RETRIBUTION.

SIGNIFICANT WORDS FROM A REPUBLICAN PAPER.

New York Nation, Nov. 16.

Gradually, the errors and short comings of the Republican party in the treatment of the South are, in one form or another, "thronging to the bar, and crying, all guilty, guilty." We are learning, little by little, that "troops" cannot save us, nor vituperation, nor the negro vote, nor the "party record." There is, to us, considering the history of the federal administration in Louisiana, with its Packards and Caseys and Durells and Billingses, something absolutely solemn in the retribution which makes it possible for that wretched returning board—so sternly condemned last year for its fraud by Messrs. Wheeler, Frye and Hoar—to elect Hayes, and makes Hayes' best friends tremble at the thought of his entering the White House by such means. The time for settling this matter by the aid of old passions or memories is clearly gone by. The situation is one which needs hard, manly thinking, and manly facing of unpleasant and disappointing facts.

We trust most sincerely, too, that the crisis may not pass without fixing the public attention on the point that the conduct of the administration since Jackson's time, and more particularly of General Grant's administration, in constituting itself a wing of the party in power rather than the trustee of the nation, and in employing the whole body of officeholders, from the president down, even to the law-officers with their semi judicial functions, as electioneering agents, deprives us, at a crisis like this, of the presence of any power capable of arbitrating between the conflicting parties, or capable of preserving order without exciting suspicion of sinister designs.—This really constitutes the most serious aspect in the present situation. The president and cabinet ought to be in a juncture like this, a body in whose fairness and impartiality the whole people would have implicit confidence, and whose use of the public force would be generally ascribed to a hearty desire for peace and fair play. But what are the facts? The president has made himself for years past the active supporter or coadjutor of one of the Southern factions which has possessed the machinery of state government, and has the counting of the votes in the states which now have the decision of the presidential contest in their hands.—The attorney general, who advises him on the legality of his interference by troops or otherwise in the South, and who directs the marshals who represent the United States at the polls, is fresh from the stump, on which he has been denouncing opposition North and South as public enemies and capable of any villainy. The secretary of the interior is actually the director of the canvas of one of the two parties beside being a man notorious for the violence of his language and temper and the thorough unscrupulousness of his politics, and has been absent from his post for three months superintending a series of most inflammatory addresses to the public calculated to destroy all spirit of conciliation or compromise between the parties who are now contending in hot blood for the mastery.

The result is that when the president and his assistants are called by the decent, law-abiding and peace-loving portion of the community to preserve order and keep down the angry passions of the political partisans, their appearance on the scene with the national policy only intensifies bitterness and increase suspicion. Now is this bitterness or suspicion abated in the quarters in which it is important it should be abated, by the issue of little rhetorical disapprovals of fraud and chicane, such as came from the president's pen last week, and which, considering his official history, have had a curiously impressive effect on some Republicans. It does not speak well for the condition of political thought among us when any portion of the people are relieved and rejoiced at finding that the President does not think his successor should be "counted in" by fraud, and have forgotten that the phrases, "Let us have peace" and "Let no guilty man escape," bore such strange fruits in practice. But, in any event, these bits of gnomic wisdom, coming from a hot political partisan, are not what the crisis calls for; and how little the president has gained in discretion, or in regard for public opinion, is shown by his sending down General Sheridan as a pacificator to a state in which this officer distinguished himself a year ago by asking to have whole classes of the people outlawed by proclamation, that he might afterwards hunt them down with cavlary. In short, this executive tinkering and meddling with elections and election returns, and sending troops hither and thither to watch canvassing boards, though it might be tolerated from a president and cabinet distinguished for their impartiality and abstinence from party strife, is objectionable on so many grounds of principle and precedent that it has had much to do with giving Tilden his popular majority, and its continuance is helping to drown the Republican party, already seriously disabled, beyond all hope of recovery.

Alex. Stephens Interviewed.

THE SOUTH NOT NURSING THE SPIRIT OF A NEW REBELLION.

Washington, Nov. 24.

Hon. Alex. H. Stephens, of Georgia, arrived here to day and has taken permanent quarters for the winter at the National. He has been on the road three days, having come by easy stages, but has made the journey with much less fatigue than was to have been expected. He looks much emaciated, but his attendant reports him heavier than he has been for two years. Although wearied with his long journey he welcomed your correspondent cordially and talked freely of the political situation. His voice, though light, is clear, the tones firm, and as he talked of the country's crisis his eyes flashed with the old flame, his words came with the old readiness, and the wan hand would occasionally sweep out with the old emphatic gesture. At first, when asked for his views on the situation for publication in the North, he said, with a mixture of sadness and affected gaiety: "I don't think my opinion would have much weight with them. They would not believe me." Then he added, with a light laugh, "They are in the condition of those people mentioned in the Scripture—'Though one should arise from the dead, yet would they not believe.'" When assured that public opinion had changed a good deal in the last ten years he replied, quickly; "Yes, that is so; there is a wonderful change going on there, and many men now believe what they hardly dare acknowledge, even to themselves."

Of the outcome of the present election contest, he expressed himself hopeful that justice would prevail, deprecated all extreme and belligerant talk, and said he did not think there would be any conflict, although he did feel that the crisis was one of the most serious which our government has had to pass through. In answer to a direct question as to whether there was any danger that the South, or any faction in the South, were meditating armed resistance, he replied warmly and with great emphasis: "If there is any such feeling or intention any where in the South, I don't know it. If there is a single man any where in the South who is really talking in earnest of any such thing, I have yet to learn of him or of any one who knows of him. I do not believe there is one. I know the people of the South, as a people, have no such idea." "What is the feeling there, especially in South Carolina and Florida?" "They are, of course, indignant at the outrage which is being attempted; they cannot believe that the people of the country will tolerate such an infamous outrage on a free government and they are anxiously, but quietly, awaiting the result." He further said that he had come North partly to get located in his winter quarters before the cold weather set in, but also for the purpose of doing what he could to counteract the impression that the South was nursing the spirit of new rebellion. That idea has been widely circulated at the North, he said, and added, with indignant energy: "It has been and is their whole stock in trade."

The latest information of the result in Florida which he received before he left home was that the Returning Board were sure to return the Tilden electors elected by about seven hundred majority. The South Carolina Canvassing Board had not shut up shop and run away beyond the reach of the sheriff, as he expressed it, when he left, and he was not conversant enough with the facts to venture a positive opinion.—He could not quite believe that the Supreme Court of that State had allowed themselves to be outwitted by such a set of tricksters as they knew the Canvassing Board to be composed of, still he had known many a good case in court to be lost through the blundering of the managers. Of the real danger which did exist, that if the Returning Boards should count in Hayes, Congress get into a dead-lock, and recourse be had to force of arms, he spoke earnestly. He could not believe however, that that extremity could be reached.

If a conflict should ensue, he said, it will be civil war for the succession. Such a war could have only one result. It would be the deathblow to our free government, temporarily, at least. The spirit of liberty eternal would spring up again in the future, but the immediate result would be an empire governed by satraps. Such a war would ruin our prosperity at home and our credit abroad. Our bonds would be as worthless as the French assignats. It would not be another war between the North and the South. In that war the people of both sections spent their money freely. In a civil war for the succession, any body who had anything valuable would dig a hole and bury it and leave the country, if possible. All confidence would be lost and the bottom would drop out of everything. The venerable publicist was intensely earnest and almost prophetic in tone and manner as he looked ahead and read the, to him, certain results of a civil strife at this time, but he seemed exceedingly confident in his own mind that the people were too wise to take such a risk, and he held strongly that no honest man or patriot would for a moment think of such a thing, if it could be possibly avoided.

Louisiana is the "Pelican State," South Carolina the "Palmetto State," and Florida the "Alligator State," therefore the New York *Telegram* sings:

My pelican 'tisof thee,
Palmetto, uncetain tree,
Alligator, answer me—
Who'sthe man?

The official count of the vote of Pennsylvania for President shows an aggregate vote of 758,957, or 86,488 more than were cast for Governor last year, when the heaviest vote ever polled in the State was thrown. The official totals are as follows: Hayes, 384,158; Tilden, 366,204; Cooper, 7,204; Smith, 1,318; American Alliance ticket, 83; Hayes' plurality, 17,944; Hayes' majority, 9,339. The vote of the State, without Philadelphia, gave Hayes a plurality of 3,453, an amount less than the Republican gain in Allegheney county. The Republican vote increased ten per cent. over that of 1872 and twenty-six and a quarter per cent. over the vote of 1875. The Democratic vote increased twenty-three per cent. over 1872 and twenty-five and three quarters per cent over last year—a smaller proportionate variation than any other State will show, not quite one half of one per cent. in favor of the Republicans. The gain was really with the Democrats by about three per cent., for nearly the whole Temperance vote of 13,214 was swallowed up by the Republicans. The same proportionate increase in Florida, however, would have given Tilden the State "by a large majority," say, 7,150.—*Phila. Times.*

ASSIGNEE'S NOTICE.

Notice is hereby given that N. W. Eastman, of Franklin Forks, having made a general assignment to the undersigned for the benefit of his creditors, all persons indebted to said Eastman, are requested to make immediate payment, and all persons having claims against him to present the same duly verified to

A. LATHROP, Assignee.
Nov. 22, 1876. 48w6

ASSIGNEE'S NOTICE.

Wm. Graves having assigned all his estate to the undersigned in trust for creditors. All persons indebted by book account or otherwise are requested to make immediate settlement, and all having claims against the estate will please present them to

A. H. McCOLLUM,
Assignee of Wm. Graves.
Montrose, Nov. 22, 1876. 48w4