WASHINGTON CORRESPONDENCE.

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The New Territorial Election in the D. C.—John W. Forney—Our Laws Executed, a Murderer Hanged—Ku Klux Outrages—Forestalling—What Does it Mean?

The prospects of having a new government for the District of Columbia and the election of its officers, is creating considerable interest, and meetings are nightly being held and the issues canvassed. The Democrats have nominated their candidate for delegate in Congress in the person of Richard T. Merrick, a brother of Judge Merrick, now M. C. from Maryland. The rebel element, or rather those who were either in the rebel army or assisted the rebellion, constitute no inconsiderable portion of the Demo-ratic force. Money is being freely subscribed and means (regardless of the honorable) are being provided to increase the Democratic vote. The Republicans have nominated Gen. N. P. Chipman, a gentleman of education and ability, and highly esteemed for his unselfish loyalty during our late war.

If we should be unfortunate as to lose Connecticut on Monday's election, much more work will, of course, have to be done to secure a Republican triumph in the District of Columbia. The Republicans have a majority in the District however, and but little fear is entertained as to the result.

In this city where Col. Forney has resided so long and where his interests and attachments are so great, his appointment as collector of the port at Philadelphia, is almost universally considered most worthy and proper. Since his withdrawal from the Democratic party nearly thirteen years ago when the Republican party was in its infancy, few have done as much in the Republican cause as Col. John W. Forney, and it has been hoped by his friends here that President Grant would find it to the country's interest, and his pleasure, to retain him at the Nation's Capital as one of his confidential advisers.

By invitation of General Crocker, Warden of the Prison in the District of Columbia, your correspondent witnessed, since my last, the execution of James Graily, for the murder of a respectable aged lady of this city.

The President had granted two respites through the earnest appeals of his friends and spiritual advisers. Much has been done during the respites by them to influence the President to commute his sentence to imprisonment for life. But true to the President's instinct to execute the laws of the land, after referring the whole matter to his legal adviser, the Attorney General, Executive clemency was refused. But to the execution. Now I first would say, that the way the deed was murdered by Graily was so horrible and disgusting to the refined portion of the community, I will consider a nameless crime.

Notwithstanding the prisoner had conversed freely with all who visited him and in every instance no fear of the gallows was betrayed, it was thought that when the time arrived for his execution he would show the white feather—Not a bit of it. With a firmer step than any other member of the party who ascended the scaffold, he with his hands tied tightly behind him marched from his cell to the scaffold without the least manifestation of fear, and yourlotly took position on the trap through which he was to be launched into eternity. He refused to make any remarks, and even aided by the turning of his head in placing the noose around his neck. He bade all around good-bye with the composure and fortitude only equaled in the days of the Guillotine, and with a most pleasing smile informed the Warden that he was ready, and in an instant the trap fell and he was dangling in the air with his neck broken.

There are four more confined in the jail awaiting their trial, under the indictment of murder. One is a notorious prize fighter by the name of Rache Bolster, who some three weeks since after king lady's beaten by a gambler in this city, obtained a gun and deliberately shot and killed his antagonist. Another is indicted as an accessory to this murder. The other two—a man and woman—known as quacks in the medical profession, who have true bills found against them for the murder of a young and beautiful lady last week with an abortion medicine.

While there has been a great many murders committed in Washington during the past few years, especially during the war, none before have suffered the penalty of death. By some hook or crook all have escaped the gallows, and but few even have been punished with imprisonment. The morals of Washington are certainly improving. The new District Attorney, Judge Fisher and his assistant Harrington, are infusing a spirit of reform in the mind of the people, and consequently it is not a difficult task to obtain a jury now who are not averse to bringing in a verdict of guilty when there is sufficient evidence to sustain such a verdict.

Congress you perceive continues in session and the prospects of its immediate adjournment lessens with every day's proceedings. The debates on the Ku-Klux outrages in the South during the past week, have given to the anxious people here, more than anywhere else, doubtless, subject serious consideration, and not a few of us are anxious that debates on this subject may continue until the whole country shall know its true status.

The House of Representatives being now engaged in the consideration of the bill to suppress these outrages, reported from the select Committee, of which Mr. Shellabarger of Ohio, is chairman, allow a word to your readers on the subject. The bill has been drawn with great care, and provides for punishing all conspiracies against the life, property, or personal rights of citizens, and confers upon the Federal authorities, jurisdiction in case where the States, or State Courts neglect or refuse to afford ample protection. It also authorizes the President to suspend the privileges of the writ of *habeas corpus* in any insurrectionary districts and to afford ample military protection when the civil authority shall be inadequate. Undoubtedly the proposed laws, if enacted, will do all that can be done by mere legislative enactment, but it is equally clear that peace and security must, to a large extent, depend upon the conduct and temper of the people in the disturbed districts. Enough facts have been disclosed already to demonstrate the political opinions and race hatred, of the authors of the crimes and murders with which whole sections have been made hideous for half a decade. All these disturbances are in the interest of Democratic supremacy and negro oppression. There are but two ample remedies for these disorders, and they are: firstly, Submission to the laws by the Democrats of the South, and secondly, resolute defense of their rights by the masses of the people.

Great efforts have been and are still being put forth to forestall public opinion on the San Domingo question by men who know no more about the matter than those whom they seek to enlighten. Anti-annexationists in Congress, several of whom are believed to have caught "hawk's itch" for the Presidential chair, have been trying to excuse themselves for acting with the Democracy, in seeking immediate adjournment on the ground that they believed the President is seeking to keep Congress here to act on the report of the San Domingo Commissioners. This may look plausible to those who do not know the facts in the case. At the solicitation of several prominent members of the House, the President refrained from sending a special message on the 6th of March, and instead, wrote a letter to Speaker Blaine to be read in Caucus, in which he charged and emphatically stated that he did not desire to present any matter to Congress except the condition of affairs in the South. For some unknown reason, this letter did not become known to the public until very lately. His message was not more emphatic on this point than was his letter. Thus falls to the ground this new fledged charge, that the President desires to force San Domingo upon Congress. It is quite probable that during this week the report will be submitted to Congress, and given to the country, but no action will be taken by the President, nor will any be asked of Congress until next December, after the people shall have had eight months to examine the report of the Commissioners, and debated the merits of the question. But there is another class of men, who having access to the press, have persistently perverted facts, and have made use of the most infuriating misrepresentations to get control of public opinion in advance. The motives which move these falsifiers are simply these. They are not given opportunities to make merchandise of official information as in the days of Johnson, when Congress usually first saw the President's messages in the New York papers, and because the President does not choose to make them his confidential advisers as Johnson did. It is only necessary that the public shall become acquainted with the facts, as they seem likely to be set forth in the report of the Commissioners, to (if they do not fully endorse the President's desire for annexation) exculpate him fully from each and every allegation and charge made against him, and to accord to him the highest patriotism in the whole transaction.

In view of the facts lately developed by the Senate Committee on Southern affairs and new facts daily coming to light from the Southern States, it is certainly time that the people of this country should earnestly inquire into the condition of affairs, with a view to ascertain what the growing disorders in the South portend. It has been taken for granted here that parties outside of Washington were as well informed upon the subject of Southern outrages, as those associated in official circles. The matter, however, coming up for consideration, shows this to have been a mistaken view. The people have grown quiet in the pursuit of their business and hoped, all was going well. The elections last fall, in which large Democratic gains were made, seems to have assured the Ku Klux Klans to an alarming extent. Since November last, the frustrated Democracy of the South seem to have been greatly encouraged in believing that the day is fast drawing near when their old rebel leaders shall again take the reins of Government, and to a very great extent, revive "the good old times." Under this inspiration they have already gone beyond seeking control of the elections, and in South Carolina have forced, quite a number to resign office to which they were elected.

Encouraged by success, the Ku Klux are rapidly increasing in membership and number, until it is now estimated that they have upwards of three hundred thousand oath-bound veterans ready to strike at any point necessary to carry out their designs. The organization has already obtained entire control of the Democratic press in the South, and of the associated press dispatches from that quarter. In many parts, not a man can be found who dares assert his adherence to the Government; men failing to receive protection from open outrage, and nightly dreading midnight assassination, are fast giving way before the fearful pressure. Revenue officers and draft agents unite in saying that the Government officers are in constant danger of death from the Ku Klux Democracy of the South. From all portions of the South letters are being received, begging for protection, and in the midst of this New Hampshire tacitly endorses the Democracy by the election of a Democratic Governor and Congressional delegation, owing to private quarrels and apathy, on the part of the Republicans, and the work of death receives a new impetus. Connecticut wavers, and new life is given to the Klans. What does this mean if not a new rebellion? Were the signs in 1860 more forboding of evil than now? The voice of all loyal men in the South is for protection, and urge upon Republicans every where to cease encouraging the rebel Democracy by their party quarrels, at least, until such time as the our million emancipated slaves, enfranchised by them, and the loyal white element, shall be safe from murder, maiming, disfiguring, robbery, and the incendiary, because of their adherence to the Government.

CHIEL.

A Conscientious Thief.

Those who do not know me may perhaps believe the following story. Those who do know me will not. Still it was quite true. Reginald was a pleasant old gentleman with a fine sense of humor. He had considerable property and lived on Wimbledom Common. He had one beautiful daughter—but that is not to the point. One afternoon, as Old Reginald was reading books in his drawing room, it was announced to him that a Common Man desired to speak with him. He gave orders that the Common Man should be admitted. And admitted the Common Man was. He was a very Common Man indeed. A tall, shambling, ill-looking fellow, with an irresolute manner and a shrinking eye. He was dressed as costermongers when following their calling.

"What is your pleasure, good sir?" said Old Reginald.

"Beg pardon, guv'nor," said the Common Man. "I hope you won't be hard on me."

"Not at all, replied Old Reginald.

"I'm—I'm a burglar," said the Common Man.

"Indeed!" said Reginald. "Take a chair."

"Thank you, kindly, guv'nor," said he, but I'd rather stand.

And he did stand.

So far there is nothing very incredible in my story. But it gets more remarkable as it goes on.

"How do you like your profession?" said Old Reginald.

"Well, guv'nor," said the Common Man, "I don't like it noways, and that's it."

"That's what?"

"That's why I'm here. I belongs to a gang of twelve wot's working these parts now. We cracks cribs by turns. It's my turn to night."

And the burglar wept like a child.

"This I presume is Remorse," said Old Reginald.

"No, guv'nor, it ain't Remorse," said the burglar. "It's Funk."

"The same thing," said Reginald.

"It ain't the being a burglar that I object to. It's the having to commit burglaries. I like the credit of it, sir; it's the danger I object to."

"I see."

"Now, by the laws of our gang, we're bound to crack cribs in turn. That is to say, one of us cracks the crib while the other eleven stops outside and gives the office."

"I thought burglars always worked in two or threes?" said Old Reginald.

"Praps I ought to know best?" he suggested.

"Perhaps you are right. Indeed I am sure you ought. What crib do you propose to crack to-night.

"This here one.

"Mine?"

"Yourn."

"Oh!"

And Old Reginald prepared to ring the bell.

"Please don't do that, guv'nor. You ain't never agoin' to give me into custody?"

"I think I had better."

"No, no, guv'nor, don't do that. Listen to me first. Wun't you listen to me first. Wun't you listen to me first. Wun't you