

The Montrose Democrat.

L. D. HAWLEY, EDITOR.

MONTROSE, PENN.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 25, 1871.

THE SITUATION.

We are not one of that class who are accustomed to brood over the many evils of the past, and who, in the spirit of revenge for what we may have considered gross error on the part of our party leaders, seek to vent our feelings in unnecessary, and useless, crimination, but our duty as a supporter of what we believe to be pure Democracy, and a fearless journalist compels us to present the lesson of experience in the past, for the sole reason of profiting by its teaching in the future. The inglorious defeat of the Democratic party in this State, Ohio, and with reliance we add California, is not without a real cause, and we deem it the imperative duty of every lover of his country, who has the power of the public press, in his hands, to frankly and honestly present what he believes to be that cause, that it may be removed, if possible, so that the fundamental principles of American liberty and equal rights to all, may again be the "power behind the throne," that shall guide legislation and inspire the hearts and govern the actions of every executive power. The proverb "that evil communications corrupt good manners" never was more pointedly demonstrated in social life, than it has been in our political history for several years past, and it seems to be regarded by many whom we have no disposition to charge with dishonesty, that this proverb amounts to a commandment almost, and he who falls into the pool of corruption is not entirely responsible for his acts, hence is not so exonerable as he would be had he no temptation, therefore the feeling of many is at this day to act upon this view, that we may as well allow the present corrupt men to prey upon our sacred liberties and falsify our noble institutions, for if we change the same influences upon other rulers will produce the same results. This is not entirely devoid of some show of reason, but the hypothesis upon which it is based is a false one, for the proverb is not that "evil communications shall corrupt good manners" but merely that they do, and we base our opinion upon an immutable truth when we say, that no man or ruler can pin his iniquities upon the skirts of his neighbor, but his evil deeds are as voluntary on his part when surrounded by corrupting influence, as though he had deliberately committed them solitary and alone upon some uninhabited island, and his responsibility is the same, for it only shows that his honesty and integrity for which he had previously had credit, was a necessity from want of opportunity, hence is in the sight of God, and we believe should be in the eyes of his countrymen, no more virtuous than his basest acts of infamy developed by opportunity. In accordance with this truth we present the interrogatories, are there no men at the present day, who are worthy the confidence of the American people, and in whose hands the destinies of our glorious institutions can be safely confided? Are we all degenerate sons of more noble sires? We say emphatically and every intelligent and honorable man knows and is ready to bear witness, that there are just as many and we may safely say, more than ever before in the nation's history. The ratio of good and true men as compared with the earlier years of our youthful nation have more than proportionately increased with the growth of our vast population. We are not one of those who would return evil for evil, by denying that there is honesty, even among many who are identified with the present dominant party, and in the main they do not differ with us in what should be the aim of our rulers, but the great misfortune is, the rogues are uppermost, and through misguided party zeal and prejudices, the masses submit to an apparent wrong, rather than to obey their honest conviction, and meet the derisions of their dishonest leaders. The stubborn fact, as humiliating it is to every true American citizen, is generally admitted, that the most wanted corruption exists among our rulers and party leaders, and that the priceless boon, bought with the lives and sealed in the blood of our Revolutionary fathers, "Life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness" is fast being pilfered from us by these designing men. Well, we are asked, what assurance can you give us that we shall gain anything by a change? and we are cited to some of the short coming of our leaders as an example. The fact that the above is essentially true, yet to a very limited extent in comparison to those of the present dominant party, should be humiliating to the actors in the scene; but the promptness with which they have been repudiated shows clearly that it is the men, not the principles of the party that are in fault.

In answer to the above interrogatory we present the following truths, and defend the principles of Democracy as a foundation that the superstructure of American institutions and constitutional liberty was reared and continued in prosperity unparalleled in the world's history, and the few years which have intervened since your Democracy bore sway, furnish satisfactory evidence to all honest men, that by a return to it only can we be preserved from despotic centralization, and a petty monarch's tyranny, and we believe that even should the present apparent designs of the executive power succeed in establishing such despotism, and the signs of the times are not without such an indication, these same Democratic principles which inspired the souls of seventy-five,

will again raise up armies for another revolution to reinstate the gods of liberty, but we still have faith in the honest masses that in such emergency shall arise, yet delays are dangerous."

The past elections should teach the Democratic leaders a salutary lesson. The conditions between the two parties, or should be, apparent to every inquiring mind. The party in power is a party of "New Departure," a party whose leaders and rules have departed from an honest and faithful administration of the government, both in national and state legislation, resorting to every expedient of the most corrupt character to maintain power, and the question with them has been how much robbing will the people stand.

After the first forty-five bodies were found in a potato patch in the center of a clearing, others were found scattered in various places, some in wells, many were disfigured in a terrible manner, and in some cases beyond recognition.

This great destruction was the work of but fifteen minutes, and was the same tornado that burned Peñitigo and twelve hundred human beings.

On Sunday night last Mr. James B. Clark of Detroit was at Uniontown, Wisconsin. Fires were blazing through the forests and along the prairies in every direction. At sundown there was a strong breeze, which at nine o'clock increased to a furious gale, blowing towards the lake. The whole surface of the country to the westward, eastward, and southward seemed to be one mass of flame, which almost reached to the lowering clouds and rushed along at race horse speed. Even when Mr. Clark was the heat was intense. Bound toward the lake, was the settlement of Williamson's Mills, comprising about fourteen families. Alongside the road in a gully lay the bodies of six persons and two horses, roasted to a crisp. The iron tires of the wheels and braces and bolts of the wagon were scattered about. Here the fire had surrounded and engulfed them. Evidently, the animals in their mad struggles had reared, plunged, and fallen headlong from the road to where they died.

We hurried on. All along the road lay the carcasses of cattle, sheep, hogs and dogs burnt to crisp. The smaller animals were almost entirely consumed. Now we came to the village. Nothing was left but piles of ashes smoking and smouldering.

In the cellar of one house we found eight bodies. One of a man in a stooping position over that of a child, as though he died trying to ward off the flames. This was very likely the body of Mr. Williamson, the owner of the mills, who, with his entire family, is said to have perished.

In the rear of the yard of the next house were four bodies, apparently those of a mother and her children. They were scorched, but burnt crisp, and one cheek of the youngest, a girl of six, retained an intactness of calmness that seemed to indicate a painless death by asphyxiation.

But the most horrible of all was Mr. Boorman's. Mr. Boorman's house was the largest in the village, and in the centre of the yard, midway between the house and barn, was a large but shallow well. Several of the neighbors were supplied with water from this fountain, and it is likely that in the conflagration, when all hope was out, the neighbors, instead of terror, thronged with one purpose to this well. The ordinary chain and wheel pump used in that place had been removed, and the wretched people had leaped into the well as the last refuge. Boards were thrown down to prevent their being drowned; but evidently the relentless fury of the fire drove them pell-mell into the pit, to struggle with each other and die—some by drowning, others by fire and suffocation. None escaped. Thirty-two bodies were found there.

All the houses along the roads down to Sturgeon Bay were reduced to ashes, and in them, or near by, were the blackened corpses of the ill-fated residents. Twelve only are as yet known to have escaped. These ran to the lake, and plunged to their necks in the overthrow of less honest and more unscrupulous organizations."

FIRE FIGHT.

HORRIBLE DETAILS OF EIGHTY PERSONS IN A SINGLE MILL, FIFTY-SEVEN BURNED TO DEATH.

MILWAUKEE, October 19.—The *Door County Advertiser* contains a full account of the loss of life and property by the great fire in that county. At William's shingle mill everything was burned, and the most awful destruction of human life ensued. Out of eighty persons at the mill fifty-seven were burned to death. The few survivors tell horrible tales of the bodies. "After the first forty-five bodies were found in a potato patch in the center of a clearing, others were found scattered in various places, some in wells, many were disfigured in a terrible manner, and in some cases beyond recognition."

The general convention of the Protestant Episcopal churches of the United States of America having ratified the action of this diocese of Pennsylvania about to be set off as a new diocese, the name of the new diocese was chosen by the General Convention of the Protestant Episcopal Church of the United States of America, held at New York, on November 1, 1871, to be "Montgomery." The name of the new diocese was chosen by the General Convention of the Protestant Episcopal Church of the United States of America, held at New York, on November 1, 1871, to be "Montgomery."

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