

THE MONTROSE DEMOCRAT.

A. J. GERRITSON, Proprietor.

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A HISTORY OF THE GREAT STRUGGLE BETWEEN LIBERTY AND DESPOTISM FOR THE LAST HUNDRED YEARS.

"President Johnson," say the Republicans, "after the elections of 1866, no less than before, has made veto follow veto, until, in a year there were twelve or more, and this in a Republic. In England—crowned monarchy as she is—there has not been a veto in 160 years. Britons, though their Constitution permits it, will not brook the executive throttle upon acts of parliament. Vetoes were hateful to the men who cut off Charles' head, and to the men who dethroned James for granting amnesty to traitors. The President means usurpation as much as Louis, of France, when he said, 'The State—that is me.' The executive grasp is clutching unlawful and dangerous forms; the acting President of the United States, and those whose creature he is, are assuming forbidden prerogatives, meaning to wield them not only to the public detriment, but for purposes aimed against the security if not against the existence of the government."

What an awful tyrant is President Johnson! No wonder the people, who are made to believe these lying hypocrites, are frightened to think such a man sits in the Presidential chair. But what are the facts of the case? Let a signer of the Constitution answer these charges against the President and those who sustain him. Alexander Hamilton says in his exposition of "The Power of the President:"

"The first thing that offers itself to our observation, is the qualified negative of the President upon the acts or resolutions of the two Houses of the Legislature; or in other words, his power of returning all bills with his objections, which will have the effect of preventing their becoming laws, unless they should afterward be ratified by two thirds of each of the component members of the legislative body.—The propensity of the legislative department to intrude upon the rights and to absorb the powers of the other departments, has already been more than once suggested; the insufficiency of a mere parchment delineation of each, has also been remarked upon, and the necessity of furnishing each with constitutional arms for its own defence, has been inferred and proved. From these clear and indubitable principles results the propriety of a negative, either absolute or qualified, in the executive, upon the acts of the legislative branches. Without the one or the other, the President would be absolutely unable to defend himself against the depredations of the legislature. He might gradually be stripped of his authority, by successive resolutions, or annihilated by a single vote. And in one mode or the other, the legislative and executive powers might speedily come to be blended in the same hands."

Congress has been acting out for the last two years the very propensity the Constitution has given the President power to guard against, by vetoing their acts. He has proclaimed in every veto message, that Congress was attempting to absorb the powers of all the other departments of government—even those of the Supreme Court.

"The insufficiency of the parchment"—the Constitution of the United States, to deter them in their propensity to usurpation, has been fully demonstrated to the people of this nation, to their great sorrow; and even with the aid of the veto, the President has been unable to defend himself against their depredations, and has gradually been stripped of his Constitutional authority, and threatened with impeachment for even daring to remain in office, and not resign the executive chair into the hands of Congress.

"But the power of a negative," says Hamilton, "has a further use. It not only serves as a shield to the Executive, but it furnishes an additional security against the enactment of improper laws. It establishes a salutary check upon the legislative body, calculated to guard the community against the effects of faction, precipitancy, or of an impulse unfriendly to the public good, which may happen to influence a majority of that body."

"The propriety of a negative has, upon some occasions, been combatted by an observation, that it was not to be presumed that a single man would possess more virtue and wisdom than a number of men; and that, unless this presumption should be entertained, it would be improper to give the executive magistrate any species of control over the legislative body. But this observation, when examined, will appear rather specious than solid."

"The propriety of the thing does not turn upon the supposition of superior virtue or wisdom in the executive, but upon the supposition that the legislature may not be infallible; that the love of power may sometimes betray it into a disposition to encroach upon the members of the government; that a spirit of faction may sometimes pervert its deliberations. It is also remarked that the King of Great Britain has not vetoed a bill of Parliament in many years. But there would be greater danger of the President's not using his power, when necessary, than of using it too often."

If twelve vetoes they were needed in one year to secure the people against the enactment of improper laws, the framers of the Constitution say the President has not used the veto power too often. "Vetoes were hateful to the men who cut off the head of Charles I," but they were not hateful to Washington and the other patriots who founded our government, which proves that they were not followers of Cromwell, who beheaded a King that he might himself become the monarch, and rule over England as Puritanism now rules over the South in the form of a military despotism.

These truths will all be brought to light in this history, which is designed to reveal the awful nature of Puritanism—which is now rendered still more alarming by its alliance with Jacobinism. Cromwell and Robespierre are fighting hand in hand against Washington and Liberty in America.

Reflections for December.

FORMATION OF SNOW.

Snow is a species of hoar frost; it differs, however, in this particular, that the hoar frost falls in the form of snow, upon the surface of certain cold bodies, which attract its moisture, and to which it adheres; whilst the snow, before it falls, is already formed in the upper region of the atmosphere by congealed vapors, which observe the same laws in falling as fogs, dews and rains. The air is often very cold, and this may be increased to a considerable degree by the density of the atmosphere, and the accession of acid vapors.

It is thus very easy to understand how the aqueous particles become congealed. What, perhaps, contributes the most to give this freezing property to the air are the clouds; and generally every snowy day is cloudy; and the thicker the clouds are, the more they interrupt the rays of the sun, and prevent their action; whence must naturally result a degree of color great enough to make the vapors lose their fluidity, and convert them into snow. But, upon the same principle, ought it not sometimes to snow in summer? No doubt this may happen, and snow may be really formed in the superior regions of the atmosphere, but the cold in that season is never sufficiently strong to counterbalance the effects of that reflected from the earth, which meets the congealed vapors as they approach the lower regions of the atmosphere, consequently they cannot thus appear in the form of snow.

This is far from being the case in winter; as it is then so cold in the lower regions of the atmosphere, and upon the surface of the earth, that the frozen vapors in falling can no longer receive a sufficient degree of heat to melt them.

It is a pleasing sight to contemplate the flakes of snow as they fall; in a few months covering the whole surface of the earth, far as the eye can reach; and it admirably justifies what was said by the pious Brookes when he told us that "even snow has its charms" and winter its sweets. Pure and innocent pleasures may be enjoyed by all men, except those who, for want of cultivating their faculties, are become incapable of reflecting, and never regard the works of God.—STURM'S REFLECTIONS.

The first great duty of Democrats everywhere is to subscribe for and circulate Democratic newspapers. This work should be commenced at once and in real earnest. Three weeks before election is not the time to sow the seed that makes votes. That is harvest time when the fruit should be gathered in. The long winter evenings should be made serviceable in circulating and reading Democratic newspapers. More effective campaigning could be accomplished in this way than is possible in the month or two preceding election.—Seneca Falls Reveille.

The Reveille is right to a dot. During the few months intervening between the present time and the political campaign of next year, the one great and important duty of Democrats is to subscribe for sound Democratic newspapers and see that they are extensively circulated among their friends and acquaintances, whether they be Democrats or Republicans. This work may not make as much show as the stirring meetings during an exciting canvass with their speeches and music and shouts and processions, but it is far more beneficial and effective. We have repeatedly pressed this matter upon our readers, and the result of the late elections in this and other States is convincing proof of its importance.

Three years ago General Hovey announced in Indiana that he would prevent the McClellan men from carrying the State by his direct use of military force, and, a few weeks after, Kilpatrick, the Radical candidate for State Treasurer in that State, made the following declaration: "The ballot-box in this country is played out; the country's interests are to be controlled by a centralized power." Although the leaders of the Radical party have labored industriously to destroy the ballot box and place the people under a centralized despotism, they have made a notable failure in the Northern States.

From Alabama.

THE RECENT INSURRECTIONARY MOVEMENTS IN BULLOCK COUNTY.

MONTGOMERY, Dec. 16. The Advertiser contains reliable information of the arrest of George Shorter, a negro of this city, who was the leader of the recent insurrectionary movement in Bullock county. The negro, Shorter, claims to be from Illinois, or one of the Northwestern States, and says that he was sent by the radicals of that region to organize a government in the South. The blacks gave information of his whereabouts, and he was captured by whites and blacks. When the deluded negroes of neighboring plantations heard of it they gathered in considerable numbers, and clamored for its delivery to them for summary punishment. They would have put him to death, but the whites interfered and persuaded them to let the law take its course. Shorter was imprisoned in the county jail at Union Springs.

A letter of Shorter's to the negroes, whom he called officers of his government, has been published, showing the nature of the organization he had effected. In this letter, Shorter decreed the death of Jerry, treasurer of the revolutionary organization. There are other letters of Shorter's in possession of the civil authorities, and the whole of them, with the evidence of the blacks examined, will expose to the country, in all its atrocity, a radical plot to organize the blacks of the South in a revolutionary conspiracy against the whites. The following is Shorter's letter:—

"I drop you a few lines on this case about that man Jerry. Call all the men together, and take Jerry and that money from him, and if he don't give it up kill him. Kill him; don't let him get away from you all. I send these men down to Perote, Bullock county, Ala., to hunt for him. He has stolen some amount of money. He has been going about and telling more lies unbeknowningly to me. He also had a full lie wrote agin me, and I want ten more men to come down to Pine Level with George, and bring your guns; tell all the men to go and take him or kill him. Jeff don't fail. (Signed), GEORGE SHORTER."

Captain Bryce, Agent of the Freedmen's Bureau at Greensboro, recently took keys and liberated a number of prisoners confined by the proper civil authorities. His action is severely condemned.

At the Sheriff's sale to day, real estate, railroad stocks, &c., sold at remarkably low figures. Land at from five cents to ten cents an acre, and railroad stock at ten cents on a dollar.

The Bloody Issue.

The Richmond Whip, which is a staunch advocate of reconstruction upon the Congressional plan—so much so that it is regarded as a convert to the radical faith—since the negro triumph at the recent election says:

"The election returns show with painful distinctness that the negroes have drawn a deep red blood line between themselves and the whites, and that with them principles are nothing, color everything. Under the leadership of a few pestilent and infamous whites, who will, no doubt, live long enough to suffer in this world the punishment due to their crimes, the negroes (with few, very few exceptions) have arrayed themselves in hostility against the whites, and have left us no choice but to regard them henceforth as enemies. In the language of the Charlottesville Chronicle, 'every conceivable effort has been made here to harmonize the two races. Every form of overture has been made to the blacks by the whites. Every appliance was resorted to to carry the election. All has been in vain. Drilled like an army, maneuvered like a body of disciplined troops, obeying an order from the central league like a sign from a marshal's baton, the negroes have delivered their vote like a concentrated broadside.'"

Now that the negroes have drawn a blood line between themselves and the whites, and have manifested a fierce and stubborn determination to establish their supremacy at the hazard of ruin to all our interests, it becomes us to cast about for the means of self protection.

The negroes (with some few honorable exceptions, never to be forgotten) have raised their hands against the whites, and threaten us with ruin, simply because we are white. They have embarked in a wild crusade against all whites—the Northern white and the foreigner as well as the whites of the South. There is but one way of arresting and turning back this threatening tide of negro fanaticism and ignorance, and that is by presenting to white people at the North and abroad such inducements as they will be unable to resist. No matter where the whites shall come from or what may be their antecedents, they will make common cause with us, for it is against their skin, color, and kindred, that this crusade has been set afoot."

These are plain words from a journal which is not opposed to negroes using the ballot.

The Murder of the Fenians.

The hanging of the three Fenians in Manchester, who were so hastily convicted of murder in connection with the rescue of a prisoner and the death of a policeman, says the Boston Post was one of the most ill advised acts, so far as mere policy goes, which the British government could have perpetrated; and so far as it is judged by the stable standard of justice it is certain that it falls short in no degree of judicial murder. Whatever might be either the sympathies or the conduct of these unfortunate men, it was not shown that the deliberate intent of murder was in their hearts, without the presence of which no conviction of murder can be a just one. The English authorities have therefore left the case open for review and decision by the entire body of Fenians and the Irish people. Worse than this, they have given martyrs to the cause of Fenianism, which it stood in particular need of; so that it is now well equipped for the next onset it would make against English power. When a government, professedly as strong as that of England; permits judgment to be rendered against offenders in fear and executed in trembling, it makes public confession of its inability to hold its ground. No other is so likely to bring it into contempt. The three victims to English trepidation are likely to spring to life again in the shape of thousands of conspirators, scattered through all the principal towns and cities, and exciting ceaseless alarms against an unprotected people. If this be a wise policy for a government, that admits its danger by its precipitancy, it is after a novel order of wisdom. Whether the aims of Fenianism be foolish or otherwise, the action of the English authorities is certain to compensate for any fault of its reputation, and elevate it at once to such a character as would otherwise require a far longer time for it to command.

Tribune Scraps.

The following delicious scrap of politics we take from the New York Tribune:

RETRENCHMENT.

Tried by the test which they apply to the President, Congress might be impeached, individually and collectively, every session. Scarcely a week passes but public money is used for some purposes for which there is no warrant in law or Constitution. To take an illustration from the present session: The first issue of the Globe, a week ago, contains a speech purporting to have been made by Judge Lawrence in the House of Representatives. It never was made, nor was permission ever given to have it printed. Yet it is printed and published at an expense of about \$200 to the government. Here is just as clear a violation of law as is proven against the President. Judge Lawrence has no more legal right to print that speech at the public expense than he has to print the stump speeches he makes in Ohio at the public expense. Yet no one thinks of impeaching him for having done so. Take another case. For two years Mr. Foster, of Connecticut, drew a salary of \$8,000, and \$2,500 for a private secretary, when he was, by the letter of the law, entitled to no more than the salary of a Senator of the United States. Mr. Wade does the same now. He draws the salary of Vice President, and is known as "Acting Vice President," an office not recognized by the Constitution or any law of the United States. It is entirely a brevet rank, the extra pay has been attached to it since 1865 by courtesy, and not by right; and so on to the end of the chapter. Instances might be multiplied to show that no department of the government could stand the test of strict accountability for its expenditures to which the report of the Judiciary Committee seeks to hold Mr. Johnson. The Republican Congressional Committee have had in their employ, as Southern missionaries, for a year past, a large number of men paid as clerks and officers of the House of Representatives. Is there warrant of law for this? If so, it would enlighten a great many anxious inquirers to point out just where it is.

Deplorable Condition of Florida.

The Charleston Mercury gathers the following from Captain Lewis M. Coxeter who has just returned from an extensive tour in Florida:

He traveled from Jacksonville to Tallahassee and Fernandina to Gainesville, and along the various routes robbery and plunder were daily reported. The cotton crop was a signal failure, and the little that matured is carried away by the negroes, if not from the field, from the gin houses, scores of which have been broken into and plundered. But little corn was raised, and that little is going the way of the cotton. Cattle, hogs and sheep are nightly massacred by the freedmen and carried off. One gentleman had three cattle shot on one day, but the wounded animals made their way home before they were captured by the desperadoes. A lady, who a few months ago, had over eleven hundred head of sheep, has not one to her name to day—all killed and carried off by the negroes. The Captain thinks that cotton planting on a large scale has ceased in Florida, at least un-

der the present system of labor, over which the employer seems to have no control. With the failure of the great staple, and the plunder of the remnant of the crop, which might in part have paid the advances for raising the same, and without corn to last longer than the opening of the year, the majority of the planters in Florida are truly in a pitiable condition.

A Democratic Town.

The town of Jackson, Anglaize county, Ohio, at the recent election, polled four hundred and nine votes, all for the Democratic ticket. This fact has called forth considerable criticism as to the character and intelligence of the citizens of that town. The New York Commercial Advertiser made the following commentary, based on alleged personal knowledge of the ignorance prevailing in that region:

"We had the occasion to travel through that portion of Ohio a few years since, when a colporteur informed us, as the result of his observations and inquiries, that but one in thirty of the people could read, while, on an average, only one in fifty five possessed a Bible."

The Democrat, published at Jackson, in reply to the remarks quoted above, declares that the informant of the Commercial, the "colporteur," as he is called, was an itinerant vender of "Helper's Crisis" and other abolition tracts, for which he could not find a purchaser in the place.

The Democrat adds that there is not one voter in Jackson who cannot read and write, and to back its assertion, offers to give a silver cup for every voter who can be found there who cannot both read and write. There is not a person in that township, male or female, above the age of fourteen who cannot do so! There is not another rural township in Ohio, or anywhere else, with the same age of settlement, that has more industry, wealth and general intelligence. Besides the best of schools, the town has a fine Academic Institute, kept in successful operation ten months in the year, that accommodates two hundred students. Among the church buildings one stands there that cost forty five thousand dollars. In that township are model farmers, manufacturers and thrifty and accomplished merchants. Why should such people vote any other than the Democratic ticket?

Abraham Lincoln's Opposition to Negro Suffrage.

Abraham Lincoln was uniformly, and to the last hour of his life steadfastly hostile to negro suffrage. He never abandoned the belief that it would be improper and dangerous to incorporate so large a mass of ignorance in the body politic. On the very last day of his life the question of reconstruction was discussed in a Cabinet meeting, and a plan partially arranged, looking to the adjustment of the difficulties. There was no clause incorporating negro suffrage in it. At a cabinet meeting held very shortly after the accession of President Johnson the same subject came up, and the Cabinet were a unit then against negro suffrage. Secretary Stanton, in his evidence before the Judiciary Committee, says:

The President expressed his views very clearly and distinctly. I expressed my views, and other members of the Cabinet expressed their views. The objection of the President to throwing the franchise open to the colored people appeared to be fixed, and I think every member of the Cabinet assented to the arrangement as it was specified in the proclamation relative to North Carolina. After that I do not remember that the subject was ever discussed in the Cabinet.

The insane project of making voters of all the barbarian negroes of the South came from Congress. That body alone is responsible for the iniquitous and destructive system which is now working ruin in the South. Stanton and some others who were members of Mr. Lincoln's Cabinet, after the adoption of negro suffrage by Congress, supported it. But it never received the sanction of Mr. Lincoln.

General Grant on the Presidents Policy.

Below we give a synopsis of the testimony of General Grant before the Judiciary (impeachment) Committee, taken from the Philadelphia News. It is far from comforting to the radicals:

The General considers President Johnson's policy as to reconstruction identical with that of Mr. Lincoln. He says: "Mr. Lincoln prior to his assassination, had inaugurated a policy intended to restore those (the Southern State) governments. I was present once, before his murder, when a plan was read. The plan adopted by Mr. Johnson, was substantially the plan which had been inaugurated by Mr. Lincoln, as the basis for his future action. I do not know that it was verbatim the same. I think the very paper which I heard read twice while Mr. Lincoln was President was the one which was carried right through?"

The paper to which General Grant here referred was the proclamation with reference to the reconstruction of North Carolina.

It is not wonderful that the Washing-

ton correspondents say that Gen. Grant's testimony does not please the radicals. The fact that their proposed candidate for the next presidency swears that, according to the best of his knowledge and belief, the reconstruction policy of President Johnson is exactly the same as that officially recommended by Abraham Lincoln, must be very disagreeable to the radical politicians. It puts them in a very uncomfortable position. They must either repudiate Grant, or virtually endorse Johnson.

Got it at Last.

We have been looking for the heavy point to be made against President Johnson and have at last found it in the testimony of Col. Matthews. If this testimony can be corroborated we have no hesitation in saying the President ought not only to be impeached, but shot. Let an astonished world read:

"THE OLD DEMOCRATIC PARTY."

The following is the testimony of Stanley Matthews, of Ohio, who commanded a regiment in Tennessee, sworn July 1st, 1867: State whether you saw Andrew Johnson at Cincinnati in February, 1865.—Answer—I had an interview with Mr. Johnson in February, 1865 at the Burnet House, in Cincinnati, Ohio. During our conversation, and while sitting together on a sofa, he (Mr. Johnson) remarked:—"You and I were old Democrats." I said yes. Mr. Johnson said, "I will tell you what it is, if the country is ever to be saved it is to be done through the old Democratic party." Immediately afterwards, I took my leave.

Important to Executors, Administrators, Trustees, &c.

In a circular addressed to United States assessors the Commissioner of Internal Revenue says: "Pains should be taken to acquaint executors, administrators, trustees, &c., of their personal liability for legacy taxes, and that it is not only their legal duty but for their own private interest and protection to pay legacy taxes and succession taxes, under section 138, upon each sum before it is paid over to the legatee, distributee or successor. All persons should be informed that a succession tax is a first charge on the interest of the executor, and of all persons claiming in his right in all the real estate in respect whereof such duty is assessed, and that such estate is liable to seizure and sale, even in the hands of a bona fide purchaser."

West Virginia Mode of Voting.

Under the system that prevails in this State, the radicals can always manage to keep the majority. The *modus operandi* is this: The Board of Supervisors meet, overhaul the list of registered voters, and summon any citizen to come forward and show cause why his name should not be stricken from the list. It is all the same whether he appears or not; his name must go off if the radical supervisors will it. In this way a gentleman who was elected by the Conservatives of Jefferson county to the House of Delegates last year was deprived of his right of suffrage, though he had been a consistent Union man throughout the whole period of the war. As a matter of course he was also ousted from his seat in the Legislature. This was effected by throwing out, for alleged informality or something else, the vote of two precincts wherein he had a majority, and the seat was accorded to his radical opponent.

A reference to the returns of the recent election held in this county, purloined from Virginia, will show the whole strength of radicalism, and the extreme to which proscription is carried. The full vote of the county, without disfranchisement, would be about 2,500. At the recent election there were polled for the two opposing candidates for the Senate 331 votes, the radicals electing their candidate by a majority of 11. True it will appear that seven eighths of the old voters are disfranchised, while 171 radicals control a county having 2,500 men who should be voters, but are not. And this is but a sample of what we may expect from the Hummiout party in Virginia after they shall have a Constitution in accordance with their notions.—Lynchburg Virginian.

A LOST MINISTER.—While trudging along one day all alone, a soldier met a Methodist circuit rider, at once recognized him as such but affected ignorance of it. Preacher—"What command do you belong to?" Soldier—"I belong to the Texas regiment, Van Don's army. What army do you belong to?" Preacher—(very solemnly)—"I belong to the army of the Lord." Soldier—"My friend, you have got a very long way from headquarters."

—The New York Tribune lately said: If the blacks are not enfranchised, Vallandigham could beat General Grant for President.

Then Greeley only wants the negroes to vote to help the Radicals to elect a President. Grant or anybody else who carries the negro will be beaten for the Presidency.

—Garibaldi is again missing from Capra, and another attempt on Rome is apprehended.