

# THE ASSASSINATION.

## Hanging of Mrs. Surratt, Payne, Harold and Atzerodt.

### They are Executed Simultaneously. LAST HOURS OF THE CONDEMNED SCENES AT THE SCAFFOLD.

WASHINGTON, July 7, 1865.

The curtain has fallen on the last act of the great conspiracy drama, and Mrs. Surratt, Payne, Harold and Atzerodt, the unfortunate victims of the arch assassin Booth, have gone to their reward. If even the most charitable concede to the authors of such heinous crimes the pardon of a forgiving Heaven.

General Hancock was badly beset last night and this forenoon for cards of admission, but adhered to his purpose to admit those who desired to be present as a matter of business instead of curiosity. In consequence the assemblage inside the walls of the jail-yard was not large, being composed of a detachment of the 1st regiment of Hancock's Corps, selected to act as guard on the occasion, representatives of the press and a few other citizens to whom the privilege of being present had been specially accorded.

For a long time previous to the execution, sobs, moans and cries were heard issuing from the grated window fronting the jail-yard to the south, which attracted a large group of the reporter corps, who were assiduously engaged in noting down every trifling circumstance coming under their limited observation.

To the north of the corridor in a cell, Atzerodt in conversation with his former mistress, could be distinctly seen. He frequently used his handkerchief to remove the perspiration from his face, and occasionally sobbed quietly, as she addressed him, apparently in a feeling manner. None of the other prisoners were visible.

In the main hall or corridor slowly strode a number of military officers, among whom the fine figure of Gen. Hancock appeared at intervals, going to and from the cells of the condemned, or giving necessary instructions to his officers.

The cries issuing from the cells were those of the sisters of Harold and the daughter of Mrs. Surratt, whose grief was naturally enough affecting and uncontrollable.

Thus passed the interval from 10 till 2 p. m., the sentries in the meantime slowly pacing their beats in a thoughtful mood, as if they dreaded the awful scene soon to be enacted and would feel relieved as soon as it was over; the blue coats on the walls looking down silently upon the scaffold below and every eye exhibiting the greatest decorum and seeming to be duly impressed with the overawing solemnity of the occasion.

From the cupola of a detached building a large crowd looked down into the jail-yard, while Gardner, the photographer, with his instruments posted in the old shoe-shop building, was industriously engaged in preparations for obtaining numerous views of the group about to appear on the scaffold.

At ten minutes to 1 o'clock, Hancock personally posted the sentries around the scaffold, and the outer guard were ordered to come to "attention," preparatory to the appearance of the prisoners.

At precisely 1 o'clock, Gen. Hartranft and Staff emerged from the Prison, and in a moment after were followed by the condemned.

Mrs. Surratt came first, dressed in black, supported on either side by an officer, and followed by her spiritual advisers, Fathers Walter and Wigot of the Catholic Church. She wore a black bonnet and veil as on the trial, and had to be almost entirely supported by the officers attending her.

Next came Atzerodt, also necessarily supported by a soldier on either side, and dressed about as he was on the trial and bare-headed. He was attended by his spiritual advisers, the Rev. Dr. Badger, of the Lutheran Church, and the Rev. Mr. Winchester, Chaplain of Douglas Hospital.

Then came Harold, dressed in his ordinary prison clothes, with a sash cloth on, the brim being turned down. He, too, was much prostrated and had to be supported by a soldier on either side. He was followed by the Rev. Dr. Olds of Christ Church, Navy Yard, and the Rev. Mr. Vaux, Chaplain United States Army. Payne alone came bold and erect, without any support, a guard walking on either side of him. He was dressed in a blue shirt and pants, with a rather jaunty straw hat on, and was followed by his spiritual advisers, the Rev. Dr. Gillette of the Thirteenth-st. Baptist Church, and other attendants.

Payne alone of the prisoners ascended the scaffold without the support of his attendants. Four wooden arm-chairs had been placed there for the reception of the prisoners, and they were seated as follows, facing West: Mrs. Surratt, on the North next to the prison; Payne sat next; Harold next, and Atzerodt next; Mrs. Surratt and Payne opposite one drop, and Harold and Atzerodt opposite the other, the five-eighths manilla rope, with its ominous noose, dangling before each respectively, the nooses reaching to within an average of eighteen inches from the floor.

On the prisoners being seated, or rather sinking into their chairs, the finding and sentence of the Military Commission, as approved by the President and already published, was read in a clear, calm voice by Major General Hartranft, standing in the middle of the platform.

The appearance of the prisoners as they sat there in a row facing the West, and the crowd and Gardner's photographic instruments peering from the upper windows of an opposite building, and the ropes swaying in the breeze immediately before them, was that of agony ineffable. The thought came rushing upon the mind of the spectator: "Oh! what would they not give if they could undo the fatal acts that have consigned them to this agony and infamy?"

Mrs. Surratt was very much prostrated, and seemed to be kept alive almost entirely alive by the spiritual consolations of her advisers who were unremitting in their attentions until she and

After the reading of the sentence by Gen. Hartranft, Rev. Dr. Gillette stepped forward in behalf of Payne, and stated that he had been requested by the prisoner, Lewis Thornton Powell, alias Payne, to publicly, on this occasion return his sincere thanks to Gen. Hartranft and the officers and men under his command for their uniform kindness toward him during his confinement. Not one unkind word, look or gesture had been given him by any one of them.

The Reverend Doctor then led in a fervent prayer in behalf of the prisoner, in which the latter followed, closing with a feeling Amen, his eyes at the same time filling with tears. Payne throughout wore an air of contrition as well as courage, and thereby excited the pity of the spectators fully as much as any of the other prisoners who were more unweary.

The spiritual advisers of Harold and Atzerodt also returned the thanks of their charges respectively to Gen. Hartranft and his officers and men, for their uniform kindness; and joined in prayer with the prisoners in succession, Dr. Butler preceding his in the case of Atzerodt with an impressive exhortation.

During all this time the advisers of Mrs. Surratt were assiduous in their attentions to her; and by their consolations kept her measurably nerved up for the terrible denouement. She appeared—having her unavoidable prostration—passive in their hands and resigned to her fate.

On the conclusion of the prayer in the case of Atzerodt, which was the last, the prisoners were led forward, supported by their respective attendants, and the ropes adjusted around the neck by different persons. About the same time Mrs. Surratt, nerve by a desperate mental effort, to serve herself up specially for this occasion, looking forward and around her, for the only time, with an air of mingled determination and resignation. Her bonnet and veil were removed previous to the putting of the noose upon her neck.

Payne held back his head and was particularly about having the noose adjusted and secured by tightening above his "adam's apple," as if it had been the adjustment of a cravat for a festive occasion.

Harold and Atzerodt, during the process of adjusting the ropes, looked as if experiencing ineffable agony, as well as Mrs. Surratt, who was now bordering on a fainting condition and was kept conscious only by assiduous fanning and other attentions of her attendants. Payne stood erect and unsupported, and he alone it was said by one of the spiritual advisers, had come upon the scaffold without indulgence in stimulants, which he had steadily refused, saying that he wished to die with an unclouded mind.

At the conclusion of the address of Atzerodt's spiritual attendant and his deeply solemn and feeling petition to Heaven for Divine clemency, he was conducted to the drop by his attendants, and while the white cotton band were being tied about his legs and arms, exhibited great weakness and emotion, being scarcely able to remain in an erect position. The noose was then placed about his neck, and previous to its final adjustment he addressed a few inaudible words to his executioner, and then he was removed. Gen. Hartranft then approached, when Atzerodt evidently repeated his request, and the noose was then drawn over his head, when he exclaimed in a terrified voice: "Gentlemen, take care," probably intending to say, what his agonized feelings prevented him from expressing—"Gentlemen, take warning by my example."

A moment after and he tremulously ejaculated, "Good bye, gentlemen, who are before me now." And after a short interval, added, "May we all meet in the other world."

As the rope was being adjusted to his neck, and just before the drop fell, he cried out in rather a loud voice, "Don't choke me." These were the last words he uttered, which were succeeded by several audible groans.

At this juncture the nooses and white caps having all been adjusted, Captain Rath, Assistant Provost Marshal, having immediate charge of the execution, stepped in front of the scaffold, on the ground, and motioned to all attendants on the scaffold to step back off the drops, which they did, the proper ones still reaching forward and supporting their charges respectively on the drops.

Immediately on this movement being accomplished, Captain Rath also gave the signal for the props to be knocked from under, which was done by a swinging scuffling for each shoved longitudinally; and the four conspirators, having fallen about five feet each, were left dangling spasmodically in the air. The contortion of Payne were the greatest, attributable to his highest physical condition. Harold died next hardest. The death of Mrs. Surratt and Atzerodt were comparatively easy. Mrs. Surratt falling, made a convulsive effort to bring her hands around her right side in front of her, and they remained in such contorted position until she was cut down.

After the convulsions of all were over, Mrs. Surratt, Payne and Atzerodt hung with their heads bent forward, while that of Harold inclined back, which latter was said by experts to be the only execution on correct principles.

**TRIAL AFTER EXECUTION.**—The business of trying and acquitting Mrs. Surratt, now that she has been executed, is being pretty extensively engaged in by certain journals, and others, how really the accomplices of Booth, there is not at present any evidence to show. Mrs. Surratt was as fairly and fully convicted as ever a criminal was. There are doubtless reasons enough, why her friends and sympathizers in the cause for which she died ignorantly created as to her innocence. A man named Brophy has undertaken to volunteer some testimony in this behalf, but has proved no better than a bountiful jumper, nor even as good as the average of fellows who are in the "witness line." The most discreditable part of the business is that the Associated Press agents should send forth the inventions, and thus become the means of doing an injury to the cause of justice and morality. We hope there will be found some means to remedy this.

# The American Citizen.



The Largest Circulation of any Paper in the County.

THOMAS ROBINSON, - - Editor.

M. W. SPEAR, Publisher.

BUTLER PA.

WEDNESDAY JULY 19, 1865.

"Liberty and Union, Now and Forever, One and Inseparable."—D. Webster.

## REPUBLICAN TICKET.

STATE SENATE.

JOHN N. PURVIANCE.

(Subject to District Conference.)

LEGISLATURE.

HENRY PILLOW.

JOHN H. NEGLEY.

(Subject to District Nomination.)

COUNTY TREASURER.

WM. E. MOORE.

DISTRICT ATTORNEY.

W. H. H. RIDDLE.

COMMISSIONER.

WM. DICK.

AUDITOR.

J. C. KELLEY, 3 years.

G. H. GUMPER, 1 year.

COUNTY SURVEYOR.

NATHAN M. SLATOR.

## Shall Traitors be Punished?

It is both amusing and humiliating to the calm observer, looking upon the drifts and surgings of human passion, especially so in the present agitations of the public.

But a short time ago, the general cry against rebels was, "Hang them—hang every one of them." Now, it looks very doubtful whether we shall have one hanging, instead of the thousands that were so loudly called for. We have drifted to the other extreme of leniency. This is honorable, perhaps to our humanity as a people. But will this be just? Do we not know that there cannot be proper mercy separate from, and entirely ignoring justice? Our safety—the demands of law and authority, violated in the most atrocious and wanton manner—the terrible devastations of life, of peace, of property. Shall all this be passed by—overlooked, as if it never had been?—and those wicked people, who caused this, taken again into the bosom of our Government, unseathed, unpunished? Can this nation—can any nation do this with safety to itself? If so, may we not as well at once strike from our penal laws every act for punishing crime? I do not advocate a prosecution of those traitors and rebels for revenge. This we scorn. But must not our violated laws and authority be properly vindicated? I confess that I have scruples against the "extreme penalty"—death. But we have other ways of punishing besides that—and I think we cannot be just to ourselves and our posterity without inflicting some signal punishment upon those leading traitors. Imprisonment—confiscation of property—expatriation. These we ought at least to inflict, to show to the present, and all generations, that it is a fearful thing to commit treason.

We cannot trust human nature in the administration of laws. It will either follow the impulses of revengeful passion, or be prostrated by the cries of friendship or pity. God forbid that either pity or friendship should be driven from society. But when public safety and justice make their claims, all else must be silent. The murderer, the robber, the thief must be assured that the magistrate "does not bear the sword in vain." How much more so the Traitor, who stabs at the life of the nation?

There is a remarkable incident recorded in the good Old Bible, which I think teaches a very wholesome lesson for this occasion. It will be found in Numbers, 12th chapter—the sedition of Miriam and Aaron against their brother, Moses. The anger of the Lord was kindled against them for their wicked ambition and envy, and, to mark his anger, Miriam became suddenly "leprosy, white as snow." All the brother was immediately roused in the breast of Aaron, complicated in the crime—and he cries to his brother, Moses—"Alas, my lord, I beseech thee, lay not the sin upon us, wherein we have done foolishly, and wherein we have sinned." And Moses cried unto the Lord, saying, "Hear me now, O God, I beseech thee. And thou said unto Moses, "If her father had but spit in her face, should she not be ashamed seven days? Let her be shut out from the camp seven days, and after that let her be received in again." Here was the "wholeness of the creature's love," says to pass by the daring treason of two great persons in the camp of Israel—and those persons, for pity, for high position and intelligence, may suppose the peers of that mighty host. But God

will not allow it. The great prophetess—the gifted singer—the sister of the mighty Moses—has to bear her leprosy, and be shut out seven days from the camp of Israel. That was severe—and doubtless salutary to her and all her sisters in Israel. Would it be harsh, excessive to punish those leading Rebels by shutting them out from our camp for seven years? As President Johnson has said repeatedly, "Treason is a crime, the worst of crimes; and must be punished." I think so, too. We cannot dispense with punishment, and vindicate our insulted authority, and violated laws. Our tens of thousands of dead heroes, as well as the living ones, call for some mark that will make Treason forever odious.

## Truth and Error.

In the Union Herald of the 12th inst., we find in the Local Column, an article under the following caption, "An Instance of Petty Tyranny and its Results;" and lest we should be accused of garbling the language and misrepresenting the modest Editor of that truthful sheet, we insert the article entire, in order that those who read may judge of the modesty and loving spirit of the writer:

"In another column we publish the obituary of Mr. Thomas Layton, late of Allegheny township. Mr. Layton was drafted last fall, and although he rightfully expected to be exempted on account of a diseased body and bad teeth, yet he took with him to Allegheny City, where the Provost Marshal's office was located, a person who was willing to go as his substitute if it should come to that. When Mr. L. came to be examined, he was pronounced fit for the service. Whether he was so declared through the petty tyranny, partisan bigotry, or both, or the workings of the worst passions to which evil minds are prone, we shall let our readers judge, and the treatment which he afterwards received at the hands of the attendants of the Marshal's office may assist the mind in forming a correct opinion in the matter. Upon being pronounced fit for service, he asked to be allowed to go out for his substitute, who was in the city and but a few squares off. It was customary, we believe, to give a few days' furlough to accepted men, in order to give them time to procure substitutes, or to make ready to go into the service. He was not permitted, however, to leave the office, but was shortly after placed in irons and soon sent to camp. He returned to his home on the 7th of June, and died on the 3d instant. He was a patriot in the fullest significance of the word, and in his death the county has lost a good citizen. We rejoice exceedingly that such opportunities for the exhibition of tyranny and outrage have been taken from the paltry officials who so freely used and abused them."

## Lawlessness and Rowdiness.

The conduct of certain young men and a large number of boys in the borough of Butler, is disgraceful in the extreme. We have taken the liberty to speak of this subject on several occasions, in hopes that young men especially, would refrain from conduct that is low, grovelling and vulgar, the committal of which is far beneath the character of any person, young or old, who claims the least degree of respectability, and would make, even, *heathens blush for shame.* The trash is patent, that there is a degree of lawlessness, rowdiness and malicious mischief practised and perpetrated in the borough of Butler, disgraceful to any community, and argues very strongly in favor of anything else but law and order. The offenders are the sons and apprentices of those who would like to be considered respectable and moral citizens, and yet, they so far forget their duty to themselves and their neighbors as to permit their boys to roam about in idleness during the day, and promenade the streets and lounge in and about Restaurants and Drinking Houses until a late hour at night, and then, vainly hope that they will be good, intelligent and respectable. As well might they expect the brightness of day without the rays of the sun. That "evil communications corrupt good manners," is just as true now, as when the words were first uttered.

The spirit of lawlessness and malicious mischief is carried on to such an extent that there is nothing too sacred or valuable unless under lock and key, that is free from injury, damage or appropriation. Our buildings of the most private character—no difference at what cost erected—are wrested from their appropriate places, and stuck up in the most public and conspicuous places on the main street, and the signs of peaceable citizens and business men, torn from their proper places, and suspended upon these private buildings. This may be sport to the vulgar, indecent and profane, but it certainly is very mortifying to the intelligent, law-abiding and moral citizen.

Fruit and garden vegetables are not permitted to mature, no difference what labor and expense have been bestowed upon the same, they too must be appropriated to the gratification of these young loafers. In passing along the back streets and alleys, they can be seen singly and in groups, reaching through the palings and fences, and those who have become bold in their depredations can be seen inside of inclosures clubbing apple trees and gormazing the spoils, as they suppose, thus clandestinely obtained. In fact, there is nothing upon which they can lay their hands, let it be ever so valuable, but must either be destroyed or used to gratify that spirit of malicious mischief which is so prevalent in our midst.

We have been credibly informed that some of these youngsters, have taken the valuable and costly books of lawyers and others from their offices and libraries, torn the backs off them, and then sold the books to store-keepers for wrapping paper.

In civilized communities, this would be treated as stealing. There is certainly a "screw loose" some where. Parental rule, civil and criminal law have with some, become nullities, and "Young America" is permitted to have full scope and run head-long to ruin and perdition. We sincerely hope that there will be a marked and decided reformation in the proper direction. That parents and guardians will awake to interest and duty—use their influence and authority for the permanent correction of these evils. If we would do our duty to ourselves and to the rising generation, we must attend to these matters now; if we fail—with us will be the responsibility. As professing Christians and law-abiding citizens, we cannot safely neglect so important a trust as is committed to our hands.

There are many good boys in Butler, of whom we feel proud, our remarks therefore, do not apply to them, but are intended for the unruly, disobedient and malicious—and these, we desire to win from the paths of wickedness, and thus be instrumental in bringing them into the path of duty, rectitude and honesty.

"O shame! where is thy blush?" And we are told that they now "rejoice exceedingly that such opportunities for the exhibition of tyranny and outrage have been taken from the paltry officials who so freely used and abused them."

If your rejoicing is sincere and your opposition to "tyranny genuine, there is certainly a great and marked reformation taken place in your case; for heretofore you have been a strenuous advocate of one of the most stupendous and outrageous systems of tyranny that was ever practised in a civilized government, and even at the present time; judging from the character of your paper, you are clinging tenaciously to the dead carcass of the same system. Before you commence to preach opposition to "tyranny and outrage," and more especially where it does not exist, you should take the beam out of your own eye, and then you will see more clearly to pull the mote out of your brother's eye. We have not noticed this article, because we believed it necessary to enter into a defense of the Board of Enrollment of the 23d District. They are of age and competent to speak for themselves; and their nets are open for investigation and will no doubt bear the closest scrutiny when truth is applied as the test. When you again undertake to vent your spleen upon the Provost Marshal and his "Paltry officials," inform yourself as to the truth of your assertions.

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## COMMUNICATIONS.

For the American Citizen.

## The Elective Franchise.

MR. EDITOR.—As this subject is now one of great political importance, and bids fair to be the next political issue, I have presumed to entertain your readers with a few things relating thereto:

At present, about four millions of human beings have had the chains and shackles broken off, and to-day stand forth "American born citizens," soldiers, and freemen, and as such, justly entitled to all amenities and privileges thereof. Ever since the breaking out of rebellion, they have been the earnest trusty friends of the Government, by day or night, diligent and devoted; enthusiastic in their expressions of joy at the advance of our banners and brave armies, and very frequently imperilling their lives, to assist escaped prisoners of war or our guides, or advanced columns of our forces—to the point of destination. Moreover, they have fought and bled; suffered and died, for the perpetuation of our Government and liberties. And now they stand waiting to see whether the Government will admit them to its privileges, after such conclusive evidence of their faithfulness, or turn them over to the tender mercies of former masters, returned rebel soldiers, officers &c., to abuse, persecute and legislate against them, and render their condition as odious and extremely unpleasant as possible. To see whether we will now give over our prejudice, and jealousy, and treat him as a man, a friend and helper.

It is now argued, that he is ignorant and not capable of properly using the elective franchise. We answer: It was as strenuously argued that he was unfit for a soldier, and a terrible howl, north and south, was made over the terrible experiment. But a trial has solved the problem and proved the quaking prophets the victim of some strange hallucination.

So now his qualification to vote or capacity to use the elective franchise, is still an experiment, let it be made, and we await results. The man who has been so constantly faithful and loyal amid the most discouraging circumstances, amid the preaching of so much false doctrine and base fabrications, will not now listen to their suggestions, arguments or appeals; when their projects have failed, the mask stripped off, and they stand before them in all their naked deformity. Nay: we will not listen now, you told us the Yankees would eat us, would murder every man, woman and child. Destroy all property, and were worse than heathens. That Lincoln was a usurper, tyrant, &c.; we did not believe it then; now we know its false; and we cannot vote for you now, and against our own interest. Again the poor whites of the South are still more ignorant than the negro, and fully as debased; and from their ranks have gone forth the great mass of the rebel soldiery. They have been the constant dupes of the Southern leaders; and always had their vote under the Constitution. They will have it yet—are rebels at heart, and will vote with the plaster as usual. *Now shall we give these men (poor whites,) greater privileges, than the men who are unquestionably loyal and right for the Government.*

What is the voice of justice, reason, right, and prudence? Is it safer for us to trust our enemies with the invincible ballot than our tried friends? Who cannot determine? Does it not seem strange that such a question should be sprung upon us; yet this is the question of the hour. And in it are issues of no momentary character, or small importance, to the free union of the United States. When those issues are ready for development, if living, we may be heard from again. But for the present let us dare to do right, by giving the freedman an equal chance in the race of life; an equal advantage with all those who are less loyal, and fully as incompetent, to use the elective franchise as he. And in the language and faith of our lamented late President: *believe that right makes might;* and while the path of duty is always the path of safety—*dare to do your whole duty, leaving results in the hands of a Beneficent Providence.* PIONEER.

A Charleston letter says: The praise of President Lincoln sounds more and more grateful to the people of this State as his character becomes known, and they cannot be repeated too often.—Said a late rebel officer: "The North did not know him, and the South knew still less of the best friend she had in the United States." On the other hand the name of Jeff. Davis is received indifferently at best. An eminent lawyer expresses his opinion that "South Carolina hated Jeff. Davis as much as she hated Mr. Lincoln during the rebellion; and if he is proved guilty of countenancing the assassination, the people of this State want him executed."

Judah P. Benjamin, the rebel Secretary of State, is reported to have arrived safely at Bermuda.

## The New Era.

Mr. James T. Brady being called to address the Literary Societies of Rutgers College last week, did not select as his topic "Athens and the Athenians," nor "Rome and the Romans," nor "The Platonic Philosophy," nor "The Influence of the Church upon the Middle Ages," nor did he dilate upon any of the stock themes which usually render College commencements venerable, but dull. Mr. Brady, we are informed, "in an address of a somewhat rambling character," spoke of the present condition of the country, glanced at the past and looked into the future, and thereby "elicited great applause." We have not received the particular fruits of Mr. Brady's rambles, but must take it for granted that they were ripe, juicy and profitable. We find other orators, of the annual literary turn, speaking after the same fashion in a sufficient practical way, and reminding us not only that we have a history, but that we are in a fair way to profit by it. Heretofore, we have lived pretty much upon the experiences of past ages and of foreign nations. Practically, our revolutionary ancestors vigorously contended for liberty; but for illustrations, for argument and for political philosophy they went back to Greece, to Rome and to the one or two great periods of English history.—They built a new structure upon an old basis, and the democracy of 1776 was but an extension of the republicanism of 1640. But no man familiar with our political history immediately subsequent to the Revolution, can be ignorant of the grave doubts which wise and good men entertained of the practicability, expediency and perpetuity of democratic institutions. Our fresh, young and promising career was always spoken of as an experiment, and, indeed, it has been so even down to the present day. The language of the French Revolution came to complicate difficulties. The Federalists advocated a strong central government as a check upon popular passions, as a defense against foreign aggression, and as a curb upon the license of the States. The Republicans (Democrats, or Democratic Republicans) looked with suspicion upon Presidential and even upon Congressional authority. These parties, however, were continually changing their relative positions as the fortune of politics shifted, so that Mr. Otis at one period in Massachusetts occupied almost precisely the ground which Mr. Jefferson at another had occupied in Virginia. The traces of these disputes, at times acrimonious and threatening danger, have never disappeared.—They were perpetuated in the nullification of Federal authority by South Carolina until they finally burst upon the country in the bloody and destructive contest through which the nation has now victoriously passed. The war has been full of various and advantageous results, among which, second only to the abolition of Slavery, we reckon the vindication of the authority of the General Government.—Nothing can be more fatal to the peace, prosperity and progress of a nation than an uncertain condition of its fundamental law—the continual stimulus of faction and fruitful mother of anarchy. To know what we may be saved in the future we must remember the decay and restless past. There have been thousands upon thousands of speeches made, there have been tons upon tons of volumes printed, there have been doubts, discussions and contradictory decisions without number, concerning the origin, nature and limitations of the American Union. One doctrine was taught in the colleges of South Carolina, and another in the colleges of New England. Here the Union was held to be a firm, binding and indissoluble compact, and there it was as strenuously maintained to be nothing more than a limited copartnership, terminable at the option of either party. The day of the dreamers, the drivellers and the dotards is over. There is no longer room for an argument—the case is closed—the powers of the General Government are defined. Upon that point, at least, the Senate is no longer a debating club. The choppers of cheap logic may hang up their utensils—the game of nullification is closed. We are among those who believe that this positive condition of the law of the Union is among the greatest advantages which the Rebellion has brought us. The people understand thoroughly the whole nature of the crime of treason, that it can be committed, and is one of the basest of crimes. It often happens that some great vicissitude apparently adverse in the life of an individual not only strengthens him for future difficulties, but develops a way of avoiding them altogether. So in a public case like our own, we cannot help feeling that there has been an immense addition made to the capacity of the people for judging upon points as yet left open, and to the clearness with which they will perceive them to be no longer debatable. It is easy to see how much it will strengthen and how much it will support us. It opens to us the prospect of a great, intelligent and determined people, with definite aims and well ascertained landmarks, no longer tossed upon a sea of endless differences, but united upon those main conditions which will secure a safe and prosperous condition of public affairs.—N. Y. Tribune.

PLAINLY SPOKEN.—Almost the only thing the Detroit Convention did, without qualification, "delay or debate, was to adopt the declaration in favor of protecting American capital and labor against foreign competition, and that this policy has become necessary to maintain the national credit. In whatever else the Convention failed it did not in this.

TEMPERANCE.—A National Temperance Convention will meet at Saratoga on Tuesday, the first day of August. Some of the most influential advocates of the cause are leaders in the movement. The call says interperence has cast a deep shade over the sorrows of the war and imperiled thousands of brave defenders whom shot and shell have spared.

WEST POINT CAKE.—One pound of sugar; one pound of flour; one-half lb. of butter two eggs; one cup of sour cream; one teaspoonful of pearlsh.

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