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Miscellaneous.

The Ouragan.

A THRILLING STORY.

One day in the gold mountains of Chontales I first saw a hurricane. The scenery of that tableland is bleak and sad and lonely, as in all auriferous regions.

We had not enjoyed one ray from the sun for longer than a week. But the heat was not less: a close and stifling atmosphere shrouded all the land, and from each marshy spot—crowned though it were with plumy bamboos and spanzled over with white lilies—drew a foul and poisonous miasma. This dull air quivered with heat; mountain and volcano and savannah lay still and grey as a landsaape of the dead.

I had proposed to rest at the foot of a tiny volcano, round and smooth as a hemisphere. "There is water on the other side," suggested my Indian guide, and we went thither. Not only was water round in the dell, but also trees, of dimensions rare throughout that district. My guide looked round with the air of a man who has memories stirring in his brain and observed, "It was here we fought the filibusters, senor." "How was that?" I asked, knowing little better than other Europeans the details of Walker's war. Then he told me, in the epic manner, how one Turley organized a band of rowdies in California for wholesale robbery in this land under cover of the war, and how he passed them off on Walker's agents as experienced soldiers, which perhaps they were; how they refused to separate, and were enrolled as an entire company in the "Rangers;" how they deserted in a body at the first opportunity, and marched through the "Oriental," murdering and plundering the scanty population; and how the French diggers of Libertad gathered a force of natives, and murdered the rowdies to a man on this very spot. But he omitted to tell me another detail—how the false filibusters had been tricked of their arms under a promise of amnesty. Nevertheless, this story was interesting to me as a curious suggestion of the possibilities still extant in our nineteenth century—not yet twelve years ago!—and it passed the time agreeably.

But nothing out again I perceived a change in the atmosphere at our first step from the shadow of the dell.

"What is this?" I asked the Indian, shivering with cold and a general depression.

"An ouragan, I fear, senor!" he answered, in manifest uneasiness.

I paused, knowing well enough by hearsay the terror of these storms to be aware our further journey was impossible.

"What is to be done?" I asked.

"How long have we still before it breaks?"

"Half an hour at the outside," he answered, looking up at the darkening sky. "I feared it this morning, but the Indians laughed at me."

By the way, it is curious that the aborigines of Central America always speak of one another as Indians, using the word, apparently, almost as a title to be proud of.

After a hurried consultation it was decided to stay in our present position until the storm should pass, seeing we were safe from the wind under our little volcano, and that we could not possibly cross the Lagarto stream before it broke. And so we sat down, tied the mules with double rope, and waited the event, wrapped in our thick horse rugs. And all their warmth was needed. More and more piercing the cold became, more and more dark the sky. Birds, whose presence we had not suspected, began to twitter nervously in the trees below; but the stillness of the heavens was terrible. The frozen air seemed to pour down on us in waves, but no vibration could be noted in the atmosphere.—Darker it grew and darker, till all the land was swiftly shrouded over. An indescribable terror possessed us both; the mules cowered closely upon the ground, with their legs gathered under them, like rabbits squatting, and their noses pressed to earth. The Indian's face was pinched with cold; he shivered under his chamarra.

Suddenly a frozen gust came shrieking over the mountains, then another, and the ouragan burst forth. Following the example of mules and man, I threw myself flat on the slope of the volcano and clung tightly. The roar of the tempestas it passed was as the voice of a nation shouting; not with gradual violence it broke out, as in our calm lands, but all in a moment, resistless, merciless. Clods of earth, branches, even small stones, as the Indians declared, whizzed in mid air above our heads, the hurtle of their furious flight rising shrilly on the thunderous music of the wind. Every leaf and every smaller bough was stripped from the cotton trees beneath us, and whirled over hill and valley to the far Atlantic. Our prostrate bodies were plucked and struck as with giant hands. And then, in the very thickest of the storm, as if the horror of it were not yet sufficient, as if Nature desired to show us all her dread power in these lands, in the very thickest of the storm, while we lay pressed close to the earth, stifling, breathless, deafened with its din and violence, I felt the sharp sick shudder of an earthquake The big trunks in the dell, protected hitherto by cover of the land, then crashed swiftly down; when the first gave way, they fell, as we could note afterwards, like nine-pins in a row, each overthrowing its neighbor. Not a stem survived; but so horrid was the roaring that scarce a sound of their downfall reached our ears.

How long the scene lasted I cannot tell; perhaps not more than fifteen minutes, perhaps half an hour. The rugs were torn to tatters on our backs; we could not breathe except with mouths resting on the turf. I would not disparage the grandeur of the storms of other lands, but that little ouragan on the Gold Mountains was quite startling enough for my ambition. And when the wind had passed by in its mad career towards Blewfields, the rain began. It poured on us in a cataract that threatened to wash the hills bodily away.—But we could get no shelter of course; there was no resource but patience. Miserably we sat under the volcano's lee, and let the torrent fall upon our heads. About a quarter of an hour we had rested there, when already each dell was a raging cataract. Suddenly we heard a sound of shouting, which rose above the swish and thudding of the water.

"There's a man in the dell below!" shouted the Indian in my ear, but with no sign of interest in his stolid face. "That man will be drowned," he argued calmly.

Alone, I dashed down the sodden slope, and stood upon its crumbling edge, looking eagerly into the hollow. The trees were all uprooted and broken, the little brook was a furious river And right beneath me, among the tangle of boughs, a man struggled madly against the gathering waters. It was not in my power to render him aid; I could but shout encouragement, and watch his efforts with sickening sympathy. Again and again he fell, and with each instant the torrent swelled. The boughs were twisted round his feet, but he clung to them desperately. And all the while he shouted hoarsely and struggled on. I ran to the cowering mules, and, hastily tying their halters together, threw the rope toward the drowning man. Not till the fourth or fifth cast did he seem to see the means of safety, or to understand my intention, though I called my loudest, and the rope fell close beside him. But at length he grasped it, and we dragged him out. Again and again the undermined bank gave way, and once he lost his hold; but I threw the noose again, just as the water swept him off, and dragged him safe to land.

But his behavior, when thus extricated from deadly peril, was not encouraging to the philanthropic spirit. With a wild oath he dashed off our hands, and tore away over the hillside, heedless of our calls. Recovering his feet, the Indian gave vent to an angry "carajo!" and sullenly retired. Alone I pursued the madman, chasing him with many a slide and fall over the slippery turf, until at length he came down headlong and lay still. I approached him cautiously, remembering the tale just told, and the dangerous fury of my filibuster friend in a case somewhat similar. He did not move, but lay helpless on the ground, glaring at me with the wild eyes of a maniac. I called the Indian, and, most unwillingly, he aided me to carry the rescued man toward our mules.

It was not for some hours after that he recovered strength and sense to tell his story. We got him to Juigalpa, and, in a horrid little inn there, the best house that town (!) can boast, he related to me the concatenation of circumstances which had thus turned his brain. It would appear that, knowing the country well, it was the habit of this man to break his journey in the dell of which I have told you, and to sleep away the hottest hours of the day in a certain grotto which existed there. In that cavern he was, no doubt, when we descended to lunch, and there remained, having partaken freely of aguardiente, or schnaps, or some other pleasant liquor, until the ouragan broke out. That roused him, as indeed its fury might almost have roused those dead chieftains in the cairns around. He fought his way to the entrance—to be dashed back instantly, bruised and terror-stricken, by the unchained winds. Bewildered by the fall, deafened with that unearthly shrieking and thunder, he lay awhile upon the cavern floor, until the heaving of the "trembler," the crash of falling stones and tossing of the earth recalled his consciousness. Instinct once more caused him once again to dash at the cavern's mouth; but again he was driven back. The situation indeed was horrible: exposed to a fearful death inside, to be buried alive under the heaving roof, but unable to escape. After the second effort, he lay still awhile, helpless and half conscious with fear. But a dreadful sound roused the hunted man to life again. Louder than the roar without, more horrible, more full of deadly terror than any sound of an inanimated world. The voice of the jugular stunned his ears. Close beside him it burst out, echoing from rock to rock, from floor to roof, from every quarter of the vault at once. Peal after peal, beaten back and rebounding, that awful threat thundering round. For a moment he strove to trace the sound, to spy two flaming eyes in the darkness; but no sign was to be noted, nor did he discovered. Again and again that roar broke forth, above, below, and on every side. Then he went mad; and I, for one, say, Noshame to him! A tiger's voice is fearful to hear, you men, whether in the Eastern jungle or on a lonely mountain of America; but in a black cavern; where no man can tell whence it comes nor where the beast may be, that menace is a trial few nerves could bear. Try for yourselves. Only go with a savage dog into a vaulted cellar, and hear the low thing echo of his bark. That little space will ring, and you man, however experienced, could guess whence danger is to be expected. That mystery made the horror of the scene. My friend—I call him friend, for he wandered many a day with me—was very brave; but his nerves, already greatly tried, could not bear that strain. He dashed headlong from the cavern, where death in three dreadful shapes was threatening, wind and earthquake and the tiger's claws. And on the threshold, as though fate had longed all elements against his life, he fell into the raging cataract from which I had rescued him.

"The Lord made a dead set at me that time,' he used to say, in quaint yet not consciously irreverent phrases "but there was work found for me somewhere on a sudden, an' you was appointed for to lug me out of that there circumstance where the Lord had fixed me, for He don't make no sport of man, nor yet He hain't such an idle time as He should do miracles in him. An' I'm ready for that work, sir, ready an' gay, when the name an' natur' of it is revealed to me."

At some future time I will tell a story of an East Indian Hurricane.

Saving his Diamonds.

An English paper relates the following expedient of a London shopkeeper, the like of which has often been practised by the police in American cities:

I was calling the other morning on a certain well-known gem collector, who who was so good as to show me the contents of his cabinet. After the first half-dozen specimens, my attention began to wander; for a very little of that sort of things goes a great way with me.

"What is that little bottle you keep among your gems?' inquired I.

"That is my Queen Eleanor's Mixture," said he, laughing. "But for it I should not be in possession of yonder ruby, the value of which is over a thousand pounds."

"What?" cried I. "Do you mean to say it is artificial? I thought that that notion of manufacturing gems was a popular superstition."

"So it is," said he; "but, nevertheless, I am indebted to the mixture for that ruby. The fact is this: My collection is too well known by half. I don't mind showing it to an old friend like you, and of course I am proud of all these things; but I have, in a general way, to keep too sharp an eye upon my visitors to make it quite a pleasant. People from whom I know nothing about call upon me, and present a card of some friend of mine, and say: 'Mr. So-and-so assured me you would be so kind as to let me see your gems.' Two men came together upon one occasion with the purpose (as afterwards appeared) of what they called 'putting the jug' on me—that means garrotte and robbery; but I did not like their looks, and declined to show them anything without a letter of introduction. They had, as I afterwards turned out, stolen the card of a Professor of Mineralogy. I am not, however, afraid of a single visitor, because I always keep *this* handy"—and my friend produced a pretty little pistol, cocked, and, I have no doubt, loaded.

"But the bottle," said I, "what is the use of that?"

"That is the supplement to the pistol. Thus, only yesterday, a very ill-looking fellow—a foreigner, all hair and false jewelry; and a very foolish thing it was of him to come to me with paste-diamonds in his shirt-front—brought a letter of introduction with him from a friend of mine at Dresden. The letter was genuine, but I had my doubts, from the first, as to whether this was the gentleman to whom it referred. However, I brought him in here, and showed him the gems. He made some very commonplace observations, which convinced me he knew nothing of the subject, and after thanking me, in a somewhat servile manner, for my courtesy, took up his hat to go. I slipped between him and the door, and locked it in a second. 'My ruby,' said I, 'if you please, or you're a dead man.' And I put the pistol to his forehead. That little stone, which I have said is valued at above a thousand pounds, was missing. Instead of being indignant, my gentleman merely answered: 'Indeed you are mistaken, sir. You may call your servant, and examine every pocket.'

"'I know *that*, you scoundrel,' returned I. 'You have *swallowed* that ruby; now drink this, or *die*.' I held the weapon in one hand, and the mixture, which is an emetic, in the other. The situation was very disagreeable for him, I have no doubt, but did not seem to be at all embarrassing. He shrank from the pistol, (or at least the police station, which was its alternative,) and took the medicine like a lamb, while I stood over him with the weapon and the bowl. That white little basin yonder,) exactly as Queen Eleanor stood over Fair Rosamond.' Of course, my ruby very soon appeared. That's what I call Eleanor's Mixture; a decoction without which no gem cabinet, of any value, can be pronounced complete. When I miss a specimen, I always know at once that some visitor has swallowed it, and then, you know, he has to swallow this."

Howell Cobb's Disclaimer.

The subjoined extract from a recent private letter from Howell Cobb, of Georgia, is made public:

"I entered this contest with a desire for the success of our ticket which I never felt before. Wearied with the bitter struggles of the past few years, my heart panted for peace, quiet and repose. In the election of Governor Seymour and the success of the democratic party I felt, in common with all our good people, there was not only a prospect but a certainty of peace—an enduring peace, that would lift up our own desolated section and give to it new days of prosperity; restoring, too, the past relations of brotherhood between the two sections, and making us once more a happy and united people—united not merely in name, but in heart, spirit and truth. It was with these feelings I was induced to break a long self-imposed silence, and address the people of Georgia, to induce a like feeling on their part. Well, imagine, if you can, the surprise with which I have read the comments in radical papers on that speech, perverting its meaning, distorting and construing my words of peace and hope into words of blood and revolution! I am made the advocate of strife and war, when, from every pore of my heart, there comes gushing the most earnest and sincere desire for peace—lasting, eternal peace

Speech of the Hon. Jeremiah S. Black.

At the Great Democratic Meeting at York, Pennsylvania.

At the great Democratic meeting, over which he presided, in the public square of the Borough of York, on Monday evening, August 24, 1868, Hon. Jeremiah S. Black delivered the following eloquent and interesting speech:

Judge Black, upon taking the chair, expressed his appreciation of the hearty greeting with which his friends and neighbors had ratified his selection as chairman. In deference to the wishes of the meeting he would set forth some of the points in the present political controversy. But he would do it briefly, confining himself to the prominent topics, and leaving the more elaborate arguments to be made by the distinguished gentleman from Maryland (Gov. Swann) who had come here on special invitation to grace the cause by pleading it.

He continued: The candidates of the two parties are now fairly in the field, and we have abundant cause to be proud of the selection made for us by the convention which assembled at New York on the Fourth of July. I do not believe that any member of the party to which we are opposed would so grossly flatter Grant and Colfax as to say that they are fitter, morally and mentally, for the places to which they respectively aspire, than Seymour and Blair; and a man of real candor will admit that our candidates have a very decided advantage over theirs.

Mr. Seymour has for many years been regarded as standing at the head of the public men from whom the Democracy would be bound to select the chief of the nation. He won this pre-eminence not by any accidental circumstance, but solely by his acknowledged talents and his undoubted integrity. He never sought this nomination; on the contrary, it was thrust upon him after he had repeatedly declined it. But as soon as he had consented to take it, there was no name in the country that could stand for one moment before the competition of his. The friends of all the other candidates immediately conceded the palm of superiority to him; and now those candidates are themselves his most enthusiastic supporters. Opposition is melting away before the fervid eloquence of Pendleton; the ponderous logic of Hendricks is literally smashing the ranks of the Radicals in Indiana, and Hancock, with the magnanimity that belongs to his noble and heroic nature, has thrown the whole weight of his reputation into the scale of liberty and law, and urging his friends everywhere to go with their whole might for Seymour. [Great applause.]

In the State of New York, where Mr. Seymour's history and character are well known, his majority, it is said, will be counted by hundreds of thousands. This may be an over-sanguine calculation; but it is entirely certain that Grant has no more chance of carrying that State against Seymour, than he has of getting a majority in Old Codorus. [Laughter and applause.]

I do so say that Seymour has no enemies. If profligate politicians would not slander and abuse him, that would be a very bad sign for him. The Scripture says: "Woe unto you when all men speak well of you," which means that you cannot possibly be an honest man, and at the same time be popular with all the rascals. There is enough said against Mr. Seymour to take that curse away from him. But I submit to you that there has not been and that there will not be one specific accusation made against him with the slightest show of evidence to support it, which ought to induce you to believe that he is not a statesman of the highest order, and a patriot pure and stainless. Moreover, he is a Christian man. He believes in the obligation of an oath, and if he swears to preserve, protect, and defend the Constitution, you may rest assured that he will do it.

General Blair was one of the ablest and most distinguished generals of the late civil war. He has very high claims upon us and upon the country. He was a *fighting*, not a *stealing* general. He had no connection with any of those atrocious cruelties upon non-combatants which will eternally disgrace the names of some other officers. He would not be a military commissioner to commit murder upon innocent women and men. He had nothing to do with those illegal arrests which filled the dungeons of the country with the victims of political malice. Seward knew very well that it was not worth while to ring his "little bell" at him, for he was no man's deputy kidnapper. Whenever he went upon duty, he always wore *two uniforms*—the uniform *coat* of a soldier, and the uniform *conduct* of a gentleman. [Great applause.]

After the war was over, he demanded of the party in power that they should redeem the pledges which he and they both had made to the people of the country. He was a member of that Congress which on the 22d day of July, 1861, (the day after the battle of Bull Run) by a solemn resolution unanimously passed through both houses, declared that the object of the war was not subjugation or conquest, but solely to preserve the integrity of the Union and to maintain the supremacy of the Constitution and laws in the South as well as the North. He went into the war upon the faith of that resolution, followed by the unanimous vote of his friends. Upon the same faith, thousands in the South, and hundreds of thousands in the North, had sacrificed their lives and given up their property. He would not submit to be swindled nor let the people be swindled out of their blood and money. I dare say that at that time it was not his intention to abandon the support of the party with which he had been connected; he simply desired to make them honest. But finding that to be hopeless there was no alternative left him but to "come out from the evil and corrupt fellowship," and rally to the flag of the Constitution, around which the Democracy had already assembled. But to do this was no easy thing in the State of Missouri. The vulgar despotism of thieves and ruffians which had been established there under Congressional auspices assailed General Blair with all its brutal strength. They refused to let him vote because he would not swallow their infernal test oaths, which he denounced as a disgrace to the civilization of the age. They threatened his life daily, and one night while addressing a public assemblage, was shot at and came within an ace of being murdered. But nothing could tame the audacity of his courage; he said his say, and reasserted the right of free speech.

In war and in peace, in the halls of Congress and upon the hustings, at the council table and upon the battle-field, he was ever true to the constitutional rights of the people. Now it is our turn, and we, the people, will be true to him. [Loud applause.]

But there are other considerations in this election besides the mere personal merits or demerits of the different candidates. The continued existence of this government—the life of the nation—is at stake upon the issue. Some of you may possibly suppose that this is a false alarm. If you really believe that the institutions of this country are not in very great danger or that their destruction would not be a very serious calamity, of course, you will disregard our warning. It is true, however, that many judicious and sober men, uninfluenced by party prejudice, have come to the deliberate conviction that unless the ship of state is speedily put upon her constitutional tack, she will be driven upon the rocks and become a total wreck. We cannot possibly endure much longer this devil's dance of discord misrule and corruption.

How can the government (which is the Constitution and laws) survive if it remains in the hands of those who are hostile to it? The struggle we are now making is to save the nation alive out of the hands of its enemies.

Who are its friends? Who are its enemies? These are questions which can easily be settled.

For more than three quarters of a century while the Democracy controlled our public affairs, no serious infraction of the organic law took place—none at all which they had power to prevent. We were faithful to the Constitution because we believed it the best form of government which could be adopted for any people in our situation. It was framed by the wisest and greatest men that ever lived in all the tide of time, at the head of whom was General Washington himself, an honor not only to his country, but to human nature, and a man whose name is never pronounced by any true patriot without emotions of profound respect and reverence. They told us in language of the most sublime and simple what were the objects for which they had established and ordained it. They said it was "to form a more perfect Union between the several States, to establish justice, to insure domestic tranquility, to provide for the common defense, to promote the general welfare and to secure the blessings of liberty to ourselves and our posterity." These great objects it has accomplished in times past, and will accomplish again, if its limitations be observed and its precepts obeyed. We owe no personal allegiance to any man or body of men. Obedience to the Constitution and laws is the test of all loyalty, and the essence of all patriotism. The country says to all her people what the Founder of Christianity said to his disciples, "if ye love me keep my commandments."

On the other hand, our opponents by their acts and their utterances, express the profoundest contempt for that instrument which we consider so sacred. They claim the privilege of doing whatever seems to be good in their own eyes, without regard to any prohibition of the fundamental law, if it will promote their interest or gratify their passions, or give them an additional chance to perpetuate their power. They have never, upon any occasion, treated with decent respect a constitutional objection to any of their measures, no matter from what quarter it came. Private individuals who have attempted to argue such points, have been arrested, thrust into dungeons and treated with a cruelty such as no humane man would inflict upon his beasts. The President took ground in favor of the Constitution; they answered him by an impeachment, and came within one vote of deposing him from his office, and putting in his place a creature of their own, who would trouble them with no conscientious scruples. The Supreme Court came to the rescue; they broke down its jurisdiction, insulted that high tribunal, and trampled its authority under their feet.

Remember that this is not a dispute upon an abstract question of political ethics.—They have carried out their hostility to the Constitution into the fullest practical operation. And this they did not merely in a time of war, when the passions engendered by the contest might have afforded some feeble excuse for their conduct, but in a time of profound peace, when the United States had for more than two years ceased to have an armed enemy in the world, Congress deliberately sat down and plotted the total overthrow of the Constitution in ten of the States, for no legal reasons expressed or understood, which would not be applicable to all the other States. They not only destroyed the State governments within those limits, but they annihilated the Federal Government at the same time; they left not one vestige of either; and upon the ruins of both they erected a despotism as absolute as that of an Asiatic sultan. It was not only a usurpation of power not granted, and therefore forbidden, but it was exercised in a way precisely most destructive to those great rights which the Constitution was made on purpose to protect.

It is undeniable that the reconstruction acts (so called) violate not only the whole principle and spirit of the Constitution, but they abrogate every seperate provision in it and all the amendments, including their own amendment for the abolition of slavery. That declares that slavery or involuntary servitude shall not exist "except for crime whereof the party shall have been duly convicted." But under these acts any person may be, and it is notorious that scores and hundreds of persons perfectly innocent of crime have been reduced to "slavery or involuntary servitude" of the worst kind—to hard labor for years and for life without the smallest pretense of a due or legal conviction.

Good natured persons may suppose that these outrages were not wilfully done. I admit we are bound to put on their conduct the kindest construction we can consistently with reason. But charity never wove a mantle broad enough to cover such crimes as theirs. There is direct evidence, corroborated by a strong chain of circumstances, which proves incontestibly that they knew what they were about. I ought to mention at least some of the evidence to which I refer, and I will.

In the first place it is literally impossible for them to have made a mistake. You must presume that members of Congress have read the Constitution. Having read it they could not believe that it authorized the establishment of an irresponsible despotism in any part of the country; for it is radiant all over with the light of liberty and justice. You must know that it does not help but see that it provides a jury trial and a *habeas corpus* for every citizen. They must have known that it forebade searches and seizures of person and property without a warrant. They could not close their eyes on the words that declare that no act of attainder or bill of pains and penalties shall be passed; that all judicial authority shall be vested in the ordained and established courts; that every State is guaranteed such form of republican government as it may choose, and that Congress shall not regulate the rights of suffrage. There are so no things for which ignorance is no excuse. A man who has studied the ten commandments cannot be allowed to say that he thought it right to murder, steal, or bear false witness against his neighbor. The Constitution is as plain as the decalogue.

Another thing. At the time when these laws were passed, Mr. Stevens was the great leader of his party in Congress. His vast intellectual superiority entitled him to that pre-eminence." He towered above all others, like the King of the Titans surrounded by pigmies. Out of their unlimited confidence they trusted him to frame their measures according to the views he was known to take upon constitutional questions. He drew up the reconstruction law, laid it before them and told them it was not constitutional. He would not stultify himself by asserting that he found any warrant in the organic law for such an act. When Democrats objected he said their scruples were merely the splinters of the Constitution, festering in their kidneys. Some of the smaller radicals pretended to believe that the war-making power—the power bestowed on Congress to make war on foreign nations—would justify every kind of interdicted legislation against our own people in a time of perfect peace. He silenced that paltry twaddle by the expression of his profound contempt. Afterwards, in a printed and published letter, he boldly avowed that Congress had repudiated the Constitution, and that the reconstruction act was a usurpation. He not only acknowledged that he himself had committed that offense, but he turned state's evidence and testified that his associates were equally guilty. His testimony is directly to the point. He knew the truth and he proclaimed it unequivocally. Now that death has disarmed that terrible accuser, it might not be ungenerous in us who opposed him, much less in those who followed him with servile admiration in his life time, to vex his great spirit by asserting that he falsified the history of his party in regard to this most important affair.

But when this bill was first passed, the President sent it back with a veto message, in which he showed it to be unconstitutional by pointing out the particular articles and sections with which it came in direct conflict.

Nothing could be more demonstration was clear and transparent that any child could see it. Not a man in either house had a word to say in reply. They saw themselves arraigned before their constituents by the Chief Magistrate of the nation and charged with the violation of their most sacred obligations. They stood mute and made no defense. What could this mean but a consciousness of guilt?

This is not all. The Supreme Court in the Milligan case, had solemnly decided that Congress could not pass a law under any circumstances, or at any time, to deprive any person within the United States of his right to be tried by an impartial jury in a regular court. This decision was perfectly well known to the members of Congress when they determined to deliver the rebellious portions of people at once to be hung or imprisoned without judge or jury, according to the pleasure or caprice of the "Satraps" or "Lord Deputies" whom they might send down to do the work.

Let me mention another fact which shows that it was kept with their eyes wide open to the truth. Last winter—exactly a year after the reconstruction act was passed—the question of its constitutional validity was again argued before the Supreme Court in the McArdle case. Congress knew that the Court must decide against them, and for that reason alone they made a law to forbid any decision at all. The unfortunate individual, guilty of no crime, who had fled that sanctuary as his last refuge and laid his hands upon the horns of the alter, was dragged away and handed back again to the "slave power" of his oppressors, to be imprisoned, scourged or killed, if they should think proper. Thus they prevented the judicial exposure of one outrage by committing another still more atrocious.

If the majority in Congress has habitually legislated in willful and corrupt disregard of their constitutional obligations, what ought to be the popular judgment upon them? What should be the verdict upon a candidate for the Vice Presidency who has been the Speaker and organ of such a Congress? What should be your decision upon a candidate for the Presidency who is "no party" of his own, consents to become a mere instrument in their hands?

All political philosophers, and all men of common sense, concur in the belief that public virtue is the only secure foundation upon which a government like ours can rest. How long can public virtue survive among men who do not recognize the duty of obedience to that fundamental law which is the only protection we have for the rights of life, liberty or property?

Congress must be sadly demoralized already. Of course you will not believe without evidence, that they vote on money bills as they vote on constitutional questions, according to their interests, and not according to their public duty. But if it were proved to your entire satisfaction that they represent their own breeches pockets with far greater fidelity than they defend the rights of the tax-payers, it would not excite your surprise or lower them much in your estimation. They cannot commit any higher crime than that of betraying the liberties for which our forefathers suffered and died. If they have done that you may say to them what Othello said to the man who slandered his wife:

"Never pray more; abandon all remorse;
On horrors head horrors accumulate;
For nothing canst thou to damnation add
Deeper than that."

But look a little further and see the horrible effect of their example. Congress has taken control of the Executive branch. The Senate usurps the power of removal from office and forbids its exercise by the President—they are masters of the administration and command the army of officeholders. Of course the subordinates are ready to adopt the code of morality which their masters act upon. All dishonest officers may say to Senators and Representatives, "You are bound to protect us; we are not faithful to the public, but we are as true as you are to the party and ourselves; you swore to support the Constitution and we swore to perform our duties with fidelity; good in their own eyes, without regard to any prohibition of the fundamental law, if it will promote their interest or gratify their passions, or give them an additional chance to perpetuate their power. They have never, upon any occasion, treated with decent respect a constitutional objection to any of their measures, no matter from what quarter it came. Private individuals who have attempted to argue such points, have been arrested, thrust into dungeons and treated with a cruelty such as no humane man would inflict upon his beasts. The President took ground in favor of the Constitution; they answered him by an impeachment, and came within one vote of deposing him from his office, and putting keep the government running and to pay off the whole in ten years, if the money were honestly applied. But one-half the internal revenue imposed by the Federal government, and collected from the people, is stolen before it reaches the Treasury, and the other half is squandered by Congress in schemes of the most extravagent corruption. Before the war our current expenses were less than *seventy-five millions* of dollars; now they are nearly *four hundred millions*, besides the interest on the national debt and without counting what is stolen *in transitu*. The financial difference between Democratic rule and Radical *misrule* is certainly worth your serious attention.

This is the necessary result of the Radical system. It cannot be otherwise as long as they remain in power. No evil tree can bring forth good fruit. If you ceased to be governed by law and allow yourselves to be held down by mere brute force you must pay for it. Tyranny is always expensive. The price of your own enslavement will be proportioned to the cruelty of the vessalage. Congress keeps up an army, a navy, a freedman's bureau, and other machinery of despotism, and makes us pay hundreds of millions for them in order to maintain in the South a lawless domination of negroes, scalawags, and carpet-baggers. By this means they hope not only to control the South but to do what they please in the North—to rule us for their pleasure and plunder us for their profit.

The most hideous shape that tyranny ever puts on is that of a corrupt oligarchy, where the forms of a free government are coupled with substantial despotism, where the rights of the people are acknowledged in theory, while they are practically trodden under foot; where there is a written Constitution which the rulers swear to preserve without keeping their oaths. Rather than see Gen. Grant elected President, with the understanding that he is to administer the government on the Congressional plan of disregarding all constitutional obligations, it would be far better to let him or somebody else be proclaimed absolute dictator, and abolish the Constitution at once. For myself, if I must choose between the two most frightful evils that ever scourged the human race, I will, without hesitation take an unlimited monarchy, in preference to a rotten republic.

But we are not reduced to that alternative. We will save our institutions by putting an end to the power which threatens their overthrow. This mighty nation is already "rousing herself like a strong man after a sleep, and shaking her invincible locks." We will elect Mr. Seymour, and the government shall be administered again in the interests of justice and liberty regulated by law.

Radical Extravagance in Pennsylvania.

On the 13th of October the people of this great Commonwealth will be called upon to decide at the polls whether the Radical or Democratic party shall in future control the political and financial affairs of the State. At present every branch of the State government is in the hands of the Republican party. They have controlled all the departments since the commencement of the rebellion, with the exceptions of the Auditor General and Surveyor General's, held for three years by the Democrats. For every act of the Executive, of the Legislature, of the State Treasurer, since 1860, they are responible. The question occurs then, naturally, has their course been such as to commend them to the favorable opinion of the people? Have they, in their management of public affairs been honest, discreet and economical, or have they been imprudent, extravagant and corrupt? Have they squandered the public money with a profligate hand, or applied it faithfully to the objects for which it was intended, and to the advancement of the best interests of the State? These are questions which every man who does not propose to vote blindly should consider well, and determine satisfactorily to himself, before he deposits his ballot. It is the interests of every citizen that the public affairs entrusted to the guardianship and management of each department should be carefully and honestly conducted by the public servants upon whom the trust is devolved; and the citizen who does not inquire into those matters is negligent of his own interest, and faithless to the duties of citizenship.

We now propose to inquire a little into the manner in which the State debt has been managed by the Radicals, since they obtained control of it; and those who are anxious to arrive at the truth, may follow us in the investigation.

Auditor General Hartranft reports to Hon. Galusha A. Grow, Chairman of the Republican State Central Committee, August 6, 1868.

Total State debt, Nov. 30, 1860.....	$30,939,847 50
Total State debt, Aug. 6, 1868.....	33,651,637 47

This would show a reduction of the public debt, in eight years, of $3,288,210 03. But let us look a little further into the matter. In Gov. Geary's last annual message we find the State debt in 1866 amounted to $35,-622,052 16. Remember, this was the amount in 1866. In his report for 1867, we are told by Auditor General Hartranft that there was in the Treasury on the 30th of November of that year $2,937,978 55 "applicable to the payment of balance of over-due loans." This being the case, is it not clear that, had not the debt been increased between November 30, 1866, and November 30, 1867, the application of the $2,937,057 55 "to the payment of over-due loans" would have reduced it, at the latter date, to $32,684,073-61? To ascertain this it is only necessary to substract the two millions, &c., in the Treasury for that purpose, from the thirty-five millions, &c., at which the debt stood in 1766. But the amount could not have been so applied, or the debt must have increased, as the Auditor General informs us that on the 30th of November, 1867, the debt was $34,766,031 47, and on the 9th of August, 1868, he reports it to Mr. Grow at $33,651,-637 37, showing an increase of debt between 1866 and 1868 and nearly one million of dollars! For otherwise, the application of the $2, 937,978 55 to the cancelling of "over-due loans," would have reduced the debt to $32,084,073 61 in 1868, instead of $33,651,637 37, as reported by the Auditor General.

We have already spread these facts before the public, but their importance is so great that, at the risk of repetition, we will proceed still further. It is provided in the Constitution that a Sinking Fund to be applied exclusively to the payment of the public debt and interest shall be created. In 1858 the Legislature passed an act for that purpose, and if its provisions had been faithfully carried out by the Radicals, who have been in power almost ever since it went into effect, the greater portion, if not the whole of the debt might, by this time, have been wiped out, and the State freed from all incumbrance. By the act of the Legislature immense revenues and incomes were "specifically appropriated and set apart" for the purpose contemplated, from which sources the State has received, according to official statements of the Auditor General, the immense amount of twenty-five millions, three hundred and forty-seven thousand seven hundred and fifty-one dollars.

This enormous sum, remember, was "specifically appropriated and set apart" for the purpose of paying the State debt and interest.

Has it been faithfully so applied? If it has, how comes it that the debt which amounted to $30,939,847 50 in 1860, two years after the passage of the Sinking Fund Act, was only reduced $3,288,210,03 between that time and August 6, 1868, when the Auditor General stated it at $33,651,637.37?

What became of the *twenty-five millions* paid into the treasury in the eight years from 1860 to 1867, inclusive, for the "specific" purpose of being applied to the extinguishment of the debt?

If it had been applied as the law directs it to be, the debt to-day would be but $12,-026,206.50, instead of $33,651,637.37.

How then was it applied?

Let those who have had exclusive control of the fund answer.

That it has been shamefully squandered by the Radical officials; that the treasury has been plundered by them to satisfy the avarice and minister to the profligacy of hungry and corrupt cormorants; that they have violated the statute and cheated the people, cannot be doubted by any one who will impartially examine their own official figures.

The question for the people to decide is whether a party so evidently dishonest and corrupt should be continued in power to plunder and squander for another term of years?—*Patriot.*

Outrages by Negro Radicals in Arkansas.

ST. LOUIS, Sep. 1.—The *Republican* gives the following version of the recent reported trouble in Arkansas, based, it says, upon reliable information as late as the evening of the 29th ult.: Conway county, 40 miles above Little Rock, has a large negro population, of whom a number are Democrats. Recently some Radical negroes surrounded the house of a Democratic negro, and after killing his dog tried to get him out of his house. The assailants were arrested, and in making a negro jury a Democratic negro was summoned, and hits the Radical blacks drove away with drawn weapons. Supposing he would return with his friends, the black Radicals went off and collected a number of men and armed them. Two white men, who tried to induce these negroes to desist, were fired upon, one of whom was mortally wounded, and the other had his horse killed under him. At this stage of the proceedings, Messrs. Henkle and Gibbons, Radical members of the legislature, summoned the colored people in great numbers. Two or three hundred whites and friendly negroes assembled at Lewisburg, on the river, for mutual protection, they having been threatened with indiscriminate murder. On the 27th a crowd of three hundred Radical negroes were harangued at Little Rock, and two companies raised to proceed to Lewisburg, but Gov. Clayton was induced, by the representations of citizens, to forego the expidition, the citizens agreeing to accompany him to the scene of disturbance, and guaranteeing to assist in the arrest and punishment of those who could be found guilty of offenses. This was the condition of affairs up to the evening of the 29th, as we learn from reliable dispatcher.

COAL AND IRON.

A Trip from Easton to Scranton.

A short time ago, in company with some friends, we passed over the Lehigh and Susquehanna Railroad from Easton to Scranton, seeing for the first time that really wonderful portion of Pennsylvania. No more interesting trip can be made, whether we consider the beauty of the natural scenery, or the inexhaustible mineral wealth of that section of the State, and the great development thereof which is rapidly taking place. The road is one of the most substantially constructed in the world, and no expense has been spared to fit it for the great carrying trade, which must soon demand the laying of an additional track. Wise foresight was displayed in making the cuttings and building the bridges with a view thereto at the commencement. The bridge over the Delaware and Lehigh rivers at Easton, is one of the most elegant and substantial structures of the kind ever erected. It looks light, but is massively strong in all its parts, and not the slightest sway or quiver is perceptible under the pressure of the heaviest coal trains. The portion which spans the Delaware consists of two abutments and six piers of finely cut blue limestone, with one span of iron trellis work, the whole about 1050 feet in length; the top of the rail being