

Progress of Reconstruction.

The Reconstruction act which passed the late Congress over the President's veto is already virtually accepted by the South. It is (of course) denounced and execrated by certain noisy ex-Rebels (mainly of the bomb-proof variety) - but not many even of those, talk of resisting it, while the policy of the "masterly inactivity" has few advocates, and their number is rapidly dwindling. And for this there is excellent reason, in the fact that, if the ex-Rebels refuse to organize their States under the act of Congress, the Unconditional Unionists (White and Black) will organize each of and by themselves. If then, the ex-Rebels should insist on testing the constitutionality of the act before the Supreme Court, they will simply compel that Court to decide whether a State organization by loyal men in obedience to an act of Congress or a rival organization by ex-Rebels in defiance of Congress shall be recognized and upheld by the authority and power of the Union; and it does not seem probable that a majority even of our present Judges will decide that issue against Congress and the loyal organizations.

The ten Rebel States are to be reorganized under the late act of Congress, and are to choose Representatives and Senators to claim seats in the present (XLth) Congress. So much is already assured. And it is morally certain that the great body of their people, irrespective of past differences of politics or conviction, will participate in such reorganization and election.

Nor is there any symptom of violent perturbation or deadly collision likely to result from the act which was so lately stigmatized by its enemies as one "to organize hell" in the South. On the contrary, the prospect is decidedly favorable to a nearer approach to peace and order than has been exhibited at the South for years. Outrage and violence are less prevalent there than they have been; and there is reason to hope that the Reconstruction act will be marked by no such hideous tragedies as those which in 1866 disgraced the cities of Memphis and New-Orleans.

The only clouds on the horizon are fairly chargeable to an omission by Congress to prescribe the machinery whereby Reconstruction is to be effected. Had the act prescribed a day (say the fourth of July) when the people of the ten States respectively shall (not may) meet and choose delegates to a Constitutional Convention, and directed either the provisional State authorities or the military district commanders to designate persons to hold the polls, count the votes, &c., all trouble would have been precluded.

That the omission is unfortunate, is already manifest in Virginia and Louisiana. In Virginia, the Blacks and other loyalists are exhorted not to vote at the election which will doubtless be held under the auspices of the State authorities, but to hold an election of their own. We trust means will be found to avoid a double election; and we cannot help advising the loyalists of that State to follow the lead of Francis H. Pierpont rather than that of James W. Hunt.

In Louisiana, it is reported that the ex-Rebels propose to hold a Constitutional election as if in conformity to the act of Congress, but to reject the votes of all colored men! We do not believe they will persist in this stupidity. If they mean to deny and resist the authority of Congress in the premises, their obvious course is to adhere to their present State organization, and take no part in the choice of delegates to make another.

On the whole, the good work of Reconstruction is progressing favorably and rapidly. Those who have for years vociferated that the Radicals were bent on keeping the Southern States unrepresented and in chaos until after the next choice of President, will be singing a very different song before December. - Tribune.

The latest cable despatches tend strongly to show that the disturbances in Ireland amount to the dignity of a rebellion. Tipperary County is reported the center of one of its chief demonstrations, and the Galtee Mountains, it is said, are swarming with Fenians. Other counties are excited, and the rising is general enough to give employment to considerable numbers of British troops. This is the color of the story as filtered through the English press; and it is possible that the situation, from a British view, may be still more troublesome. The fact of the insurrection is at last decided. We have still to await news of its fate. - N. Y. Tribune, March 11.

Ten bushels of snake bones were found in the ledge of a rock a few days since, near Cedar Rapids, Iowa. (A correspondent of the Chicago Journal says, "that is the place where the Copperheads went in last fall.")

We think it more likely that this is one of the many such places to which the "Cops" have been crawling for years past, and which accounts for their non-appearance at the polls.

The Supreme Court of the United States has at length decided the constitutionality and validity of the prohibitory liquor laws. The decision was read by Chief Justice Chase, recently, and covers not only the liquor laws but the laws against lotteries.

The Copperheads are not satisfied with the military Governors lately appointed by the President for the South. This is not strange, as the only military Governors for the South, which the Cops approved, were the rebels with arms in their hands.

An important enlargement of the Erie Extension canal is now in progress near Medville, Crawford county.

THE JOURNAL.

Coudersport, Pa. Tuesday, Mar. 19, 1867.

M. W. McALARNEY, Editor.

SPEECH OF SPEAKER COLFAX.

Hon. Schuyler Colfax, who was elected Speaker of the Fortieth Congress, addressed the House as follows on taking the chair: Elected for the third time to this responsible and trying position, I appreciate more than ever before the inheritance of this trust, and realize more than when first entering on its difficult duties the absolute necessity of your confidence and support. Nor do I overrate the gravity of our position as American legislators.

"The year has never dropped their sand On mortal issue vast and grand As ours to-day."

A nation decimated by the conflicts of fraternal strife—a land desolated by the destructive marches of hostile armies—a people with the fruits of prolonged war ripened into the gloomy harvest dealt with the bullets as well as hearts heavy with bereavements and broken with anguish—look anxiously from North and South alike to this capital of continental domain. But there is a pathway of duty luminous with light, and by that light we should walk. It is to guide our steps by the justice of God and the rights of man. It is to banish all malice and revenge, and to justify our faith by our works. It is to anchor our legislation on what the great composer of England, John Bright, declares to be the simple but sublime principles on which great national questions should be settled—the basis of "eternal rights. It is to write on our banner those words that will shine brighter than the stars that gird the firmament—Liberty, Loyalty, and Law. It is to make history that posterity will rise up and call us blessed. The Congress which has just assembled has written a record that will be long remembered by the pious and the friendless, whom it did not forget. Misrepresented or misunderstood by those who denounced it as enemies, harshly and unjustly criticised by some who should have been its friends, it proved itself more faithful to human progress and liberty than any of its predecessors. The outraged and oppressed found in these congressional halls champions and friends. Its key-note of policy was protection to the doer-trodden. It quailed not before the mightiest and neglected not the obscurest. It lifted the slave whom the nation had freed up to the full stature of manhood. It placed on our national Magna Charta, grander than all the enactments that honor the American government had been destroyed by a vanquished rebellion, it declared, as a guarantee of defence to the weakest, that the freedman's hand should wield the freedman's ballot, and that none but loyal men should govern a land which loyal sacrifices had saved. Taught by inspiration that new wine could not be safely put in old bottles, it proclaimed that there could be no safe or loyal reconstruction on a foundation of unrepented treason or disloyalty. Fortunate will it be for us if, when we surrender these seats to our successors, we can point to a record which will shine on our historic page, like that of the Congress which has just expired. Three fortunate if, when we leave this Capitol, our whole national structure shall be permanently restored, resting on the sure foundation-stones of loyalty, unity, liberty, and right. With such convictions of duty I come to this chair to administer your rules, but not as a partisan. I appeal to you for the generous support by which alone a presiding officer can be sustained, pledging you in return an inflexible impartiality, which shall be proved by my deeds, and invoking on your deliberations the favor of Him who holds the destinies of nations in the hollow of His hand. I am now ready to take the oath of office prescribed by law.

To incorporate the Washington County Horse Railroad Company in the District of Columbia.

To incorporate the First Congregational Society of Washington.

To punish certain crimes in relation to the public securities and currency, and for other purposes.

To amend an act to amend an act, entitled "An act relating to habeas corpus, and regulating judicial proceedings in certain cases," approved May 11, 1866.

To amend "An act to establish the judicial courts of the United States," approved September 24, 1859.

To authorize the extension, construction, and use of a lateral branch of the Baltimore and Potomac railroad into and within the District of Columbia.

To exempt certain property of debtors in the District of Columbia from levy, attachment, and sale on execution.

To punish illegal voting in the District of Columbia, and for other purposes.

To provide for the payment of pensions. Authorizing the Secretary of the Treasury to receive into the Treasury the re-vested legacy of James Smithson; to authorize the regents of the Smithsonian Institution to apply the income of the said legacy, and for other purposes.

For the admission of the State of Nebraska into the Union.

Making appropriations to supply deficiencies in the appropriations for contingent expenses of the House of Representatives of the United States for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1867.

To fix the pay of the quartermaster sergeant of the battalion of engineers.

Making appropriations for the service of the Post Office Department during the fiscal year ending June 30, 1868, and for other purposes.

To amend an act to amend an act, entitled "An act relating to habeas corpus, and regulating judicial proceedings in certain cases," approved May 11, 1866.

To amend "An act to establish the judicial courts of the United States," approved September 24, 1859.

To authorize the extension, construction, and use of a lateral branch of the Baltimore and Potomac railroad into and within the District of Columbia.

To exempt certain property of debtors in the District of Columbia from levy, attachment, and sale on execution.

To punish illegal voting in the District of Columbia, and for other purposes.

To provide for the payment of pensions. Authorizing the Secretary of the Treasury to receive into the Treasury the re-vested legacy of James Smithson; to authorize the regents of the Smithsonian Institution to apply the income of the said legacy, and for other purposes.

For the admission of the State of Nebraska into the Union.

Making appropriations to supply deficiencies in the appropriations for contingent expenses of the House of Representatives of the United States for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1867.

To fix the pay of the quartermaster sergeant of the battalion of engineers.

Making appropriations for the service of the Post Office Department during the fiscal year ending June 30, 1868, and for other purposes.

To amend an act to amend an act, entitled "An act relating to habeas corpus, and regulating judicial proceedings in certain cases," approved May 11, 1866.

To amend "An act to establish the judicial courts of the United States," approved September 24, 1859.

To authorize the extension, construction, and use of a lateral branch of the Baltimore and Potomac railroad into and within the District of Columbia.

To exempt certain property of debtors in the District of Columbia from levy, attachment, and sale on execution.

To punish illegal voting in the District of Columbia, and for other purposes.

To provide for the payment of pensions. Authorizing the Secretary of the Treasury to receive into the Treasury the re-vested legacy of James Smithson; to authorize the regents of the Smithsonian Institution to apply the income of the said legacy, and for other purposes.

For the admission of the State of Nebraska into the Union.

Making appropriations to supply deficiencies in the appropriations for contingent expenses of the House of Representatives of the United States for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1867.

To incorporate the Washington County Horse Railroad Company in the District of Columbia.

To incorporate the First Congregational Society of Washington.

To punish certain crimes in relation to the public securities and currency, and for other purposes.

To amend an act to amend an act, entitled "An act relating to habeas corpus, and regulating judicial proceedings in certain cases," approved May 11, 1866.

To amend "An act to establish the judicial courts of the United States," approved September 24, 1859.

To authorize the extension, construction, and use of a lateral branch of the Baltimore and Potomac railroad into and within the District of Columbia.

To exempt certain property of debtors in the District of Columbia from levy, attachment, and sale on execution.

To punish illegal voting in the District of Columbia, and for other purposes.

To provide for the payment of pensions. Authorizing the Secretary of the Treasury to receive into the Treasury the re-vested legacy of James Smithson; to authorize the regents of the Smithsonian Institution to apply the income of the said legacy, and for other purposes.

For the admission of the State of Nebraska into the Union.

Making appropriations to supply deficiencies in the appropriations for contingent expenses of the House of Representatives of the United States for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1867.

To fix the pay of the quartermaster sergeant of the battalion of engineers.

Making appropriations for the service of the Post Office Department during the fiscal year ending June 30, 1868, and for other purposes.

To amend an act to amend an act, entitled "An act relating to habeas corpus, and regulating judicial proceedings in certain cases," approved May 11, 1866.

To amend "An act to establish the judicial courts of the United States," approved September 24, 1859.

To authorize the extension, construction, and use of a lateral branch of the Baltimore and Potomac railroad into and within the District of Columbia.

To exempt certain property of debtors in the District of Columbia from levy, attachment, and sale on execution.

To punish illegal voting in the District of Columbia, and for other purposes.

For the relief of certain drafted men. Relative to the port of Camuen, New Jersey.

To grant certain privileges to the Alexandria, Washington, and Georgetown Railroad Company in the District of Columbia.

Regulating the tenure of certain civil offices.

In relation to persons imprisoned under sentence for offences against the laws of the United States.

To amend an act entitled "An act to continue, alter, and amend the charter of the city of Washington," approved May 17, 1848.

To amend an act entitled "An act for the removal of causes in certain cases from State courts," approved July 27, 1866.

To extend the provisions of an act entitled "An act for the final adjustment of private land claims."

Relating to writs of appeal and writs of error to the Supreme Court.

To regulate the disposition of the proceeds of fines, penalties, and forfeitures incurred under the laws relating to customs.

To extend the time for the completion of certain street railways.

To amend an act entitled "An act to incorporate the National Theological Institute," and to define and extend the powers of the same.

To provide for a temporary increase of the pay of officers in the army of the United States, and for other purposes.

Making appropriations for sundry expenses of the Government for the year ending June 30, 1868, and for other purposes.

To provide ways and means for the payment of compound interest notes.

To prevent the absence of territorial officers from their official duties.

Authorizing limited partnerships in the District of Columbia.

To provide for an annual inspection into Indian affairs, and for other purposes.

GOOD NEWS AND NEW GOODS

STRANGE BUT TRUE!

THE LOWEST POSSIBLE PRICES

BARGAINS! BARGAINS!

No attention paid to the cost of GOODS.

Prompt conformity to the Lowest Market Prices is our established RULE.

We are determined to give the public the Benefit of the FALL, this time.

We shall try to prove the Rule "Works both Ways."

You paid high prices when goods went up, we will see to it that you pay low prices now GOODS are down.

Others may go down, but we do not intend to be beaten.

All we ask is to give us a Call. Shop as much as you please. If you know our prices we feel sure of a sale.

We are in for the trade this spring and are determined that

CHARLES S. JONES

Shall take the lead in furnishing this section of the country with the best articles for the least money. Ours is the Store where that can be done. COME, SEE, and be CONVINCED.

All kinds of Cotton Goods!

we are now offering at prices which can not fail to strike the purchaser as Cheap!

CALICOES WITH THE STARCH OUT OF BOTH CLOTH AND PRICE!

BROAD-CLOTH, Plain & Fancy Cassimeres STANDARD MUSLINS Bleached and Unbleached Muslins of all Prices. Flannels of all Colors. SILK & LINEN HANDKERCHIEFS, SPOOL COTTON, Ticking, Striped Shirting, Denims, Crash, Toweling LADIES' DRESS GOODS, All-Wool Delaines, Amer. Delaines, Mohair Lustres, &c. GROCERIES, Of all kinds. COFFEES, WHITE & BROWN SUGARS, SYRUP & COMMON MOLASSES, GREEN & BLACK TEAS, SPICES of all kinds. A great variety of the best brands of SMOKING & CHEWING TOBACCO. Cora Brooms, Cedar Buckets; No. 1 and 2 Mackerel, Labrador Herring, Hams & Shoulders. Also, DRUGS and MEDICINES, READY-MADE CLOTHING, BOOTS and SHOES, HARDWARE, &c. REMEMBER WE PAY THE HIGHEST PRICE FOR COUNTRY PRODUCE. CHARLES S. JONES. Coudersport, June 5, 1866