

OUR WASHINGTON LETTER

WASHINGTON, March 30, 1879

The reform movement is sweeping everything before it. Since the memorable evening when the old gentleman came out on the front steps, bareheaded, and requested the people of New York to mark the wrong doing of 1876 with indignation, and never, never on any account to condone Fraud, the Democratic party, having got its bearings, as it were, has made a splendid run.

A good cry was what most wanted. That fragment of the party included in the crowd at Gramercy Park on the occasion referred to immediately dispersed itself through the city and began to shout, "The American People never will condone Fraud!" Mr. Stanton Mastie received a "Never," as loud as he could, and then set to work to burn his e-cigarettes and construct a letter on the Ark and Sheebauk of our Self-Government, by way of keeping up the excitement.

Mr. Smith M. Ward attended the Democratic State Convention as a representative of the Reform sentiment of the party, and made a stirring speech on the necessity of purifying politics and never condoning Fraud. The wave of enthusiasm rolled Southward. The declaration was echoed from the Chesapeake to the Rio Grande, enforced with many a sounding oath, that the American People would never condone Fraud; and, so swearing, the country took down their shagbuns and proceeded to demolish the colored vote. The process was run at full speed in the production of tissue-balls, lest the voters should condone Fraud by inadvertence.

Nigger risings, otherwise called "Nigger meetings," were hastily broken up, lest in the confusion of political debate something should be done that could be interpreted as condoning Fraud. Persons in Louisiana and elsewhere who seemed obnoxious to the reform, and personal explanation, all through the summer. Members of Congress were paid only for the time they were at the Capitol and attending to legitimate Congressional business, the public Treasury would save money, and some members would get less than their salary. If Congress really wished to pass a law, let it enact a bill appointing a Time Clerk, who shall keep a record of the time of each member, and pay him only for the time that he is attending to the public business.

The millionaire Senator from Nevada, who was present in the Senate, if I am not mistaken, only six or seven days during the four years since he was elected, had the effrontery and dishonesty to draw his pay for the full term, amounting to one million, \$20,000, and including \$125 for stationery.

There is a law on the statute book to this effect: "The Secretary of the Senate and the Sergeant-at-Arms of the House, respectively, shall deduct from the monthly payments of each Senator, Member or delegate, the amount of his salary for each day that he has been absent from the Senate or House, respectively, unless such member or delegate assigns as the reason for his absence, the sickness of himself or some member of his family." Now, will you one see the Sergeant-at-Arms of the Senate for money illegal by law?

Yesterday will be remembered in the Senate for its lively interchange of rhetoric, parliamentary of course, but verging on the language of Billingsgate. Senator Blaine said to Senator Hill: "Don't be childish," and Senator Eaton told Senator Hill that his talk was babyish. All this was on the subject of electing a Secretary, Sergeant-at-Arms, and other officers of Democratic precedents and priorities to the offices that have been held by Republicans. These offices are about one hundred in number and they will all be filled by Democrats.

On Monday, in the rooms of Representative Kelly, the Greenback Congressmen held a caucus in which they agreed to vote with the Democrats for the repeal of the bill to reduce the land allowing soldiers to be sent to polling places, and for modifying the Supervisors law.

The Greenbackers hope that their financial schemes will be supported by a sufficient number of the members of the House to give them "the balance of power," and their fraternalization with Democrats on political questions will be diplomatic and with this expectation, a sub-committee of the caucus was appointed to prepare a bill authorizing the issue of ten million of greenbacks, the redemption of United States bonds in legal tenders, and in other respects, to carry out the plans of the National party. Whatever may be the policy of the two great parties with regard to the length of the session, it is plainly the intention of the Greenbackers to contend for more paper money, "if it takes all summer," and, if the majority shall decide to adjourn after passing the appropriation measures, they will endeavor to fasten their financial bill to the end of the appropriation bills and pass it through.

The Greenbackers will doubtless be able to form a coalition with some men in both parties who have similar views; but the strength of the coalition cannot be determined until it is tested by actual vote.

C. A. S.

History Repeating Itself.

The last time the so-called National Democratic party had control of the United States Senate was while the Thirty-third Congress was in session. At that time, John C. Breckinridge, of Kentucky, was President of the Senate; Asbury Dickson, of North Carolina, was Secretary. There were then twenty-two standing committees of the Senate, of which sixteen had for their chairmen Senators from the South, only six—and these of the least importance—being reserved for Northern Democrats.

Other days, after an absence of eighteen years, "the National Democratic party" came into the Senate again, and, finding there thirty-four standing committees, gave twenty-two of their Chairmanships to the South, leaving twelve for the North. This being done, John C. Breckinridge, was elected to fill the place which had been occupied by Asbury Dickson, of North Carolina, up to the time when the "National Democracy" left the Senate to fulfill certain military engagements in the South. This history repeats itself. The Senate is re-organized. The South has taken the roll of the Senate committees many of the names which were familiar to those who followed the current history of the stirring times which marked the last days of Democratic rule. The original Southerners are back again in their old places, only their names are changed. In those days, J. M. Mason, of Virginia, was Chairman of the committee on Foreign Relations. His familiarity with international law was useful to him, on a rebel commissary, he was nicknamed "the Duke of the Trent," a year or two after that, another Virginian, R. M. T. Hunter, then had the Chairmanship of the most important committee, that of Finance. Alabama furnished the chairman of the committee on Commerce—C. C. Clay, Jr. The Chairman of the Military Committee was that pick of brain-trainers, J. F. Davis, of Mississippi. Florida had the Navy, Mail and Express; Chairman of that committee. At the head of the Judiciary Committee was A. B. Davis, of Delaware. The illustrious Judah P. Benjamin, of Louisiana, was Chairman of the Committee on Private Land Claims, and "Bob" Toombs, of Georgia, presided over the Claims of Revolutionary Pensioners. Another illustrious Georgian, another illustrious historical person, was chairman of the Committee on Claims, and D. L. Yulee, of Florida, not wholly unknown to fame, was chairman of the Committee on Post Offices and Post Roads. Every one of the important committees was given to a Southern Democrat, even that of the District of Columbia being in the Chairmanship of Albert G. Brown, of Mississippi.

Studying the roll of the Thirty-sixth Congress, it does not appear that there was any scarcity of Northern Democrats in it. Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Indiana, Ohio, Illinois, California, Oregon, and Minnesota, each sent one or more Democratic Senators to Washington. But then, as now, the Democratic party in Congress was Southern or nothing. The Committee on Privileges and Elections, now considered one of the most important in the Senate, was not then constituted. Delaware furnishes the Chairman of that committee; and Delaware, instead of Virginia, takes the Chairmanship of Finance. Maryland and Bayard being respectively at the head of the two Committees named. Texas, instead of Florida, has the Post Office committee; Senator Maxcy being chairman of it. Virginia, in whose hands the coin has been placed, quies a number of times have been made by numismatic and historical societies for the purchase of this rare relic of the Republic.

A silver plated electrolytic copy is to be sent to all societies interested in such matters, but they will all cry for the original.

What a Woman Can Do.

A Colorado paper tells the following story: The wife of a certain well-known rancher living near this place has got the true grit. Her husband was away on business a whole week recently, and one day while he was absent the pump gave out. The nearest well was a mile away, and she, being a woman of resource, got out a long pipe, bored it, and she boistered up the pipe herself, and found that the trouble lay in the suction leather, which was too much worn to work properly.

A way she went to cut a new one, using the old one as a pattern. On retracing she found that a large bolt had fallen into the open well. Nothing daunted, she got a strong rope, made a slip-noose, fished it around the squealing pulley, and then, lifting as hard as she could, made the end fast to the curb, thus raising the animal partially out of the water, and preventing it from drowning.

She then harnessed a horse, hitched him to the rope, and in less than time it takes to tell it, that bog, all dripping with fresh water, arose from the well, but before the rescue of the animal two of her offspring were crowded too close to the curb, probably to sympathize with their mother's distress, lost balance, and were sent floundering around in the water at the bottom.

Instantly the bog was recovered, our heroine set about recovering the pigs. She procured a ladder, which, however, though long enough to reach the bottom of the well. Necessary to take a woman in, and she, procuring a fence rail she thrust it through the top round, resting both ends on the curb. Then climbing down the hanging ladder she rescued the two pigs, bringing both safely to the surface.

This done she quietly completed the job by putting in the new suction leather, lowering the pipe into the well, closing the curb, and pupping water for the week's washing.

A Little Every Day.

A little helplessness every day. We live for the good of others, if our living is in any sense true living. It is not in great deeds that the only benefit is to the living. It is in little deeds of kindness repeated every day, we find true happiness. At home, at school, in the street, in the neighbor's house, on the playground, we shall find opportunity every day for usefulness. A little look into the Bible every day. One chapter a day. Only one! Ten years pass by, and you have three thousand six hundred and fifty facts, and that is no small amount of knowledge.

Confederate Dead Money.

FOUR COINS STRUCK OFF BY THE CONFEDERATE GOVERNMENT. RESURRECTED.

Philadelphia Record.

It has been believed and recorded as an historical fact that the Southern Confederacy had no metallic currency. A few days subsequent to the publication of Mr. Mason, the numismatist, has been brought about by a Record item, entitled "A Crazy for Coins," which gave the fancy prices placed upon rare pieces.

The obverse represents a Liberty cap, above the American shield, the union of the latter containing seven stars, representing the seven seceding States, the whole being surrounded with a wreath of sugar cane and cotton. The reverse of the coin is inscribed "The Confederate States of America." The reverse is the Goddess of Liberty, with the thirteen stars, representing the States from which the Confederacy sprang, and the date, "1862."

When the New Orleans mint was taken possession of by the Confederates in April, 1861, the original dies of the United States were cancelled in the presence of the officials connected with the building. The Confederate Cabinet, which was then sitting at Montgomery, issued orders for a design for a Confederate currency to Mr. Taylor, who was then chief engraver of the mint.

The obverse design was submitted and approved, and orders were issued for the striking off of specimen pieces. Four half-dollars were accordingly struck, and these also, following the design, were approved by the Cabinet.

Then came an obstacle. That body found that it had not control of sufficient bullion to proceed with an issue of coins, and, consequently, the matter was deferred, and a temporary issue of paper money decided upon. The subsequent route of the Confederates threw the coinage project overboard.

Of the four coins struck, one is in the possession of one of the chiefs of the Confederate Government, the second was presented to Professor Bidle, of the University of Louisiana; the third to Dr. Amos, of New Orleans; and the fourth was retained by Chief Engraver Taylor, by permission of the Cabinet.

It is a noteworthy fact that all the individuals who were connected with the coinage, including the superintendent of the mint, Major M. S. G. Graves, die-sinker, down to the man who held the cutel and used the hammer, in the cancelling of the old and as new dies, are living at the present time.

To Mr. Mason, in whose hands the coin has been placed, quite a number of bids have been made by numismatic and historical societies for the purchase of this rare relic of the Republic.

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Make the Wife a Business Partner.

Collecting a Bee-Hunter.

The Detroit Free Press of Feb. 13, 1879.

"Charles McGuire," began his hour, as he looked over the dock at a slim-waisted man who had evidently met a polar wave and been washed up walking up and down the street beating an old tin pan and shouting at the top of his voice. Did Senator Sharon make his great wealth by indulging in such practices? Do we remember Homer and Milton because they disturbed the peace? Look me in the eye, prisoner at the bar, and be sure how you answer.

"You see, I heard a swarm of bees passing over, and I wanted them to settle on my fence," gently replied the man.

"Bees! Bees in the month of February? Bees swarming such weather as this?" exclaimed the Court as he grew very pale around the mouth.

"Can't a bee come out in winter if he wants to?" argued the prisoner, warming up to his defense.

"He can, but he don't do it. If you see a bee in the land is now in a dormant state, and will be likely to come."

"But I hear bees in the air! I know what I hear as well as the next man."

"Charles McGuire you had a bee in your bonnet, or a bee in your ear. What ailed you was too much whisky."

"Maybe that wasn't it," thoughtfully observed B. J.

The Court gave him one lingering, trembling look, calculating as to the cogitation of the large waiting twenty minutes, and turned to the prisoner and said:

"This is your first time here, and I can overlook your offense. Let me tell you, however, that if you return to Detroit in the winter you will put you along with people who don't smell honey from one year to another."

"But if I see bees to-morrow?" "But you won't. If you do I'll send you up for three days."

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