

Montrose Democrat

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The Fourth at Tammany Hall.

The Democracy of New York City celebrated the National Anniversary most appropriately and spiritedly at Tammany Hall. The old Wigwam was crowded, and the celebration was a most decided success. Richard O'Gorman and S. S. Cox were the orators of the day, and they delivered most eloquent, hopeful and stirring addresses. Letters from numerous distinguished men were read, among others the following from President Johnson, Secretary Seward and Secretary Wells:

FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES.

Executive Mansion,
Washington, D. C., July 2, 1866.

Sir: I thank you for the cordial invitation of the time honored Society of Tammany, to participate with them in the celebration of the approaching anniversary of our National Independence.

The national tone and patriotic spirit of the invitation meet my hearty approval. They are indications of a growing public sentiment, which, now that the bitter strife of civil war has ceased, requires a renewal of the pursuits of peace, a return to the Constitution of our fathers, rigid adherence to its principles, increased reverence for its obligations; a restored, invigorated permanent Union; and a fraternal feeling that shall make us, as a people, one and indivisible. There can be, for the patriot, no higher duty, no nobler work, than the obliteration of the passions and prejudices which, resulting from our late sanguinary conflict, have retarded reconciliation, and prevented that complete restoration of all the states to their constitutional relations with the Federal Government, which is essential to the peace, unity, strength and prosperity of the nation.

Regretting that my public duties will not permit me to be present at your celebration, I am, very respectfully, yours,

ANDREW JOHNSON.

To the Hon. JOHN T. HOFFMAN, &c., &c., City Hall, New York.

FROM SECRETARY SEWARD.

Department of State,
Washington, June 26, 1866.

To the Hon. T. Hoffman, City Hall New York.

Sir: I have had the honor to receive the invitation of the Tammany Society for the celebration of the approaching anniversary of July.

I am highly pleased with the form of the invitation. I like the motto which is placed at its head: "The Union must and shall be preserved." I like the vignette which illustrates it. I like the associated hues with which it is colored, namely—the red white and blue—I like the temple of liberty based upon the rock of the Constitution, and protected by the eagle of the American continent. I like the ships and railroads, indicative of prosperity and progress. I like the significant conjunction of dates, 1776 and 1866—a period of ninety years. Why, in looking at these figures, we almost feel assured, that our Republic has a life of least one century. Alas! how many republics have been shorter lived! I would have had the flag of the Union, which is on the right, present in its azure field, only the thirteen original States; but I especially delight in the flag which is on the left hand, and in whose enlarged field twenty three stars are blazing which have come out from the deep ocean within the past ninety years, while the original thirteen stars yet remain in their ancient place, all their morning lustre undiminished.

I have had some differences, in my time, with the Tammany Society, but I long ago forgot them all; when I recalled the fact that the Society has never once failed to observe and honor the anniversary of National Independence; and the further fact that during the recent civil war the Tammany Society sent its sons to fight for the Union, and with unwavering fidelity, heartily supported the Federal Government in its struggle with secession. In view of these facts, and of the noble principles now avowed, I hail the Tammany Society as a true Union League.

I rejoice with the Society that the conflict of arms has ceased; that the rebellion has been crushed; that the authority of the Government, has been vindicated, and that the flag of the Union now floats triumphantly over every foot of national domain. On the other hand, I mourn with the Society that the perfect Union given to us by our patriotic forefathers has not yet been entirely restored; that eleven sovereign States are denied representation in the Federal Congress, and are not recognized as coordinate parts in the National Legislature. How strange all this! We have killed disunion outright, and have killed African Slavery with it, and yet we are not completely reunited.

If I did not feel assured that the American people cannot suffer so great and fatal a secession to continue, I should say, as many others do, that we are at a crisis. But I have unbounded confidence in the wisdom and virtue of the American people. It is said in excuse of the denial of representation, that the States and their chosen representatives still continue to be seceding and disloyal. I ask, is Tennessee disloyal? Is Arkansas seceding?

Are the Senators and Representatives of either of those States disloyal? I desire, in this respect, that each of the two Houses of Congress will apply the constitutional test, with all the improvements of legislation upon it, and thus admit those states and representatives who are loyal and reject only those against whom the crime of disloyalty shall be established.

I believe with the Tammany Society, that the Union was created to be perpetual, that the States are equal under the Constitution, that the restoration of the Union by the recent war ought to be acknowledged and recognized by all the departments of the Federal Government; that a spirit of magnanimity and fraternity should prevail in all our councils, and that the South, having accepted of the heresies of secession, should, just so far and so fast as she comes in the attitude of loyalty, and in the persons of loyal and qualified representatives, be admitted to her constitutional representation.

I want, henceforth and forever, no North, no South, no East, no West, no divisions, and no sections and no classes, but one united and harmonious people. It will be impossible for me to attend the celebration personally. What I have written I trust will satisfy the Society that, in spirit, I shall always be with them when they shall be engaged in renewing and fortifying the National Union.

I have the honor to be, Sir, your very obedient servant,

WILLIAM H. SEWARD.

FROM SECRETARY WELLS.

Navy Department,
July 2, 1866.

GENTLEMEN:—I have received your invitation, and should be happy to participate with the Tammany Society or Columbian order in celebrating the approaching anniversary of our National Independence, were I not prevented by public duties.

To the honor of your Society, it has in all times and under all circumstances, in war and in peace, been faithful to the Union of the States and the rights of the States. At no period since its organization have its teachings and services been more required than at the present, when the victorious arms of the republic have suppressed the false theory that the Union can be divided by secession, or the voluntary withdrawal of a state from its political relations to the other States, and compelled to encounter the opposite extreme of compulsory exclusion, by which the centralists deny to eleven States the representation in Congress which is guaranteed to them by the Constitution.

This doctrine of compulsory exclusion is scarcely less offensive than that of voluntary secession. Each is fatal to the perpetuity of the Union.

After a long and exhausting war, which has cost us so much blood and treasure, the country needs repose, that industry, commerce and the arts of peace may revive, and friendly relations between the States and people may be re-established. Friendly confidence among the people is to be encouraged, and must supersede hatred and revenge. No portion of the States or people can be deprived of their just rights without producing estrangement.

I respond most sincerely to the correct and patriotic views expressed in your invitation, and regretting my inability to be present with you, I respectfully submit the following sentiment:

The Union of the States, only to be maintained by a faithful observance of the rights of the States. Very respectfully,

GIDEON WELLS.

John T. Hoffman, Esq., City Hall, New York.

A Privileged Class.

On motion of Senator Nesmith, of Oregon, the following amendment to the army bill was adopted:

"That all officers who have served during the rebellion as volunteers in the armies of the United States, and who have been or may hereafter be honorably mustered out of the volunteer service, shall be entitled to bear the official title, and upon occasions of ceremony to wear the uniform, of the highest grades they have held by brevet or other commission in the volunteer service. In the case of officers of the regular army, the volunteer rank shall be entered upon the official registers; provided that this privilege shall not entitle officers to any pay or emoluments."

What was the necessity of this amendment? We believe a man in this country can be called Colonel or Captain without the permission of Congress, and can wear any clothes he pleases. Old soldiers don't need any such permission to wear their uniforms or be called by their titles. As this amendment does not mention the officers of the war of 1812, or the Mexican war, are we to infer that they will not be entitled to wear their old uniforms when they see fit to do so? How about the enlisted men of the late army? They are not mentioned. Are they to be prohibited wearing their uniforms on public occasions and being called sergeant or corporal by their friends? We want to know. The whole thing looks like an attempt to legislate officers into a privileged class. Will the men agree to this?

Important Letter of Secretary Wells. He Sustains the President, and favors the Philadelphia Convention.

WASHINGTON, D. C., July 11, 1866.

Sir:—Your note of the 10th instant was received yesterday. I cordially approve the movement which has been instituted to "sustain the administration in maintaining, unbroken, the Union of the States," and I recognize in the call which you have sent me the principles and views by which the administration has been governed.

The attempt made to destroy the national integrity by secession, or the voluntary withdrawal of a State from the Union, has been defeated. War has forever extinguished the heresy of secession. On the suppression of the rebellion, measures were promptly commenced to re-establish those fraternal relations which have for four years been interrupted. The policy initiated by President Lincoln to restore national unity was adopted and carried forward by President Johnson; the states which had been in rebellion were, under this benign policy, resuming their legitimate functions; the people had laid down their arms, and those who had been in insurrection were returning to their allegiance; the Constitution had been vindicated and the Union was supposed to be restored, when a check was put upon the progress to national prosperity thus dawning upon the country.

On the assembling of Congress all efforts towards union and nationality became suddenly paralyzed; the measures of reconciliation which the President had from the time he entered upon his duties, pursued with eminent success, were assailed, and their beneficent purpose, to a great extent, defeated; attempts were made to impose conditions precedent upon States before permitting them to exercise their constitutional rights; loyal Senators and Representatives from the States which had been in rebellion were refused admittance into Congress, the people were denied rightful constitutional representation, and eleven States were and are excluded from all participation in the government. These proceedings, which conflict with the fundamental principles on which our whole governmental system is founded, are generating and consolidating sectional animosity, and, if long persisted in, will result in a movement which has for its object, the union in one bond of love of the people of our common country, and which invites to council and to political action the citizens of every State and Territory, from the Atlantic to the Pacific, and from the Lakes to the Gulf. The centralizing theory that the loyal and qualified Senators and Representatives from eleven States shall be excluded from Congress, and that those States and the people of those States shall not participate in the government, is scarcely less repugnant than that of secession itself.

Propositions to change the Constitution and unsettle some of the foundation or principles of our organic law—to change our judicial system in such a manner as to destroy the independence of the States by insidiously transferring to the federal tribunals all questions relating to the "life, liberty, and property of the citizen"—to change the basis of representation, which was one of the difficult and delicate compromises of the Convention of 1787, when no States were excluded from representation—to change the existing and wisely adjusted distribution of powers between the different departments of the government, by transferring the pardoning power in certain cases from the Executive, where it properly belongs to Congress or the legislative branch of the government, to which it does not legitimately pertain—to incorporate into our Constitution, which is to stand through all time, a proscription of citizens who have erred, and who are liable to penalties under existing enactments, by disqualifications, partaking of the nature of ex post facto laws and bills of attainder—these propositions or changes, aggregated as one and called an amendment to the Constitution, designed to operate on the people and States which are denied all representation or voice in the Congress which originates them, are of a radical, if not revolutionary, character. These and other proceedings and the political crisis which they have tended to produce, justify and demand a convocation of the people by delegates from all the States and from the whole country. The President has labored with devoted assiduity and fidelity to promote union, harmony, prosperity, and happiness among the States and people, but has met with resistance, misrepresentation, and calumny where he had a right to expect co-operation and friendly support. That the great body of our countrymen are earnestly and cordially with him in his efforts to promote the national welfare I have never doubted, notwithstanding the hostility of malevolent partisans, stimulated by perverted party organizations; and rejoice that a convention which shall represent all true Union men of our whole country has been called to sustain him. Very respectfully,

GIDEON WELLS.

Hon. J. R. Doolittle, Washington, D. C.

The Republican Party.

The New York Herald, which has been the leading journal of the Republican party since 1856, when it supported John C. Fremont, and which was conspicuous for its devotion to Abraham Lincoln throughout his administration, candidly admits that the Republican party is on its last legs. Referring to the call for a Convention at Philadelphia, the Herald says:

"The demoralization of the Republican party is now so evident that nobody can affect ignorance of the fact. This call has torn away the veil of sophistry by which the Republican politicians have sought to conceal their dissensions from the people, and everybody can now see what a rotten, disorganized and moribund body the once powerful Republican party really is.

It will be impossible to go before the people at the next elections with any of the old pretences of harmony or antagonism. The Republican party, like a huge monopoly, is falling to pieces from its own corruption. It has no strength outside of Congress. In no State election since the war has it dared to meet the questions at issue boldly and sincerely. During the war it dodged all responsibility and palliated all offenses by pleading the military necessity for its continuance in power. Since the war it has talked wildly of "copperheads," "loyalty," "traitors," and other catchwords to deceive and delude the voters. But at last it has been broken up by its own members, and the coming elections will probably seal its fate.

When we look at the present Congress we behold the Republican party as it exists in its moral and political degeneracy. A more corrupt body than this Congress never disgraced any country. It is immense, concentrated, detestable job from beginning to end. It is composed of men who made dishonest fortunes during the war; of bogus generals, who killed only their own men; of banished contractors, who purchased their seats in order to continue their robberies of the Treasury; of raving fanatics, who ought to be in Bedlam; of small politicians, whose only ambition is to steal enough money to build a house; of foolish philosophers, who love to air their theories, but who have not a single practical idea; and of weak-minded members, who are entirely under the control of jobbers in the lobby.

The very few good men in it are but the exceptions that prove the rule, and their purity makes the immorality of the majority all the blacker by the contrast. Legislation in this Congress is a great game of grab. We seek in vain for any measure based upon true principles of public policy; they are all instigated by private cliques from the meanest motives of political or personal aggrandizement.

Yet this Congress, such as it is, comprises the Republican party of the present day. With the members we have described, with legislation completely controlled by jobbing or political schemes, with debates that seldom rise above blackguardism, and with a policy which simply consists in the cowardly and unconstitutional exclusion of the Southern States for partisan objects, it continues to defy public sentiment and is only anxious to prolong its existence as much as possible. It has few apologists and no friends. Even the radical office-holders distrust its power to protect them, and are ready to turn upon it at any moment.

The people are disgusted with it. The tax collectors are presenting the strongest arguments against it. When it dies, the Republican party, which has become identified with it, must die also. The so-called party of reform, it now needs a thorough reformation. It professed to be imbued with moral ideas, but has become notorious for disreputable practices. During the war it cloaked its crimes with loyalty; but now that the war is over, it stands exposed in all its depravity to the eyes of the people.

What a Fire Cracker Did.

The celebration of the 4th of July seems to be nothing to the juveniles of the United States without their pistols and fire-crackers. It is a day set apart for the explosion of powder in a thousand different shapes. There is a universal license for such things, and all municipal regulations are for one day set at naught.

On Wednesday the 4th a Chinese fire-cracker exploded in a heap of shavings in the rear of Cooper's shop in the City of Portland. The greater part of the city was burned, and thousands of people were left without shelter.

On the same day there were many fires throughout the country. How many of these were from the cause which led to the destruction of Portland may not be accurately known, but is sure that not a few of them were.

There ought to be a reform in this matter. There is not a city or town in this country which is not annually endangered by this very agency. Let the municipal regulations be enforced for the future, and if they be not stringent enough let them be made so.

The Convention to meet in the city of Philadelphia in August is rapidly growing in public favor.

The Origin of the Flag Ceremonies.

While the Republican press of the State are parading infamous slanders upon Hester Clymer, side by side with glowing accounts of the flag presentation at Philadelphia, it may be well to recur to the origin of the ceremonies. By the Legislative Record we find that on the 9th May, 1861, the Hon. Hester Clymer, then Senator from Berks county, presented to the Senate for its action, the following, entitled "A joint resolution relative to procuring standards for the several regiments of Pennsylvania called, or to be called, into the service of the United States:"

Resolved, That the Governor of the Commonwealth be requested to ascertain how the several regiments raised in Pennsylvania during the war of the Revolution, the war of 1812, and the war with Mexico, were numbered; among what divisions of the service they were distributed, and where the said regiments distinguished themselves in action; that having ascertained the particulars aforesaid, he shall procure regimental standards, to be inscribed with the numbers of those regiments respectively, on which shall be painted the arms of the Commonwealth, and the names of the actions in which the said regiments distinguished themselves; that the standards so inscribed shall be delivered to the regiments now in the field or formerly bearing the regimental number corresponding to the regiments of Pennsylvania in former wars.

Resolved, That the Governor do procure regimental standards for all the regiments formed or to be formed in Pennsylvania beyond the numbers in former wars, upon which there shall be inscribed the number of the regiment, and painted the arms of this Commonwealth; and that all these standards, after the present untimely rebellion is ended, shall be returned to the Adjutant General of the State, to be further inscribed as the valor and good conduct of each particular regiment may have deserved; and that they then be carefully preserved by the State, to be delivered to such future regiments as the military necessities of the country may require Pennsylvania to raise.

The joint resolution was referred to the proper committee, and on the following day was reported to the Senate without amendment. In the support of the measure the following resolutions were adopted:

The passage of this joint resolution seems to be necessary at the present time. It is evident that the regiments of Pennsylvania now in the service of the United States must be furnished with colors of some description. If constitutionally with some gentlemen it was thought that those colors should be of a particular description. In the revolutionary war this Commonwealth had in the service a number of regiments—how many I do not know; indeed, the records of this Commonwealth have become obliterated by time and by the carelessness and neglect of our people that it may be impossible to ascertain exactly the number of regiments in service during the revolution. There were a number of regiments also during the war of 1812, and two regiments during the war with Mexico. This joint resolution proposes that the Governor shall ascertain what number of regiments are employed during this; and that regimental colors shall be obtained, upon which are to be inscribed the names of those regiments, and also the names of the battles in which they have distinguished themselves; that these colors shall be given to regiments with corresponding numbers, and that for those regiments which may be raised hereafter, new colors are to be procured, which will also be inscribed with their numbers respectively; that after this rebellion is ended all these colors shall be returned to the Adjutant General of the State, who shall have inscribed upon them such gallant actions as the regiments may have performed in the present struggle. Then, sir, these standards, thus inscribed, shall be handed over to any regiments which Pennsylvania may in future be required to furnish to the general government.

It is the desire of this joint resolution to create a feeling of historic and patriotic interest in each regiment, that a regiment which may have served at Germantown, and in Mexico, and on some later field, may, upon some future battle field of the Republic, be inspired to nobler deeds by the remembrance of old legendary times. I believe, sir, that by the adoption of this measure there will be an interest infused into every regiment, that new courage will be given them, and that the first and second regiments at least will have inscribed upon their banners such names as will lead them to deeds of glory and heroism, which might possibly to some degree, be wanting were those names not there. And when this contest is over, if events should again lead those regiments into the bloody fray, they will have stored names on their colors, which when they read, they will be as proud of as the first and second regiments of today are of the battle fields of the past. I trust that the resolutions will receive the approval of the Senate, and that these regiments may be furnished with appropriate colors.

Miscegenation in Chester County.

It would be strange if Chester county should fail to give practical manifestation of the doctrines taught by the Abolitionists. Here, where it is taught in its purity, we have a right to expect it. We are informed of a case which occurred recently in the southwestern part of the county.

A "revenge" Democrat, living in New London, now a loud "loyal" member of the black league, who has been preaching up the doctrines of Stevens, Sumner, Kelley and Broomall, is possessed of a niece, who listened to his teachings, and lately returned home, from near Penningtonville, with a browny "colored" citizen, whom she introduced as her lawful and wedded protector, not doubting but that her uncle and aunt, who professed such warm friendship for the race of heroboice would receive him with open mouth and arms; but alas! the poor deluded girl was not so favored, she had been deceived in her uncle, who only wants miscegenation for other people, not for his family, and the lubly groom and his white bride were unceremoniously kicked out into the cold, cold world.—Jeffersonian.

The Mayor Wants to See Thee.

A young man, a nephew, had been to sea; and on his return, he was narrating to his uncle an adventure he had met with on board a ship.

"I was one night leaning over the taffrail, looking down into the mighty ocean," said his nephew, whom we shall call William, "when my gold watch fell from my fob and sunk out of sight. The vessel was going ten knots an hour; but nothing daunted, I sprang over the rail, down, down, and after a long search I found it, came up close under the stern, and climbed back to the deck, without any one knowing I had been absent from the ship."

"William," said his uncle, slightly elevating his broad brow, and opening his eyes to their widest capacity, "how fast did thee say the vessel was going?"

"Ten knots, uncle."

"And thee dived down into the sea, and came up with the watch, and climbed up by the rudder chains?"

"Yes, uncle."

"And thee expects me to believe thy story?"

"Of course! You wouldn't dream of me knowing I never call anybody a liar, but, William, if the Mayor of the city were to come to me and say, 'Josiah, I want thee to find the biggest liar in all Philadelphia,' I would come straight to thee, and put my hand upon thy shoulder, and say to thee, 'William, the Mayor wants to see thee!'"

Licenses Abolished.

There are to be no more licenses issued under the Internal Revenue act. In the amended law the word "license" has been carefully removed, and the words "special tax" inserted. But under the latter name the rose of taxation would smell as sweet as before. All the parties who paid license fees under the old law will pay special tax under the new one; the name is changed, but the thing remains.

The reason for this change in the name of the duty does not appear. Perhaps it was thought that "license" had an invidious sound, while "special tax" would express the delightful condition of paying more for the privilege of following one's business than some other people pay.

Very few people understand thoroughly the causes of the quarrel between Austria and Prussia. Most of the newspaper articles which have been written on the subject have served to mystify, not unravel, and the general reader is left very much to his own imagination in studying the causes of the dispute. There is a marked distinction between the cause and occasion of every contest. "The cause of the German dispute," says the Boston Traveler, "is the rivalry of Austria and Prussia; the occasion of it is the dispute about the disposition that shall be made of the Danish Duchies—that is, the Duchies that were taken from the King of Denmark by Austria and Prussia."

Within the last month Congress passed an act which appropriates twenty millions of dollars to pay negro soldiers additional bounties. A week ago an effort was made in the house to pass a bill granting pensions to the surviving soldiers of 1812, but the bill was referred to the committee which had just reported against the measure. This was done to kill it, and in that committee it dies a natural death. Twenty millions for negroes, but not one cent for white men who defended our country against the British in the war of 1812? The party that does this expects white men to vote to maintain it in power.

How much it will be mistaken?

The new candidate for Senatorial honors, and right hand man to No. 10, says: "The war against slavery has not been fought in vain." It was not a war for the Union, then? So says Forney and so says Geary. What say the veterans who fought and bled? Was it for the negro.