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MIDDLEBURY, JAN. 16, 1872.

J. CROUSE, Editor and Proprietor.

FOR GOVERNOR IN 1872.
HON. JOHN P. PACKER,
OF SUNBURY.

**Constitutionality of the Legal
Tender Act.**

At last the final decision of the United States Supreme Court on the Legal tender act has been delivered. Mr. Justice Strong read the opinion on Monday, affirming the constitutionality of the act of February 25, 1862. The opinion is an able and elaborate one, being exhaustive on the subject of the constitutionality of the act. The following extracts are taken from Justice Strong's opinion:

The debts which have been contracted since February 25, 1862, are by far the greatest portion of the indebtedness of the country. They were contracted in view of the acts of Congress declaring Treasury notes a legal tender, and in reliance upon that declaration legal-tender notes have become the universal measure of values. If now the decision of the court establishes that these obligations can be discharged only by gold coin, and that contrary to the expectation of all parties to contracts, legal-tender notes are rendered unavailable, the Government becomes an instrument of the present injustice, all debtors are loaded with an obligation it was never contemplated they should assume, a large percentage is added to every debt, and such must become the demand for gold to satisfy contracts, that innumerable sacrifices, general distress and bankruptcy may be expected. These consequences are too obvious to admit of question, and there is no well founded distinction to be made between the constitutional validity of an act of Congress declaring Treasury notes a legal tender for the payment of debts contracted after its passage, and that of an act making them a legal tender for the discharge of all debts, existing at those incurred before as well as after its enactment. There may be a difference in the effects produced by the act in the hardship of the conditions in both cases.

The fundamental question, that which tests the validity of the legislation, is, can Congress constitutionally give to Treasury notes the character and qualities of money? Can such notes be constituted a legitimate circulating medium, having a defined legal value? If they can, then such notes must be available to fulfill contracts not expressly excepted, valid in money without reference to the time when the contracts were made. It is not therefore strange that those who hold the legal-tender acts unconstitutional when applied to contracts made before February, 1862, had themselves compelled also to hold that the acts are invalid as to debts created after that time, and to hold that both classes of debts alike can be discharged only by gold and silver coin.

A lengthy examination of the rules of constitutional construction is made, and the conclusion is that Congress' authority in all cases to enact laws necessary and proper for the execution of all powers granted by the constitution, and that the necessity spoken of is not absolute, but within the judgment and discretion of Congress. This decision overrules so much of what was decided in *Hepburn vs. Griswold* (S. Wall, 703) as ruled the legal tender act unconstitutional by the Constitution so far as they apply to contracts made before their enactment. It is said that it is no unprecedent thing in courts of the last resort, both in this country and in England, to overrule decisions previously made, and that even in cases involving private interests. If this court is convinced it has made a mistake, it will hear another argument and correct the other. It is agreed that this should not be done haphazardly, but in a case of such far-reaching consequences as the present, thoroughly convinced as the court is that Congress has not transgressed its powers, it is regarded as a duty to decide and to affirm the judgment below in both cases. It is also remarked that the court is not accustomed to hear such cases in the absence of a full court if it can be avoided.

* * * In concluding the Chief Justice says: "It then, the plain sense of words, if the contemporaneous exposition of parties, if common consent in understanding, if the opinion of courts, avail anything in determining the meaning of the Constitution, it seems impossible to doubt that the power to establish a uniform standard, or values, and that no other power to establish such a standard, is conferred upon Congress by the Constitution."

A Temperance Argument.

Before Chicago was reduced to ashes, its innumerable groggeries were very commonly surmounted by the blood and white information that "Lill's Premium Ale" could be had on the premises. This legend, uniform in its style and structure, met the Chicagoans everywhere, and it was evident that if only who professed to sell the ale drank it, Mr. Lill must be doing a thriving business. It is, therefore, with some surprise that we learn that Mr. Lill, at a Chicago re-build meeting the other night, stated his burned brewery would never be reconstructed, as he was sick of the business, and would not continue his traffic except the brewery should be rebuilt by others and given to him. It had been a profitable business, he added; but all his employees were more or less drunkards, and he preferred to go into some other calling, even he made less than half the money which his brewery paid him. The source from which this statement of Mr. Lill's comes makes it notable, and gives it marked value for a temperance lecture.

Moderate Republicans.

What are termed Moderate politicians are the least drag and the greatest curse to whatever party they may belong. Always uneasy, always wavering; fearful of this and timid at that; never satisfied and ever complaining that party is best of which has the fewest of them in its ranks—and still better off when it shakes itself loose from all of them. We find in the liberal column of the *Liberator* some sound remarks on the subject of "Moderate Republicans," which we take the liberty of using, as conveying substantially our own sentiments. The *Crafter* says: "Men who desire to be moderate in their attachments or their convictions are generally a half-hearted class who totally fail in usefulness in times of emergency. It is the through going of a man who believes fully in what he takes hold of, achieves desirable results and pushes the world on in its great movements of progress. Moderate men, in the sense many flatter themselves with that term, never yet bore aloft a great cause, or alighted martyr-like, at the great principle until it were the laurel-wreath of victory. The moderate kind move along in doubt and weakness, ever ready to complain and find fault and despair of ultimate success, while he of courageous and fiery devotion is filled all through with his cause and resolute in his conflict no such word as fail." In our late struggle for the life of the nation, what a weight on the men of full-fledged convictions were the moderate and doubtful kind whose scolding complaints hung like an incubus on the efforts of those who felt that the conflict involved continental Union, or death to the nation and to liberty!

RUMORS OF WAR.

The rumors of war are ripe at present, very probably, end in nothing. Such rumors have occurred from time to time, and been almost invariably followed by the adjustment of the difficulties which occasioned them. Except in the case of the war with Mexico, brought on with the consent of Congress, for the acquisition of territory, and opposed, as long as natural hostilities had not commenced, by the best statesmen of the time, there has been no foreign war since that of 1812; and it seems unlikely that a foreign war would be desired at present, seeing that the nation is only recovering from the effects of its late fraternal conflict of four years. So far as was distinguished for his uncompromising intellect, a proof of which was he graduated in the highest grade, that of engineers. After serving faithfully years Halleck resigned from the army on the 1st of August, 1851, there being no apparent prospect of a war in which he could draw his blade to defend the enemy.

Sons of these "moderates" do not know now where they will be found in the coming Presidential contest. McClellan-like, they are waiting for something to turn up to shape their course, instead of having for their North star the light which has directed the Republican party in its amazing strides of progress. They seem to be open for negotiations with the defeated and half-dead Democracy, not being able to see much difference in the character of the parties—one of which abetted treason in its schemes to destroy our nationality and liberty for the world, while the other bore about above predition of aristocracies and hostility of caste, the banner of the free to the establishment of freedom on this continent, and the progress of liberty throughout the world. The moral obliquity of him who is so moderate as to see no difference between these two radically different organizations shows a bluntness as deep and dark as naturalists describe in the fish of Mammoth Cave, where a ray of light has never reached.

In preparing them for the coming civil battle, earnest, believing men must go to the front, and with that ardor and progress for which the Republican party has done so much, inscribed on their banners and emblazoned on their hearts, keep the old flag flying and the old principles which have struggled with wrong since the world began the ascendant in the direction of our national Government.

On March 4, 1873, the terms of the following Senators expire: Senator of Alabama, Rice of Arkansas, Cole of California, Avery of Connecticut, Osborn of Florida, Hill of Georgia, Trumbull of Illinois, Morton of Indiana, Harlan of Iowa, Pomeroy of Kansas, Davis of Kentucky, Kellogg of Louisiana, Vickers of Maryland, Blair of Missouri, Nys of Nevada, Patterson of New Hampshire, Conkling of New York, Peabody of North Carolina, Sherman of Ohio, Corbett of Oregon, Cameron of Pennsylvania, Sawyer of South Carolina, Morrill of Vermont, Howe of Wisconsin. By a recent act of Congress elections to fill Senatorial vacancies are required to be held by the Legislature next preceding the date at which the vacancy occurs.

Under this rule elections have been or will be held this year only in States where the Legislature meets biennially. Thus far California has chosen Hon. A. A. Sargent, Republican, to succeed Mr. Calz; Kentucky Hon. T. C. McCreary as successor of J. R. Davis, and Ohio re-elected Hon. John Sherman. The State yet to elect are Iowa and Oregon. The contest in the former State has been of a most exciting nature. The Republicans have more than two-thirds a majority of both houses, and the conflict consequently is wholly within the party. The struggle lies principally between Hon. W. B. Allison, member of the House of Representatives, and Senator Harlan, the present occupant of the seat. Oregon is so far removed that we hear little if anything of the struggle. The Democrats, however, have a majority, and will elect one of their party to succeed Mr. Corbett.

It is for no other reason than to put an end to the horrible atrocities of Spain that we think that our Government should obtain possession of Cuba. Valmaseda has issued a proclamation which would be a disgrace to a barbarian. It is to the effect that after the 15th of January every insurgent captured will be shot, that those who surrender after that date will be condemned to perpetual imprisonment, that negroes and whites alike will in these penalties, that all negro women captured by the Spanish troops will be remanded to their former owners, and be compelled to wear a chain, and that all white women captured in the woods will be banished from the island. Such barbarity as this should compel the United States to interfere in the interest of common humanity. Not to do all in our power to crush Valmaseda would be to become his accomplice in the horrid tyranny which he now exercises over the people of Cuba.

Democratic Prospects.

The unhappy Democracy have a terrible time in selecting a candidate for the Presidency. The *Lyoner* *Standard* says:

We are informed from Washington, by one of the leading Democratic members of Congress from this State, that neither the cowardly "passive policy," nor the project of supporting a nominal Republican for President by the Democracy, find any favor with the Democratic members of Congress. Our own delegation, we are glad to learn, is in unit against such action.

The same paper advises General Hancock and ourselves:

The tomfoolery gotten up in this State by T. A. Scott, who probably never voted for a Democratic candidate for President or Governor in his life, who has no political experience whatever that is commendable, who knows nothing of and never was in a position to study statesmanship—he was raised to the sole business of transacting goods and managing the routine business of railroads, and who even in that capacity in which all his experience and knowledge, has not succeeded in showing superiority over other men similarly engaged, amounts to but little and is likely intended only to cover up ulterior objects. This immediate effect of the movement, whether intended or not, is to "Kill" Gen. Cass for Governor, and its ultimate purpose (aside from a few more personal ends) is to injure the prospects of Gen. Hancock, by creating division in this State.

Meantime the Republicans are more than ever united in the re-nomination of the good President and great soldier who led the armies to victory over the great Rebellion.

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In the event of Cuba being annexed, there can be little doubt that San Domingo would also be acquired in some way, and probably the Dominican Islands. It would be no easy to protect all of these islands as any one of them, and with such an extent of fertile tropical territory, the United States would be as remarkable for its production of sugar and coffee as it is now for cotton and wheat.—N. Y. *World*.

SCARFON, Jan. 9.—This morning a fearful accident happened at this place Two laborers, Samuel Higginbotham and James Hennessy, were sent into shaft in one of the vermillion coal Company's mines about 4 o'clock. They had scarcely reached their destination in the mine, when a violent explosion occurred, and as soon as possible no instances were sent to them.

The men were found down almost to pieces. The cause of the explosion was the gas in the mines coming in contact with the light. Higginbotham, who lived here, leaves a family—a wife and one child. Hennessy lived in Ottawa, and leaves a family—a wife and four children. The men killed were employed hauling out water in certain portions of the mine.

Besides his ability in military matters, Halleck had as an author a reputation of no mean proportions, and in his death the country has lost an eminent lawyer, a scholar who has added largely to the literature of the nation, as well as of a soldier who was always ready to draw his sword and stand his ground in defense of his native land.

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From the fact that the bodies were found in a part of the mine which they were forbidden to enter by the company, because of the supposed presence of fire damp, their death would seem to be the result of disobedience of orders.

SCARFON, Jan. 10.—The difficulty between the Wilkes-Barre Coal and Iron Company and their miners has been amicably settled. The men have agreed to accept the reduction of 10 per cent. on the wages, provided the company will reduce the price of powder and oil. Mr. Parrish, president of the company, signified his readiness to agree to this, and will probably be retained in the Wyoming region on Monday next.

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NOTICE OF ELECTION.

OFFICERS NOMINATED & LOCATED, Selingrove Pa., January 3, 1872.

The annual meeting of the Stockholders of this Company will be held at the Keystone Hotel, Selingrove, Snyder County, Pa., on Tuesday, February 13th, 1872, at 10 o'clock P. M., at which time and place an election will be held for a President and seven Directors to serve the ensuing year.

J. H. T. JACKSON
SECRETARY.

W. F. HANSELL,
SUCCESSOR TO CAFFMAN & CO.

CROCKETT AND GLASSWARE,

No. 21 North Fourth Street,

PHILADELPHIA.

Original Packages, Constantly on Hand.

Represented by THEO'S SWINEFORD,

The Japanese Embassy.

YOKOHAMA, Jan. 15.—The Japanese embassy, composed of persons of the highest rank yet sent abroad, leave to-day to confer with the government of treaty powers, in relation to the revision of treaties demanded to be made before July of the present year. These representatives are progressive, and profess great friendship for foreigners. It sincerely desires of our friendship the embassy has now an opportunity of conveying to you the debt of this county has increased to an unprecedented and enormous amount without sufficient evidence that there was occasion therfor, and without producing results at all commensurate with the expenditure of money that has been made:—that taxation increased, and has become enormous and burdensome:—that the duty of the county, so far as your Memorialists are informed, is near about the sum of three hundred thousand dollars:—that public opinion is fully impressed with the conviction that this is the result of official extravagance and corruption, and that the accounting and auditing officers of the county have failed to do their duty:—that it is due to the people, upon whom the burdens fall that an investigation should be instituted, and inquiries directed to ascertain the true cause of the state of things thus complained of, and that all persons, if my such there be, who have dishonestly or unlawfully used, or applied to their own purposes, the public funds of said county, should be compelled to reckon for the same, and repay the amount with interest." The petitioners also ask for the appointment of Auditors with the power to examine papers and to review and adjust accounts for each year since 1863.

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