

Daily Intelligencer.

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LANCASTER, PA., April 28, 1890.

Reed's Revolutionary Scheme.

Speaker Reed, as we have heretofore noted, comes nearer to the Thaddeus Stevens type of statesman than anyone who now figures on our stage. His characteristic is audacity and an unflinching courage in the face of any hindrance in the constitution to the accomplishment of a desired purpose.

Reed figures in peaceful ones that do not so well suit the role he assumes. In the midst of avowed conflict the laws are silent, but a time of calm is not propitious to revolutionary schemes. Speaker Reed has not advanced his party in public esteem by his violation of congressional precedents with the least purpose to confirm Republican control of Congress; and the proposition that he now makes that the United States shall take entire charge of all federal elections, does not come to the people with the weight it would have if its author had not already ruined his reputation for fair statesmanship. It is a recommendation very naturally flowing from a partisan who has already satisfied the country that he sees nothing that stands in the way of his purpose to secure the domination of his party. His present scheme, if it becomes operative, may temporarily fortify the Republican party in federal control. If it can secure the appointment of the election officers and the manipulation of the election machinery at federal elections, it may perhaps prolong for a while its control of Congress; but only for a while. The voice of the people in a free country, informed by an independent and powerful press, such as this country enjoys, can hardly be suppressed even for a little time.

Mr. Reed's scheme will not secure popular favor for the good reason that there is no exigency calling for it and that there are strong reasons against it. There are to be seen in its course, in its progress, a long list of federal officials and in its quietude interference with the reserved powers of the states. He demands it on the sole ground that the Republican party is deprived in the Southern states of the vote of the negro population, which he declares naturally belongs to it. He admits that it is an ignorant vote, but vows that his party wants it just as it is, and thinks that it is as much entitled to it as the Democratic party is to the ignorant vote of New York.

It will not give any one a trouble to recognize the clap-trap nature of this last declaration. It is as clearly understood as the axiom that the Republican party wants the negro vote by hook or by crook. It wants it so much, in Speaker Reed's opinion, that it is ready to establish federal elections in all the states that it may get the negro vote in one or two southern states where it considers that the Democrats will upon it. It seems that Mr. Reed's game is somewhat small for his candle; and it should be a consideration with him whether it is worth it.

Probably he would conclude otherwise but for a hope that he probably entertains in secret that while seizing upon the ignorant Southern vote with his federal election machinery he may also contrive to snatch with it that ignorant city vote in New York which he now assigns to the Democratic party. Mr. Reed's plan very likely contemplates a gathering in of the floating vote of the whole country by the federal election officers, which he conceives will be cheaper and better than even the excellent blocks of five method of Indiana.

We have not much fear that public sentiment will sustain the Republican plan of putting the whole country into debt and bondage to enable the Republican party to get the negro vote of Mississippi, even should it be the fact that present Democratic methods in that state reduce the negro from the support of the Republican party. There is still a sound public sentiment which forbids undue federal interference with the affairs of the states. And when the states generally are not deemed competent to fairly return to the federal Congress the representatives who are the choice of the people, it will be a confession of their imbecility, which will argue ill for the strength and perpetuity of the republic. The vigor of the United States is the aggregate vigor of the states; and what can the aggregate be if the units are deprived of their strength?

A Malignant Committee.

There is a committee of the Republican Senate of New York sitting in that city, investigating its Democratic government. It is engineered by a man named Ives, who is the henchman of ex-Mayor Grace, of Peruvian and other malodorous notoriety. Ives is a rascal; but that rather helps than hurts him, in his place as pilot of the inquiry of the Senate Republican committee into Democratic misdoing. He is the sort of man well adapted to nose it out, but yet who is not to be believed further than his nose.

The committee has been successful in uncovering gross abuses in the sheriff's office; but has now come to a personal attack upon Mayor Grant, which is so obviously unfounded as to make it clear that it has been maliciously made. The story of a personal enemy was taken under oath by the committee, charging the mayor with seeking to bribe the board of aldermen some years ago with a fund of \$180,000, to confirm him as park commissioner; and charging also that the mayor when sheriff divided profits with Mr. Croker, the Tammany leader, giving Croker's little daughter \$25,000 in the shape of a present. When the committee took this witness' testimony, in the absence of the accused mayor, it adjourned, obviously intending the charges to affect the public judgment until the next meeting.

The newspaper reporters, however, went into the investigation business on their own account, and speedily got enough antidote to correct the poison. They printed with the witness' story the statement of the accused mayor, and

other witness that clearly showed the entire falsehood of the improbable charges; and Mr. Croker cables from Germany, where he is lying ill, that the story of the witness, who is his brother-in-law, is false, and that he is a black-maller.

This performance does not reflect credit upon the Senate committee and wholly destroys its usefulness, since it demonstrates so clearly the political and personal spite that animates its investigation.

Mr. Jones.

In his desperate efforts to keep pace with his own loquacity, Sam Jones nearly wrecked himself on Sunday. He was preaching in Charlotte, North Carolina, and before he knew what he was about he pitched into the Mecklenburg declaration of independence and declared it a myth and its celebration a drunken frolic. As the declaration is a pet hobby of the Carolinians, he soon found that he was treading on very tender corns, and was forced to make a most abject apology. He said that he had found his mistake, but in his eagerness to explain he again made trouble for himself. He said that Philadelphia people had misled him and that he would "stamp the feathers out of them" when he got back to that city. What a fine burlesque Mr. Jones would make? He could always be relied upon to say the right thing in the wrong place, and his picturesque and vigorous language would help along a campaign like a breeze. He is only an excessively developed specimen of a very plentiful variety of clergyman, and there are many worthy preachers of the gospel who rarely venture upon secular topics without coming to grief in a similar manner. Pulpit training does not seem to develop care in observation or statement. When a man is talking about religious matters and abating the devil nobody cares much how he may prance along if he only manages to make his discourse eloquent, impressive and edifying; but when he comes down to earth and turns himself loose in the same way disaster is inevitable.

MEDICINE MAN MEAT AXE, of the Shoshone Indians has a mysterious rival. It will be remembered that Mr. Axe predicted a great flood and sent out runners to assemble all the Indians in the Wind River mountains, in Wyoming, so that they might descend and possess the earth after the whites had been swept away by the waters. Now a strange rumor comes from Justin Jones, a hunter, border, from the land of the Cheyennes and Crowes, that these Indians are wildly excited over a report that a great leader will soon appear who will roll the rock over on the white race if they persist in persecuting the Indians. This leader, strange to say, is described as a white man who will side with the Indians, and they call him the Indian Christ. The commandant at Fort Crook, Montana, has sent a force to watch the Indians who are holding pow-wows and religious meetings preparing for the appearance of the white leader who is said to be in the Big Horn mountains. This looks very much like a plot of some rascally medicine man with a white confederate who is determined to outdo Mr. Meat Axe at all hazards. The flood idea was grand enough, but what is it to casually rolling the earth over on the whites? There is something very pathetic in the effect of these vague, wild rumors of miraculous intervention for the rescue of the red man from his inevitable fate. It is as though they recognized the hopelessness of any struggle of theirs against white advance, but profoundly impressed with their own wrongs, proud and defiant they refused to believe that their oneness would be permitted a final triumph. The popularity of a white Christ in this extremity shows the impression that the character of the founder of our religion has made upon the savage mind.

The Brazilian "provisional government" has issued a decree declaring guilty of military sedition all persons who originate or aid in circulating false reports or alarming rumors, such as refer, for instance, to the discipline of the troops, the stability of public institutions and public order. From this they exclude all criticism of the government's acts no matter how severe, provided it is free from personalities or defamation. The offender is in all cases to be brought to the capital for trial. The decree is supplementary to one issued in December at the time of the trouble with an artillery regiment, and the trial of persons arrested under it will be before a military tribunal and according to military forms. The effect of the December decree was to muzzle the press, but since then, under the encouragement of several members of the provisional cabinet, who favored liberty of the press, the papers have been very bold in their criticisms of public affairs. In 1889, ex-Minister of the Interior, has published a letter insisting that there is mysterious and well organized conspiracy against the government which it has not been able to penetrate. He notes that the alarming reports that from time to time spring up originate simultaneously at distant points and spread with great rapidity.

A Ball of Electric Fire. During Sunday afternoon's storm the 55 foot flag-staff about fifty feet away from Life Saving station 2, on Sandy Hook, was struck by a ball of fire as large as a barrel head. The topmast and main spar were shattered from top to bottom. Surfman Joseph Riddle sat at a window and saw the ball shoot from the Eastern sky, preceded by a bright white light which illuminated the vicinity of the station. Riddle noticed a black streak run down the topmast and the ball of fire struck the mast with a report like that of a cannon. It did not linger as balls of electric light sometimes do, but disappeared like a flash of lightning. No thunder or lightning had been heard or seen before or afterward, and this did not resemble lightning.

Captain Jack Edwards and his crew were drenched and reduced to a shivering mass a meteor, but it left no trace. Two surfmen say they have seen such fire balls at sea in tropical water, but never hereabouts. The flagstaff was so thoroughly ablaze that it was easily pulled over by means of the halyards.

"Mellin's Food and I are old friends, it having fulfilled all the conditions demanded of it at my hands," is the testimony of a well-known physician.

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