

The Louisiana Democrat.

A. B. RACHAL

THE WORLD IS GOVERNED TOO MUCH.

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The Regular Session will begin November 13, 1876.

Send for Circulars to T. G. RICHARDSON, Dean.

Poetical.

ZERLA.

BY E. N. G.

Night of the ebon mantle,
Fall! for the weary day
Hangs on my heart like a shadow,
Never to pass away.

But beautiful night, the star-gemmed,
Creeping sandaled and late,
Bringing its rest for the weary,
Halts by my garden gate.

Here let me rest—these closes,
Bright with the fire-fly's glow,
Verdant and fragrant with perfume,
Footprint of fairies should know.

Is it thy robe, Titania,
Streams on the dusky night?
No; 'tis the raven tresses
O'er a forehead white.

Fairest of all, my darling!
Girl of the loving face!
Come, let my arms enfold thee
Into thy resting-place.

Night of the shade, but star-bright,
Comes she at close of day;
I at the gate am watching—
This is her midnight way.

Watching for what? A shadow,
Tresses of dusk, my pride,
Comes she only at midnight,
Zerla, my phantom bride.

PLATFORM OF THE NATIONAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY.

WE, the Delegates of the Democratic Party, in National Convention assembled, do hereby declare the administration of the Federal Government to be in urgent need of immediate reform, to hereby enjoin upon the nominees of this Convention and of the Democratic party in each State, a zealous effort and co-operation to this end, and do hereby appeal to our fellow-citizens of every former political connection to undertake with us this first and most pressing duty of the Democracy for the benefit of the whole country we do hereby reaffirm our faith in the permanency of the Federal Union; our devotion to the Constitution of the United States with its amendments universally accepted as a final settlement of the controversies that engendered civil war; and we do hereby record our steadfast confidence in the perpetuity of republican self-government; an absolute acquiescence in the will of the majority, the vital principle of republicanism; in the supremacy of the civil over the military authority; in the total separation of Church and State for the sake alike of civil and religious freedom; in the equality of all citizens before the laws of their own enactment; in the liberty of individual conscience untrammelled by a compulsory law; in the faithful education of the rising generation; that they may preserve, enjoy and transmit these best conditions of human happiness, and hope we behold the noblest products of a hundred years of change; history, but while upholding the band of our Union and great charter of those sacred rights, in the hands of a free people, to practice also that eternal vigilance which is the price of liberty.

REFORM IS NECESSARY

to rebuild and establish in the hearts of the whole people of the Union, eleven years ago happily rescued from the danger of a corrupt centralism which, after inflicting upon the Republic the agency of a corrupting tyrannical, has honeycombed the officers of the Federal Government itself with incapacity, waste and fraud, infected States and municipalities with the contagion of misrule, and looked fast to the prosperity of an industrial people in the paralysis of hard times. Reform is necessary to establish a sound currency, restore the public credit, and maintain the national honor. We denounce the failure for these eleven years to make good the promise of the legal tender notes, which are a changing standard of value in the hands of the people, and the non-payment of which is a disregard of the plighted faith of the nation. We denounce the improvidence which in eleven years of peace have taken from the people in Federal wharves, during eleven years of the paralysis of the legal tender notes, and squandered four times this sum in useless expense without accumulating any reserve for their resumption. We denounce the financial imbecility and immorality of the present administration, which has made no advance toward resumption; that instead has obstructed resumption by wasting our resources and exhausting all our surplus income, and while annually professing to intend a speedy return to specie payments, has annually enacted during eleven years of peace, such a hindrance thereto as such a hindrance we denounce the resumption clause of the act of 1875, and we here

DEMAND ITS REPEAL.

We demand a judicious system of preparation by public economies, by official retrenchments and by wise finance which shall enable the nation to insure the whole world of its perfect ability and its perfect readiness to meet any of its promises at the call of the creditor entitled to payment. We believe such a system well devised, and, above all, entrusted to competent hands for execution, creating at no time an artificial scarcity of currency and at no time alarming the public mind into a withdrawal of that vast machinery of credit by which 95 per cent. of all business transactions are performed—a system open, public and inspiring general confidence would from the day of its adoption bring healing on its wings to all our oppressed industries and set in motion the wheels of commerce, manufactures and the mechanical arts, restore employment to labor, and renew in all its national source the prosperity of the people. Reform is necessary in the sum and mode of Federal taxation, to the end that capital may be set free from distress and labor lightly burdened.

WE DENOUNCE THE PRESENT TARIFF

levied upon nearly four thousand articles, as a masterpiece of injustice, inequality and false profiting. It yields a dwindling, not a yearly rising revenue. It has impoverished many industries, to subsidize a few; it prohibits imports that might purchase the products of American labor; it has degraded American commerce from the first to an inferior upon the high seas; it has cut down the sales of American manufactures at home and abroad, and depleted the returns of American agriculture, an interest followed by half our people; it costs the people five times more

than it produces to the treasury, obstructs the processes of production and wastes the fruits of labor; it promotes fraud and fosters smuggling, enriches dishonest officials and bankrupts honest merchants. We demand that all custom house taxation shall be only for revenue. Reform is necessary in the scale of public expenses, Federal, State and municipal.

FEDERAL TAXATION HAS SWOLLEN

from \$16,000,000 gold in 1869 to \$450,000,000 currency in 1870; our aggregate taxation from \$184,000,000 gold in 1869 to \$730,000,000 currency in 1870, or in one decade from less than five dollars per head to more than eighteen dollars per head.

Since the peace the people have paid to their tax gatherers more than twice the sum of the national debt, and more than twice that sum for the Federal Government.

We demand a vigorous frugality in every department and from every officer of the Government. Reform is necessary to put a stop to the profligate waste of public lands and their diversion from actual settlers by the party in power, which has squandered two hundred millions of acres upon railroads alone, and out of more than twice that aggregate has disposed of less than a sixth directly to tillers of the soil. Reform is necessary to correct the

OMISSIONS of a REPUBLICAN CONGRESS, and the errors of our treaties and our diplomacy which have stripped our fellow-citizens of foreign birth and kindred race possessing the Atlantic of the shield of American citizenship, and have exposed our brethren of the Pacific slope to the incursions of a race not sprung from the same great parent stock—in fact now denied by law citizenship through naturalization as being neither accustomed to the tradition of a progressive civilization, or exercised in liberty under equal laws.

We denounce the policy which thus discards the liberty loving German, and tolerates the revival of the coolie trade in Mongolian women imported for immoral purposes, and Mongolian men hired to perform servile labor contracts, and demand such modification of the treaty with the Chinese Empire, or such legislation by Congress within a constitutional limitation, as shall prevent the further importation or immigration of such races.

Reform is necessary, and can never be effected but by making it the controlling issue of the elections, and lifting it above the two false issues with which the office-holding class and the party in power seek to mislead the public mind, and to maintain without impartiality or preference for any class, sect or creed, and without contributing from the treasury to any.

The false issue by which they seek to light upon the dying embers of sectional hate between two kindred peoples once naturally estranged, but now reunited in one indivisible Republic and a common destiny.

REFORM IN CIVIL SERVICE.

Reform is necessary in the civil service. Experience proves that efficient, economical conduct of the governmental business is not possible if its civil service be subjected to change of every election, and be a posse offered at the ballot box as a bribe toward party zeal, instead of the honor assigned for proved competency and fidelity in the public employ.

That the dispensing of patronage should neither be a tax upon the time of all our public men, nor the instrument of their ambition. Here again we demand that in the performance, attest that the party in power can work out no practical or salutary reform.

REFORM IN HIGH PLACES.

Reform is necessary even more in the higher grades of public service. President, Vice-President, Judges, Senators, Representatives, Cabinet officers—the people's servants. Their offices are not private perquisites; they are a public trust. When the annals of this Republic proclaim the disgrace and censure of a Vice-President; a late Speaker of the House of Representatives; marketing his ruling as a presiding officer; Senators profiting secretly by their votes as law-makers; five chairmen of the leading committees of the late House of Representatives exposed in jobbery; a late Secretary of the Treasury forging balances in the public accounts; a late Attorney-General misappropriating public funds; a Secretary of the Navy enriching friends by percentages levied off the profits of contractors with his department; an Ambassador to England concerned in a dishonorable speculation; the President's private Secretary barely escaping conviction, upon trial, for guilty complicity in frauds upon the revenue; a Secretary of War impeached for high crimes and confessed misdemeanors; the demonstration is a dishonorable speculation; the President's private Secretary barely escaping conviction, upon trial, for guilty complicity in frauds upon the revenue; a Secretary of War impeached for high crimes and confessed misdemeanors; the demonstration is

that the public choice of high places is not the public choice of the best men from another party lest the disease of one political organization upset the whole body politic, and thereby making no change of men or party, we can get no change of measures and no reform.

All these abuses, wrongs and crimes, the product of sixteen years of ascendancy of the Republican party, create a necessity for reform confessed by the Republicans themselves. But their reformers are voted down in convention and displaced from the Cabinet. The party's mass of honest votes is powerless to resist the eighty thousand office-holders, its leaders and guides. Reform can only be had by a peaceful civil revolution. We demand a change of system, a change of administration, a change of parties, that we may have a change of reform.

—GRANT has revived the old English custom of beholding men for treason. It was treason once to speak disrespectfully of the king, and the traitor lost his head. Postmaster General Jewell remarked the other day that he "did not concur with some of the president's friends, who asserted that the prosecution of the whiskey rings was the work of the president quite as much as of Bristow" and the very next time Jewell sneezed his head tumbled from his shoulders and rolled in the dust.

—CARL SCHURZ steps out of the Reform line and forfeits a great reputation. But OSWALD OTTENDORFER of New York and Judge STALLO and FRED. HASSAUBER of Ohio amply sustain the credit of the German name by ranging themselves on the side of TILDEN and Reform.

Insolence.

The Republican is growing impudent. If it does not check its tongue, we shall have to check it for it. It is not usual to permit the class of people who run the Republican to indulge their insolence toward gentlemen too freely. The Republican seems to think that, because a few renegade Louisianians propose to support its disreputable and rascally candidate for Governor, that it has been elevated to a plane from which it may sling its mud with impunity upon that class of people from whom those renegades fell.

The insolent henchman of the carpetbag thieves of this State, who runs a slanderous sheet sustained by money wrung from the impoverished people of Louisiana, speaks of the Democrat having receive "subsidy pennies enough to run for another fortnight."

We do not assume that the Democrat is backed by a very large capital, but what it has was subscribed by honest men for an honest purpose, and the sum would have been much larger but that the iniquitous administration of the rascal, of whom the Republican is the organ, has so impoverished both city and State that it has been difficult to raise the requisite capital to establish a Democratic paper here.

When the Republican speaks of "subsidy" in connection with this paper or of any person connected with it, it willfully lies. But, whatever may be the financial status of the Democrat, the matter is none of the business of the Republican, and if its editor had not been a low-born, low-bred fellow, utterly insensible to the instincts and unacquainted with the usages of gentlemen, he would never have referred to the matter. Only pernicious upstarts, low fellows who by disreputable means have become rich, ever refer, in discussion, to the pecuniary affairs of their opponents. Such dirty methods of controversy gentlemen leave to dirty fellows like the editor of the Republican, who, by robbing and swindling, or by some other disreputable means, have made money enough to enable them to doff their rags, besmeared with the mire of the social slums, and to don a decent suit.—[N. O. Democrat.

FLUCTUATING POLITICS.

He was seedy and battered and he looked "powerful" dry. He entered a Main street saloon and approaching the bar said to the barkeeper, "It's a good ticket, ain't it?" "First rate," replied the barkeeper. "You betcher life them's my men; Hayes's Wheeler for me. 'Rah for Hayes's Wheeler! Set out some o'yer 'Publican whiskey, barkeeper.'" "My friend replied the barkeeper, "you're a little off; this is a Democratic house." "Thunder!" exclaimed the soaker, "the Dimmycrats ain't got nobody to holler for yit, and I'm as dry as a powder-horn and not a cent twixt me and eternity." "My friend," said the obliging barkeeper, "while differing with you in politics, I can not resist your appeal, help yourself to some of this," and he set out a glass and the bottle of lightning kept for the special use of "stiffs." The stiff poured out a glassful of the stuff and emptied it into his throat, and when he got through coughing and wiping his eyes in his coat sleeve said: "Ain't got no money, but if I was the Comstock ledger I'd bet myself ag'in a Lander Hill razor-blade that them durned black Republicans don't get away with the ensnoo' election." —[Austin (Nev.) Reveille.

—How idle for Gov. Hayes to talk about his purpose to run the Government, if he is elected, on Reform principles. He cannot change the Republican machine or unseat the present leaders of the party, who from Blaine to Boss Shepherd, Spencer to Babcock, are at work for his election. He is not a man of the strength of character, personal weight, and resoluteness of will to overcome these men, now controlling the Republican party, even if we take him at his word and believe that he desires to do it. The only hope of reform is in the election of Tilden, a clean sweep of the Government, and the introduction of new principles of administration and new men in high office.—[N. Y. Sun.

—HAYES is the pet of the Rings—Tilden their smasher.

The Ring Smasher.

GOVERNOR TILDEN'S REPLY TO THE GENTLEMEN OF THE ANNOUNCEMENT COMMITTEE.

Gen. McClelland and Gentlemen of the Committee—I shall, at my earliest convenience, prepare and transmit to you a formal acceptance of the nomination which you now tender me in behalf of the Democratic National Convention. I do not desire on this occasion to anticipate any topic which might be appropriate to that communication. It may, however, be permitted to me to say my nomination was not a mere personal preference between the eminent citizens of this Republic who might very well have been chosen for so distinguished an honor and so great a duty. It was rather a declaration of that illustrious body, in whose behalf you speak, in favor of administrative reform, with which events had associated me in the public view. The strength, the universality and the efficiency of the demand for administrative reform in all governments, and especially in the Federal Government, with which the Democratic masses everywhere were associated have led to a series of surprises in the popular assemblages, and perhaps in the convention itself. It would be unnatural, gentlemen, if a popular movement so genuine and so powerful should stop with 3,500,000 of Democrats; that it should not extend by contagion to that large mass of independent voters who stand between parties in our country, and even to the moderate portion of the party under whose administration the evils to be corrected have grown up, and perhaps in what we have witnessed there may be an arguery in respect to what we may witness in the election about to take place throughout our country. At least let us hope so and believe so; I am not without experience of the difficulty and the labor of effecting administrative reform, when it requires a revolution in politics and in measures long established in government. If I were to judge by the year and a half in which I have been in the State Government, I should say that the routine duties of the trust I have had imposed on me are a small burden with that created by the attempt to change the policy of the Government of which I have been the executive head. Especially is this so when reform is to be worked with more or less of the co-operation of public officers, who either have been tainted with the evils to be redressed, or who have been incapacitated by the habit of tolerating the wrongs to be corrected, to which they have been consenting witnesses. I, therefore, if your choice should be ratified by the people at the election, should enter upon the great duties which would fall upon me, not as a holiday recreation, but very much in that spirit of conservatism in which the soldier enters battle. [Applause.] But let us believe, as I do believe, that we now see the dawn of a better day for our country, and that difficult as is the work to which the Democratic party, with many allies—former members of other parties—has addressed itself, the Republic is yet to be renovated, to live in all the future, and to be transmitted to succeeding generations as Jefferson contributed to form it in his day, and as it has been ever since until a recent period, a blessing to the whole people and to all mankind. [Applause.] Gentlemen, I thank you for the very kind terms in which you have made your communication, and I extend to you collectively and individually a most cordial greeting.

The committee and their friends then entered into a social conversation as to the prospects of the coming canvass, and remained a short time in the hospitable mansion of the Governor.

—THE President fully recognizes the fact that the success of his party in the present campaign depends upon an abundant supply of funds; that an abundant supply of funds depends upon the reorganization of the whiskey ring; and that the reorganization of the whiskey ring depends upon the removal of its enemies from office. Hence, Jewell, Pratt, Yaryan and Clark have gone to meet Bristow. —[New York Sun.

Custer.

SOME PERSONAL PECULIARITIES OF THE DASHING CAVALRYMAN

Custer's strong points as a soldier were his almost unapproachable bravery, his dash, ardor, confidence, and his self-possession and composure, that was never shaken in the most desperate resorts. I have seen Custer in circumstances when it was hard for me to believe that he was human, and I am confident that when overwhelmed and surrounded in that ravine, and staring death squarely in his face, he loaded the Remington rifle he always carried as coolly and aimed it as accurately as if he had been target-shooting on the parade ground at his post.

Yet I have seen tears in his eyes that were drawn out by the sufferings of a dog. One of the tender points in his nature was his sympathy for brutes. He never allowed an animal to be abused or to suffer in any way if it was in his power to prevent it. I have seen him dismount robust men from half-starved horses, and have heard him order soldiers punished for abusing beasts. It used to be a remark commonly made in his command that Custer would turn a wounded soldier out of an ambulance to let a sick dog ride. But this is an exaggeration.

Many people have the idea that Custer was a rough, swaggering, swearing, drunken trooper. He was just the opposite. He was as dainty a beau in ladies' society and as entertaining a guest at a dinner table as one often sees. For years he never drank even the lightest wine. He used to in the earlier years of the war; but to his wife's sweet influence he surrendered the habit, and became not only temperate himself, but the apostle of temperance. He never swore, nor would he allow an oath to be uttered in his hearing. I have heard him rebuke his officers many a time for swearing, and for one of his soldiers to utter an oath in his presence was the grossest sort of insubordination. Cavalry and profanity seem somehow to be essentials, but it was not so in Custer's case.

Another anomaly was that he never used tobacco in any form. Think of a trooper without a plug and a pipe in his pocket!

With one of the sweetest, gentlest, brightest women in the world for a wife; in a home on the frontier, where the gentler arts were mingled with the privations and the rudeness of half civilization; with a library, where Ruskin lay beside a revolver and Jean Ingelow kept companionship with a cartridge-box; with a drawing-room where a velvet carpet was strewn with half-cured bear and wolf-skins, where delicate lace curtains were held in place by antlers, and where elk heads and stuffed owls ornamented the piano, Custer lived, illustrating in himself the anomaly of a hunter and *littérateur*, an associate of savages and a patron of art.

Custer was one of the best marksmen in the army, and one of the best horsemen. Marvelous stories are told of his feats in both particulars. He had almost as many guns as there are varieties of manufacture, and his stable was filled with the best blooded horses in the land. During the war Custer always dressed in what the soldiers of the old school called an outlandish fashion. He had an utter disregard for gold-lace and trappings. His saddle was always the most comfortable and not the most showy he could find. When he went into battle, he always wore a loose blouse, such as were used for the ordinary soldiers as an undress uniform, with the skirts tucked into his trousers like a shirt. Under his collar was always a strip of red flannel for a neckcloth, with long ends that floated out over his shoulder as he rode. He always wore some slight insignia of his rank on his shoulders and that of his branch of the service on his hat, which was always a broad sombrero. This, with heavy, clanking spurs on his rough boots, from the top of each of which the handle of a pistol was always visible, a ponderous saber at his side and a rifle across his elbow, completed his "outfit." On the plains Custer always wore a handsomely embroidered buckskin suit, with his red neck-tie and the remainder of his army dress, with the exception of the saber, which he never carried on the plains.—[Graphic.

Hayes is no Reformer.

Hayes has never greatly distinguished himself in civil life, either in Congress or as Governor of Ohio; but there was one important measure that was carried through by the last Ohio Legislature which gives special significance to his administration, and which will enable the people to form a tolerably clear idea what kind of reform we may expect should he be successful in getting elected President.

During the first two terms of Gen. Hayes as Governor of Ohio, and during that of his successor General Noyes, a system of wholesale swindling by county Rings reached enormous proportions. This fleecing of the people was accomplished by means of constructive fees exacted by county officers; and the extent to which these abuses were carried may be inferred from the fact that the report of the State Auditor in 1874 showed that the compensation of county officials amounted to about five times the total expenses of the Legislative, Judicial and Executive Departments of the State. The extortions of these officials reached every class of the community; even the estates of widows and orphans were robbed to satisfy the insatiate greed of the county Rings, and by means of excessive fees, Probate Judges in some of the counties were enabled to swell their compensation to amounts more than double the salaries of the Judges of the Supreme Court.

When Gov. Allen came into office he immediately gave his attention to the rectification of these abuses. In his message of December 1, 1874, he called the special attention of the Legislature to the subject, and the people of Ohio, finding that they at last had a champion in the Executive chair, poured in their petitions to the number of fifty thousand, demanding immediate relief from the exactions of the county Rings. Not satisfied with presenting the matter officially to the Legislature, Gov. Allen made the most urgent personal appeals to his supporters in both Houses, and though his efforts met with persistent opposition from members and tools of these Rings, belonging to both political parties, he finally succeeded in carrying his point, and a law was passed making a reduction of \$285,000 annually in the compensation of county officials.

Well, in 1875 Hayes was elected, and a Republican Legislature came into power. At once the rings rallied in full force, and a bill was prepared to repeal the reform law which Gov. Allen had forced through the preceding Legislature by his untiring personal labors. A strong lobby was organized at the Capitol, and, though new county officers had in the mean time been elected under the act fixing reduced salaries, they succeeded in repealing the law which the Democratic Legislature had passed, the new bill being made retroactive in its operation, so as to completely neutralize the effects of the law which was repealed.

What was Gov. Hayes doing while these leeches were prosecuting their schemes to defraud the people? That amiable gentleman was doing nothing at all. The men who were engaged in the service of the Rings were politicians of influence. Gov. Hayes is not the man to make enemies of such serviceable friends, and so he looked on without moving a finger, and permitted a measure to pass which involved the robbery of the people of Ohio to the amount of several hundred thousand dollars annually.

As the Cincinnati Commercial said at the time the repealing bill was passed: "Gov. Hayes has lost a glorious opportunity of proving himself a good reform candidate for President by not raising his voice against this iniquity;" and we think the people will agree with our Western contemporary. If Gov. Hayes does not resist the pressure of a few petty Ohio county Rings, in a matter where all the people were on one side and a few greedy politicians on the other, what possible chance is there that the same inoffensive gentleman would be able to resist the overwhelming influence of the colossal Rings which are entrenched in Washington? Not the slightest; and it is for that very reason that his nomination has proved so acceptable to Ring Republicans of every grade. —[N. Y. Sun.