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Evidences of Insanity.

A slightly droll incident occurred yesterday in the progress of the Smith trial. One of the witnesses was upon the stand undergoing a series of questions relative to the prisoner's insanity. He stated that his last interview with Smith, which was just previous to the tragedy, Smith entered his place of business in a state of great excitement, talking incoherently, and changing his subject with bewildering frequency. He talked in one breath about Virginia cabinet ware, and marriage, and wound up by soliloquizing about Kansas, and damning the administration.

Mr. David Paul Brown, the counsel for the prisoner, then asked the witness, if he didn't think from all this that the prisoner was insane?

The reply was—"yes certainly; I could arrive at no other conclusion."

Mr. Brown—"But didn't you consider him insane because he damned the present Administration?"

Oh! no; he was quite rational there.—All sensible people, I believe, do that.

Had the occasion been one of less solemnity than the trial of a murder case, the question and reply would have bro't down the house. As it was a number of office seekers who were leaning against the walls, looked very much disconcerted at the fact that the only lucid demonstration made by a madman should take the shape of invective against the powers at Washington.—U. S. Gazette.

A Cool Apology.

They had a ball down to Waverly the other night, which brought out some remarkable expressions. Among other transcriptions, the following instance of a cool apology took place. Bill Pisk known all over, and Bill was at this ball in all his glory. All his necessities for pleasure were on hand—good music, pretty girls, and beautiful whi-key. The evening passed off rapidly, as it always does, and Bill had at about ten o'clock, become very happy. Stepping up to a young lady, he requested the pleasure of dancing with her. She replied she was engaged.

"Well," said Bill, "are you engaged for the next set?"

She said she was.

"Can I dance with you the next, then?"

"I am engaged for that also."

"Can I dance with you to-night?"

"No, sir," with some hesitancy.

"Go to h—ll!" said Bill, highly indignant, and turned on his heel.

After a few moments, Bill is accosted by the brother of the young lady, and charged with having insulted his sister—Bill denies, but professes himself willing to apologize, if he has done wrong, and accordingly steps up to the lady, when the following conversation ensued:

"Miss L., I understand I have insulted you."

"You have, sir!"

"What did I say, Miss L.?"

"You told me to go to h—ll!"

"Well," said Bill, "I have come to tell you that you needn't go!"—Delaware Gazette.

Using the Wrong Word.

"Ah," said Monsieur to his friend Sniffin, "my sweet heart have given me de mitten."

"Indeed, how did that happen?"

"Vell, I thought I must go and make her von visit before I leave town; so I step inside de room and dere I beheld her beautiful parison stretch out on von lazy."

"A lounge you mean."

"Ah, yes, von lounge. And den I make von ver polite branch, and—"

"Ah, you mean a polite bow."

"Ah, yes, von bough. And den I say I was vere sure she would be rotten, if I did not come to see her before I—"

"You said what?"

"I said she would be rotten if—"

"That's enough; you have put your foot in it, to be sure."

"No sare, I put my foot out of it; for she says she would call her sacre big brother, and keek me out, begar. I had inteseen to say mortified, but I did not think de verd, and mortify and rot is all de same as von in diectionar."

To the People of the United States.

Having been recently removed from the office of Secretary of Kansas Territory, under circumstances which imply severe censure on the part of the President, and having had no official information of my removal, nor any opportunity for explanation or defence, I have deemed it necessary to present to the People of the United States a brief statement of facts in vindication of my motives and in explanation of the results of the act for which I have been condemned.

The office in question was not given at my solicitation. My acceptance of it, under all the circumstances, was a proof of strong friendship for the President, and of unbounded confidence in the firmness and faithfulness with which he would adhere to the line of policy deliberately agreed upon between him, his whole Cabinet, and Governor Walker.

On my arrival in the Territory in April last, in advance of Governor Walker, I confess that I had an imperfect knowledge of the real condition of affairs. I supposed the question of slavery to be the only cause of dissension and difficulty among the people; and in my brief inaugural address of the 17th April, I treated this as the chief subject of difference upon which a submission to the people would be likely to be demanded. I soon found, however, that this view was altogether too limited, and did not reach the true ground of controversy. The great mass of the inhabitants of the Territory were dissatisfied with the local government, and earnestly denied the validity of the existing laws. Asserting that the previous Legislatures had been forced upon them by the fraud and violence of a neighboring people, they proclaimed their determination never to submit to the enactments of legislative bodies thus believed to be the illegitimate and not entitled to obedience.

This was the condition of things when Gov. Walker came into the Territory in the latter part of May. It was evident that the just policy of permitting the people to regulate their own affairs could not be successfully carried out, unless they could be inspired with confidence in the agent of Government through whom this result was to be effected. If a mere minority of the people had been thus dissatisfied and contumacious, they might possibly have been pronounced factious and treated as disturbers of the peace; but when the dissatisfaction was general, comprising almost the whole people, a more respectful consideration was indispensable to a peaceable adjustment. It was evident that the policy of repression—a rigid attempt to enforce submission without an effort at conciliation—would inevitably result in a renewal of the civil war. With commendable anxiety to avoid this contingency, Gov. Walker resolved to go among the people to listen to their complaint, to give them assurance of a fair and just administration of the Territorial Government, and to induce them, if possible, to abandon their hostility, and to enter upon the peaceful but decisive struggle of the ballot box. I was often with the Governor when he addressed the people, and gave my best efforts in aid of the great purpose of conciliation.

It was too late to induce the people to go into the June election for delegates to the Convention. The registration required by law had been imperfect in all the counties, and had been wholly omitted in one half of them; nor could the people of these disfranchised counties vote in any adjacent county, as has been falsely suggested. In such of them as subsequently took a census or registry of their own, the delegates chosen were not admitted to seats in the Convention. Nevertheless, it is not to be denied that the great central fact, which controlled the whole case, was the utter want of confidence by the people of the Territorial Government. They alleged that the local officers, in all instances, were unscrupulous partisans, who had previously defrauded them in the elections, and who were ready to repeat the same outrages again; that, even if intruders from abroad should not be permitted to overpower them, they would be cheated by false returns, which it would not be possible for the Governor and Secretary to defeat.—Although at that time these apprehensions seemed to me to be preposterous and unfounded, it was impossible to deny the earnestness and sincerity with which they were urged, or to doubt that they were the result of deep convictions, having their origin in some previous experience of that nature.

The worst portion of a small minority in Kansas, who had possession of the Territorial organization, loudly and bitterly complained of Gov. Walker's policy of conciliation, and demanded the opposite policy of repression. And when, under the solemn assurances given that the elections should be fairly conducted, and no frauds which we could reach be countenanced or tolerated, it had become apparent that the mass of the people were prepared and determined to participate in the October elections, the minority endeavored to defeat the result by reviving the tax qualification for electors, which had been repealed by the previous Legislature. Opinions were obtained from high legal sources, the effect of which, had they prevailed, would have been to exclude the mass of the people from voting, to retain the control in the hands of the minority, and as a consequence, to keep up agitation and to render civil war

inevitable. But the intrepid resolution of Gov. Walker, in spite of fierce opposition and denunciation, far and near, carried him through this dangerous crisis, and he had the proud satisfaction of having achieved a peaceful triumph by inducing the people to submit to the arbitration of the ballot-box.

But the minority were determined not to submit to defeat. The populous county of Douglas had been attached to the border county of Johnson, with a large and controlling representation in the Legislature. The celebrated Oxford fraud was perpetrated with a view to obtain majorities in both houses of the Assembly. When these returns were received at my office, in Governor Walker's absence, I had fully determined not to give certificates based upon them. If they had been so formal and correct as to have made it my duty to certify them, I would have resigned my office in order to testify my sense of the enormity of the wrong.—Governor Walker, at Leavenworth, had formed the same resolution, as he stated to me and to several others, and we were both gratified that we found the papers so imperfect as to make it our duty to reject them. Great excitement followed in the Territory. The minority thus righteously defeated in the effort to prolong their power, became fierce in opposition, and resorted to every means of intimidation. But I am led to believe that they found their most effectual means of operation by undermining us with the Administration at Washington.

The Constitutional Convention, which had adjourned over until after the October election, met again in Leecompton to resume its labors. Many of the members of that body were bitterly hostile to the Governor and Secretary, on account of their rejection of the Oxford and McGee frauds, in which some of the members and officers of the Convention had a direct participation. In fact, this body, with some honorable exceptions, well represented the minority party in the Territory, and were fully imbued with the same spirit and designs. It was obviously not their desire to secure to the real people of Kansas the control of their own affairs. In the Constitution soon afterwards adopted they endeavored to supersede the Legislature which had been elected by the people, by providing, in the second section of the schedule, that "all laws now of force in the Territory shall continue to be of force until altered, amended, or repealed by a legislature under the provisions of this Constitution." They provided still more effectually, as they supposed, for the perpetuation of their minority Government, by adopting the Oxford fraud as the basis of their apportionment, giving a great preponderance of representation to the counties on the Missouri border, and affording, at the same time, every possible facility for the introduction of spurious votes. The President of the Convention was clothed with unlimited power in conducting the elections and receiving the returns, while the officers are not required to take the usual oath to secure fair and honest dealing. The elections were hurried on in midwinter—the 21st of December and the 4th of January—when emigrants could come only from the immediate borders, under the qualification which invited to the ballot-box every white male inhabitant "in the Territory on that day." The same men who did this had previously denounced Governor Walker for the suggestion in his inaugural address and in his Topeka speech, that the Constitution should be submitted to all the bona fide inhabitants, although he invariably stated, when asked for an explanation, that some reasonable length of residence ought to be required as evidence of the bona fide character of inhabitancy.

It was apparent that all the machinery had been artfully prepared for a repetition of gross frauds, similar to those which had been attempted in October; and it was in view of all these facts after the adjournment of the Convention, that the people of the Territory, by an almost unanimous demand, called upon me, as the acting Governor, to convene an extra session of the Legislature, in order to enable them peaceably to protect themselves against the wrongs evidently contemplated by the adoption of this Constitution. There was no law to punish frauds in election returns. The people were intensely excited; and it was the opinion of the coolest men in the Territory that without a call of the Legislature, the elections under the Constitution could not have taken place without collision or bloodshed. The meeting of the Legislature diverted the attention of the people from the schemes of violence upon which they were brooding, substituted the excitement of debate and investigation for that of fierce and warlike hatred, and enabled their representatives to devise means of counteracting the wrongs which they justly apprehended.

Recent events have shown that their apprehensions were well founded. Enormous frauds had been perpetrated at the precincts of Oxford, Shawnee, and Kickapoo; and it may well be believed that this result was actually designed by the artful leaders who devised the plan and framework of the Leecompton Constitution. I have lately been at Shawnee, and I have seen and conversed with persons who were at Oxford on the day of election.—The frauds committed are notorious; and though dishonest persons may deny them, and may fill the channels of public infor-

mation with shameless representations to the contrary, they can be easily established beyond all controversy.

It was to enable the people to shield themselves from these frauds, and to give legal expression to their hatred and rejection of the instrument which permitted them, and was to be carried by them, that I called the Legislature together.

In my judgment, the people had a fair claim to be heard on the subject through their Legislature. The organic act confided to me the discretion of convening that body in extra session. The President of the United States had no rightful authority to exercise that discretion for me. He had the power of removal, and such control as that power gives him.—But I would cheerfully have submitted to removal, and consequent loss of favor with the President, rather than occupy the position of Governor and refuse to the people an opportunity to assert their most essential rights, and to protect themselves against the baseless frauds and wrongs ever attempted upon an outraged community.

Not having been informed of the ground of my removal, I know them only through the newspaper reports, to the effect that in calling the Legislature, I disobeyed the instructions of the President. I had no instructions bearing on the subject, and there was no time to obtain them, even if I had felt bound to substitute the President's will for that discretion which the organic act confided to me. The convening of the Legislature undoubtedly prevented difficulty and secured peace.—Were it important, I am confident I could establish this position by the most indubitable facts; but it is sufficient now to say that the peace of the Territory was not in fact disturbed, and whatever approaches were made towards such a result were wholly attributable to the policy of the Administration in censuring my acts and removing me from office.

The measure for which I have been unjustly condemned has enabled the people of Kansas to make known their real will in regard to the Leecompton Constitution. This affords the Democratic party an opportunity to defend the true principles of constitutional liberty, and to save itself from disastrous division and utter overthrow. If Congress will heed the voice of the people and not force upon them a Government which they have rejected by a vote of four to one, the whole country will be satisfied, and Kansas will quietly settle her own affairs without the least difficulty, and without any danger to the Confederacy. The Southern States, which are supposed to have a deep interest in the matter, will be saved from the superego folly of standing up in defence of so wicked and dishonest a contrivance as the Leecompton Constitution. The moral power of their position will not be weakened by a vain and useless defence of wrong, when it is perfectly certain they will gain nothing even by success in the present attempt.

The extra session of the Kansas Legislature has done good, also, by giving means to expose and punish the monstrous frauds which have been perpetrated and doubtless, also, by preventing others which would have been attempted. It has driven the guilty miscreants engaged in them to become fugitives from justice, and it has rendered it impossible for the peace of the Territory hereafter to be endangered by similar occurrences.

In view of these facts and conveyed, I willingly accept the rebuke conveyed in my peremptory dismissal from office, but I appeal to the deliberate judgment of the people to determine whether I have not chosen the only honorable course which the circumstances allowed me to pursue.

FRED. P. STANTON.

Washington, Jan. 29, 1858.

An Alabama Constable after Et. Al.

An Alabama correspondent of the *Mobile Advertiser*, justly proud of the good things of his native State writes to that paper as follows:

A certain fat constable in the county of Choctaw, once received a writ from a Justice of the Peace, known as Josh M—. The case was Rogers vs. Davis et al. So, after keeping the writ for a week he entered the Justice's office with much anxiety depicted on his countenance, and saluted Squire Josh with the exclamation: "Josh, who's that et al? I've been looking for him all over the county for a week, and I can't find him. I don't believe there's any such a man in Choctaw."

A SINGULAR LAKE.—There is a covering of nineteen hundred acres in Wright county, Iowa, about one hundred and fifty miles west of Dubuque, which is surrounded by a regular stone wall, five feet wide at the top, and in some places, where the water would be likely to overflow the prairie, ten feet high. As the pioneers found the wall there, the question arises, "Who built it?" Another remarkable fact is that the lake has no visible feeder or outlet.

"I love to look upon a young man.—There is a hidden potency concealed within his breast that pains me."

The daughter of a clergyman happening to find the above sentence at the close of a piece of her father's manuscript, as he had left it in his study, sat down and added—

"Them's my sentiments, exactly, papa—all but the 'pains.'"

Terrible State of Affairs in Naples.

The London journals draw fearful pictures of the present condition of the kingdom of Naples. Amid all the horrors of the earthquakes, the work of proscription and cruelty to prisoners goes on. A Naples letter says:—The Mayor of the province of Basilicata reported that during the repeated shocks, eight hundred prisoners, most of whom were unconvicted, were in a state of terror, as their crazy prison threatened to fall and bury them in its ruins. A gallery which fell, killed three, and wounded several of these unfortunates. A room afterwards fell in, but did no mischief. "It is impossible," says the Mayor, in an official report to the Minister of the Interior, dated December 18th, "to describe the confusion which reigned—fear, cries of desperation, endeavors to escape, prayers, tears and blasphemy; such was the scene I met. In order to maintain order, the guard fired on the prisoners, but with powder only. To restore confidence and tranquility, I assured the prisoners I would remove them from those quarters of the building which the shock had rendered dangerous. I gave this assurance in the name of the king, our august master." In answer to this distressing report, Bianchiorelli replied in a cruel fashion. But even worse remains to be told. On the 29th of December, another earthquake occurred, and 30,000 men, women, and children, perished in the province of Basilicata.—The same Mayor asked for surgical aid on behalf of the inhabitants; 4000 amputation cases awaited their arrival. Sixty Surgeons offered their services, but perhaps being poor, asked that their expenses might be paid, which his majesty declined, and the poor creatures were suffered to die for want of aid that could be so cheaply rendered. The same terrible report adds that 250,000 persons were rendered homeless by this earthquake, and 100 died each day from want of food.

Several gentlemen have returned from the country which has recently been devastated by the earthquake. They had passed nearly a fortnight in wandering from one place to another, and the information which they bring back is of the deepest and most painful interest. According to them, the shocks continue throughout the entire district, to the number of five or six a day, sometimes tolerably strong, and generally occasioning the fall of many of the ruined houses. The hair breadth escapes which they had rather a matter for private narrative, but they much heighten the color of the terrible picture they draw. Their trip was extended far beyond Polia, and into the very centre of volcanic action, as Protenza, Brienza, Tito and many other places of mournful celebrity. The scene of desolation was beyond the power of description. The actual labor was not to rebuild, but to destroy, the few houses that remained standing were insecure, and one would have said uninhabitable but that the people in their misery, still clung, like rocks, to their falling habitations. This country, in many parts, still gaped with wide fissures of the breadth of two arms, and when they had closed, had done so unequally, one side being many feet higher than the other. Some of the incidents which they relate, seem more like fables than facts. An infant had been dug out alive, after having been under the ruins eight days. Its mother fed it too bountifully, and it died. A girl, of eight years of age had been disinterred after 11 days' burial, and was still living. The monks of S. Francisco, in Padula, related a story of a girl of 17 years of age, who had been recovered after 21 days' burial—the monks added that the girl spoke of having been visited in her subterranean tomb by a lady dressed in black, who gave her bread and water. She believed that it was the Madonna. Mules had also been dug out alive, after 21 days' burial. One of the monks told my informants that on the night of the 16th ult., the shock was so violent as to throw him out of his bed through the window into the garden of the monastery. At Veggiano, a poor woman had lost her husband and two children beneath the ruins, two yet survived, but they quickly died of hunger, and the wretched mother hanged herself. Tales of wonderful and tragic interest abound, and if the reader doubts their possibility, he has only to read Colletta's graphic description of the earthquake of 1753. The people had not settled down to anything like regular occupation, but grabbing among the ruins for whatever they could find and seeking for the bodies of their friends, of whom hundreds still remain as disinterred. Supplies were slowly coming in for the poor people, but roads were scarcely any, and much had to be transported on the backs of mules. The province of Basilicata is the largest in the kingdom, and yet has not more than one carriage road through it of any importance.

They must have a remarkably warm spell in Michigan this winter, for we notice in a Detroit paper of a recent date that a woman was arrested in that city, "having nothing on her person but a love letter and a dagger-pointy."

Judge Coon, of California, has decided that under the statute of that State there is no law to prohibit women from dressing in male attire. This decision has given great satisfaction to ladies who wish to "wear the breeches."

Pick Up the Stobe.

A correspondent writing from Washington, Pa., says:—

"Like most other small towns, we have a 'cultured church,' where a great many amusing things are said, exhilarating to the spirits of a few who occasionally visit our 'Hati' meeting houses. 'Hati' is the name given to that part of the town where 'pus-ons of color' reside. One winter evening, when the culled preacher was in the midst of his sermon, making a most violent if not a most eloquent appeal to his hearers, one of the stove legs fell out, and as a natural consequence, the red hot stove tipped over at an angle alarmingly suggestive of fire. The audience, of course, commenced crowding out of the door like sheep. But the preacher was equal to the occasion. Addressing one of his prominent members, he cried out—

"Pick up the stobe, brudder Bolah!—pick up the stobe! De Lor' won't let it hurt you! Only hab faith!"

Poor brother Bolah had unfortunately too much faith, and immediately seized it, all glowing as it was; but no sooner had his fingers come in contact with the fervent iron, than he dropped it again, and dancing around on one foot blowing his skinless fingers, he exclaimed with all the energy which he could throw into his voice—

"De h—ll he wont! De h—ll he wont!"

Subscribing for Papers.

We wish to express it as a mature conviction of our own mind, that one of the best protections for our children against the temptations of village and city life, is the habitual reading of a well conducted family newspaper or periodical. If you want a child to take an interest in a paper, let it be his paper, sent to his address. In a reasonable time he will get to look for its coming, and feel the want of it, if it does not arrive at the usual time. Soon it will be a kind of necessity, and rather than be without it, he becomes willing to make sacrifices and self-denials for the sake of saving any stray dime or half-dime which may come into his possession. Peanuts and gingerbread, monkey shows and fire-crackers, are vetoed, and the increment of a quarter of a dollar to a half, and so on, to the subscription price, is watched with an interest and a pleasure which few would imagine; and lo! the germs of an economy and self-denial are planted before we are aware of it, which will grow to health and wealth, and position.

The attention of bachelors is invited to the following "wail" from the Springfield Republican:—"There are some sad sights in the world—a city sacked and burnt—a battle field after a great slaughter—a London in the midst of a plague—a ship burning at sea—a family pining in starvation—a jug of molasses wrecked upon the pavement—but the saddest sight, to us, of all is an old bachelor, stolidly walking towards his end, his great duties undone, his shirt buttons off, his stockings out at the toes, and nobody to leave his money to. Were we such a man, the mild, reproving eye of a widow or maiden lady would drive us mad.—But there is still a hope. Ugly and older men than any of our friends have married beautiful wives, who trained them admirably, and spent their money elegantly."

Spunky Girls.

A schoolmaster in Eddington, Me., recently forbade chewing gum in school, which caused much dissatisfaction. Some of the larger boys, therefore, made an attack on the schoolmaster, and attempted to expel him, when three of the girls, aged from 16 to 19, came to the rescue with sticks of wood, and succeeded in driving the assailants out of the building. The struggle was desperate, and lasted for some time.

A Noble Set of Farmers.

Sixty-four farmers, living in and about Middletown, Conn., have given notice to the citizens that on Monday, at 11 o'clock they will come in with their ox-carts, laden with wood and provisions for gratuitous distribution to the poor, under the management of the Mayor and a committee of citizens.

"I think," said a farmer, "I should make a good Congressman, for I use their language. I received two bills the other day, with a request for immediate payment; the one I ordered to be laid on the table, the other to be read that day six months."

"Mamma mamma! here's a hair in the bread!"

"Hush! no it ain't my child, its only a corn silk!"

"I like that. Who the mischief ever seen nits on a corn silk before?"

Sydney Smith says that "people often imagine themselves pious when they are only tillious." Sydney ought to have known the difference between a serious disposition and a serious indisposition.

"My dear Tom," said old Sheridan one day, to his son, "I wish you would take a wife." "I have no objection, sir," said Tom, "whose wife shall I take?"