

COLUMBIAN SUPPLEMENT.

Bloomsburg, Pa., Friday, February 4, 1887.

Riddleberger on Aristocrats.

Senator Riddleberger of Virginia recently said to a friend in Washington: "I propose showing the Senate that I have some rights in that body and do not intend that I shall always be looked upon as one, like many of the others, simply occupying a seat in the chamber. I have my opinion upon subjects, and have the same right to express myself as those who have been elected to the Senate because of their vast wealth. I have never opposed anything that I thought was proper. There is too much aristocracy in the Senate, and a growing tendency upon a majority of Senators to do everything except what is American. It is not a body representing the people of the country, but upon the contrary, a kind of a club where none but the rich and arbitrary are wanted. A poor man in the Senate is treated by many of his brother Senators as an outlaw and looked upon with scorn and derision. I am poor and am proud of it, and all the time I have been here there has been only one Senator who has shown me the courtesy of inviting me to his house. This was Senator Palmer, of Michigan. I asked him if it was necessary to come in evening dress and he said it was. I could not go because I did not have the money to spare with which to purchase the conventional evening dress suit. It may be," continued the Senator, "that because I do not wear a dress suit I am not appreciated by my colleagues." The Senator for the last few days has been considering the question of resigning and will probably resign at the assembling of the Fiftieth Congress. "I think," he said, "that in the event of my resignation I will enter the State Senate of my State and do what I can to repeal some of the odious laws that are now upon the statute books, which have been enacted under the Mahone rule. I know that Mahone despises me, but I do not care for that. If I could control every vote in the State, Mahone could buy them away from me in fifteen minutes. Mahone has a standing in the Senate, because he has money. I have done as much for the people of Virginia as he. The other Senators can speak of me as they like, but they cannot buy me, neither can they force me to vote at all times in the interest of corporations and array myself on the side of the would-be aristocracy."

The Loyalty of Old Slaves.

A rare instance of the fidelity of two colored men to their former master has just come to public attention in the person of Col. Downing. He was the owner of large tracts of land, as well as of a number of slaves. When the troubles of 1860 came on he was the rauhkest secessionist in the country. The struggle left him land poor; acre by acre he sold it off, being unable to square himself with the new order of things. At last when all his land was gone and his family dead, he was afflicted with blindness and was in danger of being put in the county poor-house.

"They must not do that with old master," said Joe Downing. Joe and his brother Peter were the slaves of Col. Downing before the war and always went under his name. While their old master was going down in the world, these two colored men were hard at work and saving money. They purchased 150 acres of rich land, built thereon a comfortable house, accumulated live stock and farming implements and had good credit at the bank here. To this home they took their old master, installed him in the best rooms and compelled all the people around to treat him with the utmost respect. Lately Col. Downing has been fearing that his death was approaching and seemed to be fearful that he might be buried as a pauper. To ease his mind on this matter, the brothers have just deposited in bank here \$100, to be held until the old man's death, with which to pay all funeral expenses.—*Milledgeville (Ga.) Chronicle.*

Where there's a will there's generally a way—to contest it.

The grocer never sings "My way is dark and lonely." His weigh is usually light.

A Burlington girl, who is a great talker, says it is better to be engaged in conversation than not at all.

A convict, with a ball and chain attached, gave as an excuse for not taking a vacation that he was too closely tied to business.

"Spirit," says Emerson, "primarily means wind." Now we understand why a windy harangue is referred to as a spirited address.

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