a perfect, cordial friendship between the two countries. A sensitive people, conscious of their power, are more at ease under a great wrong, wholly unthought, than under the restraint of a settlement which satisfies neither their ideas of justice nor their sense of the grievance they have sustained. The rejection of the treaty was followed by a state of public opinion on both sides which I thought not favorable to an immediate attempt at renewed negotiation. I accordingly so instructed the minister of the United States in Great Britain, and found that my views in this regard were shared by Her Majesty's ministers. I hope that the time may soon arrive when the two governments can approach the solution of this momentous question with an appreciation of what is due to the rights, dignity and honor of each, and with the determination not only to remove the causes of complaint in the past, but to lay the foundation of a broad principle of public law which will prevent future differences, and tend to firm and continued peace and friendship. This is now the only grave question which the United States has with any foreign nation.

OUR MANUFACTURES.

then come in for a share of the President's attention. He says: Our manufactures are increasing with wonderful rapidity under the encouragement which they now receive, with the improvements in machinery already effected and still increasing, causing machinery to take the place of skilled labor. To a large extent our imports of many articles must fall largely within a few years. Fortunately, too, manufactures are not confined to a few localities as formerly, and it is to be hoped, will become more and more diffused, making the interest in their success equal in all sections. They give employment and support to hundreds of thousands of people at home and retain with us the means which otherwise would be shipped abroad. The extension of railroads in Europe and the east is bringing into competition with our agricultural products like products of other countries. Self interest, it is not self preservation, therefore, dictates a caution against disturbing any industrial interest of the country. It teaches us also the necessity of looking to other markets for the sale of our surplus. Our neighbors south of us and China and Japan should receive our special attention. It will be the endeavor of the administration to cultivate such relations with these nations as to entitle us to their confidence and make it their interest, as well as ours, to establish better commercial relations. Through the agency of a more enlightened policy than that heretofore pursued towards China—largely due to the ungenerosity and shortsightedness of our own distinguished citizens—the world is about to commence largely increased relations with that populous and hitherto exclusive nation. As the United States have been the initiators in the new policy, so they should be the most earnest in showing their good faith in making it a success.

In this connection I advise such legislation as will forever preclude the enslavement of the Chinese upon our soil, under the names of coolies, and also prevent American vessels from engaging in the transportation of coolies to any country tolerating the system. I also recommend that the mission of China be raised to one of first class.

In the following paragraphs, the President advises us how to PRESERVE THE PUBLIC CREDIT.

Upon my assuming the responsibility

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