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Southern Maryland Railroad.

The following Bill of Complaint of the creditors of the Southern Maryland Railroad appears in the last issue of the *Marlboro' Gazette*. The object of the Complaint is, to procure a decree for the sale of the road and for the distribution of assets arising therefrom among its *bona fide* creditors. Its different recitals will be found interesting reading to citizens of this county.

The bill of complaint of the Washington City and Point Lookout Railroad Company, Robert Callahan, the State of Maryland, and others, vs. the Southern Maryland Railroad, the Union Trust Company of New York, the National Metropolitan Bank of Washington, D. C., and others, in the Circuit Court for Prince George's County, sitting in equity, exhibited on the 30th day of July, 1875.

The object of this bill and amended bill is to procure a decree for the sale of the Southern Maryland Railroad, and a distribution of its assets amongst its *bona fide* creditors, whose claims may be duly established against the said company. It alleges that the Southern Maryland Railroad Company was incorporated by the General Assembly of the State of Maryland, with authority to construct a railroad from some point in Prince George's County to Point Lookout in St. Mary's County, with a capital stock of not less than one million of dollars and not more than four millions of dollars, divided into shares of one hundred dollars each, and with other powers and privileges which are enumerated in the said act of incorporation, approved March 28th, 1868, chapter 150: That the said corporation organized under the said act, and claims to have a *bona fide* stock subscription of one million of dollars; that on the first day of June, 1872, the said company executed a deed of trust or mortgage (which was duly recorded) to the Union Trust Company of New York, a corporation created by the laws of that State, whereby all their property, real and personal, and franchises were conveyed in trust for the purpose of securing the payment of 2,200 coupon bonds of the said company of $1,000 00 each, amounting in all to two million two hundred thousand dollars, payable in gold coin of the United States, payable semi-annually, without deduction for taxes, on the first days of June and December, in each and every year until the maturity thereof in 1892, said bonds being payable to the Union Trust Company or bearer; the said bonds having been proposed to be issued and negotiated for the purpose of borrowing money thereon, to be used in the construction and equipment of said road. That all of the said bonds have been signed by the said S. S. Smoot, President, and Charles H. Winder, Secretary of the said Southern Maryland Railroad Company, and authenticated by the certificate of the said Union Trust Company of New York, and delivered to the said S. S. Smoot, President of said company, and that all of the said bonds not sold or hypothicated, and not disposed of for the private use of the said S. S. Smoot are now in his possession. That the said S. M. R. R. Co., have surveyed and located the line of their said proposed road from Brandywine, a station on the Baltimore and Potomac Railroad, in Prince George's County, to Point Lookout, in St. Mary's County, have acquired the right of way for said road; have graded thirty-five miles of said road, commencing at Brandywine aforesaid, and a portion of said road from Point Lookout aforesaid. That the said grading was done in 1872, 1873, and partly in 1874; that the said company had purchased a large number of cross-ties, which had been inspected and placed on the line of the said road, to be laid in the road bed when ready to receive the same.

That the Southern Maryland Railroad Company in addition to the alleged receipt of two dollars per share upon the subscriptions to their capital stock alleged to have been made, and required by their charter to be paid at the time of subscription, amounting to the sum of twenty thousand dollars, have received the sum of one hundred and sixty-three thousand dollars for 1,630 shares of the stock of the said company subscribed for by the Treasurer of the State of Maryland, by virtue of the 34 section of article 3 of the Constitution of the State of Maryland of 1867, and the provisions of the act of 1868, chapter 454. The bill charges that the said Southern Maryland Railroad Company have entirely ceased all operations in constructing their said railroad since about the month of June, 1874. That the said company have admitted an indebtedness to sundry creditors, including the complainants, Robert Callahan, John I. Cook, D. Langran, Wm. Casey, Isaac C. Burgess, on contracts for work done on the said railroad, in engineering and grading, for cross-ties and supplies, the aggregate sum of $70,000, as appears by an exhibit marked No. 3, filed with the said bill: that these and other creditors of the said company, whose claims exceed twenty-five thousand dollars, as appears by exhibit marked 3½: that the said company by a resolution of its Board of Directors, authorized S. S. Smoot, its President, to enter into an arrangement with its creditors named in exhibit 3, by which he was authorized to deposit the first mortgage bonds of the said company hereinbefore described, to the amount of $350,000, valued at the rate of twenty cents on the dollar, with Andrew Saks, Frank Hume and Horatio Browning, of Washington City, acting as a committee of the said creditors, in exhibit No 3, who received from the said S. S. Smoot the said bonds, and deposited them in the National Metropolitan Bank of Washington, D. C., who are holding the same.

That the said arrangement provided that said bonds should be delivered upon condition that if the said creditors did not pay the claims of the said creditors named in exhibit No. 3, on or before the 5th day of November, 1875, with interest at the rate of 8 per cent. per annum, that the said committee of creditors should have authority to sell the same for the purpose of paying the claims of the said creditors, and the surplus, if any, to the said company; but that the said S. S. Smoot never in fact signed the said agreement, and the said Robert Callahan avers and charges that the said agreement was procured to be made by the said S. S. Smoot, President of the said company, with the fraudulent intent and purpose to secure a delay in the settlement of the indebtedness due the said company, for the fraudulent purpose of disposing of and appropriating to his individual use, the bonds, assets and property of the said company. That he has fraudulently delivered to a certain N. G. Ordway, of New Hampshire, seven of said bonds to secure an individual indebtedness of the said S. S. Smoot, amounting to the sum of two thousand dollars; ten of the said bonds to Robert Cohen, of Washington City, to secure an individual indebtedness to him amounting to about the sum of $1,651 41; fifteen of said bonds to G. G. Cornwell, and other persons not known to the complainants, trading as G. G. Cornwell & Sons, to secure an individual indebtedness to said firm amounting to the sum of $2,928 36. That the said S. S. Smoot had sold and was engaged in removing a large number of the cross-ties of the said company, which had been placed on the line of their road as located, for the purpose of paying his individual debts to certain persons, and was wasting and converting to his own use the assets of the said corporation.

The bill further charges that the said Southern Maryland Railroad Company is entirely insolvent and unable to pay the debts and liabilities due by them to their creditors, and unable to proceed with construction of their said road; and the said Robert Callahan charges in the amended bill that the said agreement with the creditors of the said corporation for the deposit of the said bonds was accepted by them upon the assurance made by the said S. S. Smoot, that the real indebtedness of the company only amounted to the sum of $42,710 33 as contained in exhibit, R. Callahan, A—and only $10,000 00 of the company's bonds had been issued, fraudulently concealing from the said creditors the true amount of the indebtedness of the said company, which he well knew largely exceeded the said amount, and the issue of the aforesaid bonds as herein stated; and that he made certain other false and fraudulent statements in regard to the said matter, and the indebtedness of the said company; that the said Smoot had delivered to a certain E. Galetti, whose claim was not included in the said arrangement, certain of the said bonds to secure a private indebtedness of the said Smoot to him, amounting to $1,500 00; that he had delivered to a certain M. M. Rounds, G. D. Smith, G. D. Smith & Company, W. H. Holt, and C. G. Morrison, a certain number of the said bonds to secure the payment of certain claims which are particularly set forth in the said bill, amounting in the aggregate to $39,794 14, in which said claims the said S. S. Smoot, President; E. N. Darling and W. H. Holt, Directors of the said company, are interested; but which said claims are alleged to be false and spurious, and not founded on any proper contract by any contractor or contractors, with the said company or any of its officers or agents duly authorized to make the same.

The bill and amended bill further states, that contrary to law the office of the said Southern Maryland Railroad Company, is and has been located in Washington City, where the meetings of the Stockholders and Directors of the said company has been held, since and prior to the execution of the said mortgage or deed of trust and where its directors were elected, who elected the said S. S. Smoot, President, and Chas. H. Winder, Secretary of the said company, who signed the said bonds and executed the said deed of trust or mortgage to secure the payment of the same; and that the meeting of stockholders which authorized the issuing of the said $2,200 00 of the said bonds of the said company was held in the said city; that the said bonds, and the said mortgage or deed of trust, were not duly and legally executed, and are not entitled to any preference in payment out of the assets of the said company, and ought to be declared null and void.

The claims of the complainants are particularly set forth in the [illegible] bill, and several petitions, by which some of them were made parties subsequent to the filing of the bill and amended bill. In addition to a decree for the sale of the property, assets and purchases of the said railroad company, the said bill and amended bill prays for the appointment of receivers to take charge of the property and assets of the company pending the suits; for an injunction against the said railroad company, its President, Directors, Officers and Agents, enjoining and prohibiting them from selling or disposing of any of the said bonds of the said company, or negotiating any bill or note of the said company, or contracting any debt or account thereof, or selling or removing any of the said cross-ties or property of the said company, or intermeddling in any manner with the business thereof, or retaining from the receivers any of the bonds, property, assets, papers, books or accounts of the said company; for an injunction against the said Southern Maryland Railroad Company, the said S. S. Smoot, Frank Hume, Andrew Saks and Horatio Bowing, the National Metropolitan Bank of Washington City, N. G. Ordway, Robert Cohen, G. G. Cornwell, trading as G. G. Cornwell & Sons, E. Galletti, M. M. Round, G. D. Smith, G. D. Smith & Company, W. H. Holt, C. G. Morrison, E. N. Darling, W. H. Holt, Union Trust Co. of New York, and other persons holding said bonds as alleged in said bill, enjoining and prohibiting them from selling or disposing of the said bonds; and for a decree requiring them to discover the number of the said bonds respectively held by them, and for what purpose the said bonds are so held, and to bring the same into this Court to be cancelled or otherwise disposed of, if the Court shall so decree, and that the aforesaid persons shall make full discovery in reference to the matters and things stated in the said bill; and that the said persons and the said National Metropolitan Bank and the said Union Trust Company are non-residents in the State of Maryland.

It is thereupon adjudged and ordered that the complainants by causing a copy of this order to be inserted in some newspaper published in Prince George's county, once in each of four successive weeks before the 13th day of July, give notice to the said absent defendants, of the object and substance of this bill, and warn them to appear in this Court in person or by solicitor on or before the 14th day of October next, to answer the premises and show cause if any they have why a decree ought not to pass as prayed.

WEATHER REORD.—An interesting record is that of severe droughts dating back as far as the landing of the pilgrims. How many thousand times are observations made like the following? "Such a cold season;" "such a hot one;" "such dry weather," or "such hot weather," such high winds, or such calm, etc., etc. All those who think the dry spells we have, every few years, are the longest ever known, will do well to read the following:

In the summer of 1621, 24 days in succession without rain; in the summer of 1655, 75 days in succession without rain; in the summer of 1658, 80 day in succession without rain; in the summer of 1675, 45 days in succession without; rain; in the summer of 1689, 81 days in succession without rain; in the summer of 1694, 62 days in succession without rain; in the summer of 1705, 40 days in succession without rain; in the summer of 1715, 45 days in succession without rain; in the summer of 1720, 61 days in succession without rain; in the summer of 1730, 92 days in succession without rain, in the summer of 1741, 72 days in succession without rain; in the summer of 1749, 108 days in succession without rain; in the summer of 1755, 42 days in succession without rain; in the summer of 1762, 123 days in succession without rain; in the summer of 1772, 80 days in succession without rain; in the summer of 1791, 92 days in succession without rain; in the summer of 1802, 24 days in succession without rain; in the summer of 1812, 28 days in succession without rain; in the summer of 1821, 21 days in succession without rain; in the summer of 1856, 24 days in succession without rain; in the summer of 1871, 42 days in succession without rain; in the summer of 1874, 26 days in succession without rain; in the summer of 1875, 28 days in succession without rain.

It will be seen that the longest drought that ever occured in America was in the summer of 1762. No rain fell from the first of May to the first of September, making 123 days without rain. Many of the inhabitants sent to England for hay and grain.

☞ A butcher of some eminence was lately in company with several ladies at a game of whist, when, having lost two or three rubbers, one of the ladies, addressing him, asked: "Pray, sir, what are the stakes now?" "Madam, the best rump I cannot sell for less than twenty cents a pound."

Tilden and [illegible]

The reception lately [illegible] ernor Hendricks in N[illegible] was the occasion for a large [illegible] known democrats of [illegible]. Mr. Tilden was present [illegible] duced spoke as follows: [illegible] ing, the special occasion of which was the presence in this city of Mr. Hendricks and of Governor Robinson and Lieutenant-Governor Dorsheimer. One of your guests, Mr. Hendricks, embarks to-morrow on a foreign excursion for rest and recreation. He will carry with him our best wishes for a prosperous voyage, pleasant visit and a safe return, and for the health and happiness of himself and family. I have been availing myself, for similar purposes, of a brief interval, and find myself now with some reluctance, drawn away from those private pursuits. But the occasion and the apparent general expectation seem to require that I should say a word in respect to public affairs, and especially that I should allude to the transaction which in my judgement is the most portentous event in our political history.—Everybody knows that after the recent election the men who were elected by the people President and Vice-President of the United States were "counted out," and men who were not elected were "counted in" and seated. I disclaim any thought of the personal wrong involved in this transaction. Not by any act or work of mine shall that be dwarfed or degraded into a personal grievance which is, in truth, the greatest wrong that has stained our national annals. To every man of the four and a quarter millions who were defrauded of the fruits of their elective franchise it is as great a wrong as it is to me.—And no less to every man of the minority will the ultimate consequences extend. Evils in government grow by success and by impunity. They do not arrest their own progress. They can never be limited except by external forces. If the men in possession of the Government can in one instance maintain themselves in power against an adverse decision at the elections, such an example will be imitated. Temptation exists always. Devices to give the color of law and false pretenses on which to found fraudulent decisions will not be wanting. The wrong will grow into a practice if condoned—if once condoned. In the world's history, changes in the succession of governments have usually been the result of fraud or force. It has been our faith and our pride that we had established a mode of peaceful change to be worked out by the agency of the ballot-box. The question now is whether our elective system, in its substance as well as its form, is to be maintained. This is the question of questions. Until it is finally settled there can be no politics founded on inferior questions of administrative policy. It involves the fundamental right of the people. It involves the elective principle. It involves the whole system of popular government. The people must signally condemn the great wrong which has been done to them. They must strip the example of everything that can attract imitators. They must refuse a prosperous immunity to crime. This is not all. The people will not be able to trust the authors or beneficiaries of the wrong to devise remedies. But when those who condemn the wrong shall have the power they must devise the measure which shall render a repetition of the wrong forever impossible. If my voice could reach throughout our country and be heard in its remotest hamlet, I would say: "Be of good cheer. The republic will live. The institutions of our fathers are not to expire in shame. The sovereignty of the people shall be rescued from this peril and re-established." Successful wrong never appears so triumphant as on the very eve of its fall. Seven years ago a corrupt dynasty culminated in its power over the 1,000,000 of people who live in the city of New York. It had conquered or bribed, or flattered and won almost everybody into acquiescence. It appeared to be invincible. A year or two later its members were in the penitentiaries or in exile. History abounds in similar examples. We must believe in the right and in the future. A great and noble nation will not sever its political from its moral life.

Mr. Tilden was enthusiastically cheered at the close of his speech, which was frequently interrupted by cheering and clapping af hands and, bowing repeatedly in response, he stepped into the ante-room, where he was cordially congratulated.

Mr. Vanderpoel, then said: "Gentlemen, Mr. Hendricks leaves to-morrow to regain in foreign travel the health and strength which enabled him to go through the last political campaign. I am sure you wish to hear him."

Mr. Hendricks then delivered the following address. His manner was calm, and rather judicial than oratorical. His words, evidently weighed carefully, were listened to with the most profound attention, and were frequently interrupted with hearty applause. He said:

"GENTLEMEN I thank you for the honor you do me. I appreciate it in part as an expression of personal respect and confidence, but more as a declaration and assurance of your support of the principles and policies of which, in honorable association with your distinguished citizen, I was made a representative in the political contest of last year. I beg to assure you that I appreciate the honor you show me, the more highly because of your devotion to the political principles which experience has shown to be essential to the preservation of good and pure government and the prosperity of the people. [illegible] demanded a restoration of local self-government in all the States where it had been denied. They insisted upon a reduction throughout the entire public service, and expenditures, not of hundreds, nor yet of thousands, but of many millions annually. Therein was involved also a great reduction of the vast array of office-holders, and the substitution of honest for dishonest administration. Contending for results so notably right and honorable, their cause was grand and their victory glorious.—I will not disturb the pleasure of this occasion by undertaking to recount the means whereby the will and judgment of the people were defeated. The result as declared in Indiana and in Florida and in Washington is not and cannot be made satisfactory to the country, for the obvious reason that it was not true. A great and sincere people will rest their judgment only upon truth, and never upon fraud successful through technicality. Even should the President and his Cabinet adopt a part or the whole of policies and purposes for which the democratic party has been contending for many years, and which became so distinctly defined last year, even that cannot remove or quiet the public discontent.

The Democrats will make no factious opposition nor will they seek to embarrass the de facto Administration, but will sustain it in what is right, because it is right, and for the welfare of the country, and not at all because of any fealty to the party that stands defeated and condemned by the people. The people cannot allow the selection of their chief magistrates to become a thing of chance or of sharp practice. The "fraud first triumphant in American history" must be assigned to its proper place among the crimes against popular government, and made so odious that no party will dare to attempt its repetition. He who is elected President must be inaugurated. Until that is settled and made sure no Democrat can be seduced from his devotion and allegiance by the allurements of office, nor even by the stronger appeal in the abandonment by the Administration of vicious principles and dangerous policies, and the adoption of better doctrines and just measures. Democrats will not intrust their most cherished principles to the keeping of the power which is attained by vicious and corrupt means. They will the rather continue their faith in the right of the majority to rule in accordance with constitutional provision. All Democrats rejoice with unbounded joy that free republican governments are once more allowed to the States of South Carolina and Louisiana. They rejoice in the good fruits that must follow. They know that peace and good order will prevail; that capital will be made secure and labor safe, contented and happy; that enterprise will revive and the evil burdens of bad government and public corruption will be lifted from the shoulders of labor, and that production will increase and lands advance in price. But they know that—in the language of Governor Morton—it had become inevitable. Good government in the States was not a free-will offering upon the altar of the country. For years the Democrats had contended, in Congress and before the people, for free republican States throughout the South. And finally it became "inevitable," because the right and truth were too strong to be longer suppressed. In this Democrats find a reason to stand firmly with their party. Out of power, with no patronage to dispense and no money to distribute, but animated by the spirit of our institutions and inspired by the sentiment of the right of local self-government, as inherent in the people, the Democratic party during the past ten years has restored one State after another, until now the tread of the soldiery is heard in no legislative hall, but in every State the people are governed by laws of their own enacting and by officers of their own chosing. My fellow-citizens, my home is in the West, and my associations have been with the people of that section. Among you I am personally almost a stranger, yet I am received by you with open arms and cordial greeting. Need I say that I am gratified because of this fact? It has more than a personal significance. Does it not proclaim that we entertain no sectional political sentiments, and that we will have no sectional policies? Some may think we should have an Eastern policy, and others that it should be Western. But it seems to me that a New Yorker and an Indianian should understand it better than that, and that our legislative and administrative polity should be as broad and comprehensive as the industries and trade and commerce which it may affect. Does the trade of the great cities of the Atlantis stop with the mountains! Does it not reach beyond the Mississippi and across the Missouri? Every new home that is built upon the receding border, every new farm that is made far out even within the shadow of the Rocky Mountains, and every additional bale of cotton that is produced in Louisiana and Texas, adds something to the great[illegible] and wealth of New York and Boston and Philadelphia and Baltimore. Is there a New Yorker who, as he walks up and down this great Broadway, hears and feels only the throbbings of a local commerce? [illegible] the narrow bounds and habits of his life and visit the great cotton and grain growing regions; nor let him stop until he hears the waves of the Pacific [illegible] shores of California [illegible] plicated relations of the interests which are affected by the financial and commercial policy of the country. Successful enterprise and development in remote parts of the country are as certainly and almost as directly connected with the prosperity of this city as are the permanent and valuable improvements upon your more distant streets. I have said this under the influence of the sentiment that, in respect to production and trade, the East and the West and the South are one; and that a wise and just policy will alike and almost equally promote the prosperity of each. Your judgment should be as comprehensive as the influence of your commerce, and as far reaching as the distant lines of your trade. I have but one word more. The outrage—not upon me, not upon Governor Tilden, but upon the people—will, as has been suggested, work its own reform. I have no fear. Even if the Administration now wrongfully in possession adopts Democratic ideas, they will never conquer the approval of the people. If a man wrongfully takes possession of a piece of land belonging to another man, it is no argument in his favor to say that the man in possession will cultivate it better than the owner. This will be corrected in 1880 by overwhelming Democratic majorities in all the States. I can say of 1880 that Indiana will do her duty."

PASTURING CATTLE ON THE HIGHWAY.—The Philadelphia *Times* in a recent article says it is popularly supposed that the fruit and grass growing along a public road are public property. This is not the case. Every person has the right to pass along the road but has no right to the products growing by the roadside. Whenever the traveller, or cattle or hogs running at large, diverge on either side of the limits of the road they become trespassers. The true office of outside fences, and of all fences, is not to keep out the stock of a neighbor but to keep in one's own. Much is said of the cruelty of preventing the poor man from turning his cow out in the public road; but it seems that in strict equity the right to turn cattle at large does not exist, and again, it is well known that the road cow is mostly addicted to fence breaking and to jumping, and is, therefore, a great nuisance. Every person who turns his stock into the public road, for the purpose of pasturing them, does so at the risk of having them impounded by the owner of the land alongside of which they may be found.

REFRIGERATORS AND HOW TO MAKE ONE.—Take a large, tight box of the required size, and put some blocks on each corner for legs. Then take a small box, leaving a space of at least six inches on the sides and bottom.—Place a layer of powdered charcoal, fine sawdust, or some other good non-conductor upon the bottom and set the smaller box in. Then pack the charcoal or sawdust all about in the space between the two to the top. Make a closely fitting cover for each box. The ice should be placed in the box in some tin vessel, so arranged that the water will run off through the bottom of both boxes. If such a refrigerator is tightly and well make and placed in a cool place, 100 pounds of ice will last a week in it.

☞The Ostrich can travel immense distances, though its range of feeding is ordinarily limited to a space of 20 or 30 miles from its headquarters. It can run at the rate of 46 miles in the hour. It can dispense with water, though fond of bathing, and nothing comes amiss to it in the shape of food—"seeds, berries, fruit, grass leaves, beetles, locusts, small birds and animals, lizards, and snakes"—the process of trituration and digestion being aided by "sand, stones, grit, bones, and even pieces of metal."

THE CUSTOM OF SHAKING HANDS.—"This, as well as most modern forms of salutation and civility, was derived from war, and they all betoken some deference, as from a conquered person to the conqueror. Shaking hands was a token of truce, in which each party took hold of the other's *weapon-hand* as a security against treachery. Each hand was deprived of its gauntlet, so that they might be alike unprotected, and to this day it is uncivil to offer a gloved hand in salutation."

☞ Dr. Lawson, late Surgeon-General of the United States army, says he often observed that when wolves and buzzards came upon the battle-fields to devour the slain, they would not disturb the bodies of those who had chewed or smoked tobacco, until they had consumed all the others.

☞ To make a girl love you, coax her to love somebody else. If there be anything that a woman relishes, it is to be on the contrary side.

THE MEXICAN QUESTION.

It is extremely important for this country that the Mexican question should not be obscured by irrelevant abuse of the Hayes Government or by political [illegible] course of recent events has been quite[illegible] ly irrelevant. There is no mystery in the question. It is not like the [illegible] that only one man besides himself had ever known anything about it, and that the other man had been dead for years. Mexican telegrams and letters are not usually read with much attention by the American citizen. But we may presume most adults in these parts now to know that Mexico has a President *de facto* in Diaz, who won possession of the Federal capital by force of arms and now holds it, and a President *de jure* in Lerdo de Tejada, who was compelled by superior force to abdicate his functions and to seek refuge in the United States. President Lerdo de Tejada, though now in exile, has abated none of his claims, is represented near the Mexican frontier in Texas by an accomplished soldier, General Escobedo, and is prepared on the first apparent opportunity to foment a counter-revolution against *de facto* President Diaz.

Against any Mexican Government, whether *de facto* or *de jure*, established at the Federal capital, revolutionary movements are almost invariably initiated along the line of the Rio Grande frontier. And this for many reasons.—That region is most readily accessible by exiled pretenders; it is more remote from the central Federal power, in point of time and transportation, than Oregon is from Washington; and finally it is haunted by a population of robbers and rievers, organized under regular leaders, neither fearing God nor regarding man, and prefering, like borderers all over the world, to live by plunder rather than by honest industry. The clans of Cortina and other robber chiefs are not only constantly recruited from the desperate and lawless of all factions: they have regular business relations with the traders and with the towns of all the northern line, and they have a rich field of operations beyond the Texas frontier. Naturally, therefore, these states on the line of the Rio Grande are more important to any Federal Government in Mexico, and need to be more carefully watched and more skilfully dealt with by any Federal Government, than any other states in the republic.

The case of Cortina himself best illustrates this. After his conduct had forced even the conciliatory Secretary Fish into exerting a serious pressure on the then established Government of President Lerdo, he was boldly and cleverly captured at one of his strongholds and taken to Mexico for trial and punishment. But he was neither tried nor punished. His adherents, in order to liberate him, made themselves active in support of the Diaz movement, and after Diaz triumphed, Cortina was left so much at large in the City of Mexico that he one day dashed off to reach his old haunts. Diaz learned that he had done this with a view to raising the Lerdist banner, and therefore caused him to be closely pursued. As our Mexican correspondent has just informed us, he was recaptured and carried back to Mexico.

President Lerdo, in his protest against the reasonable and necessary orders given to General Ord, doubtless intended to propitiate the chronic revolutionists of the border region, which, these orders are certain, if faithfully executed, to reduce to law and honest industry. If General Diaz has assured our Government that he will direct his officers to cooperate with Generel Ord it has probably been because he is not indisposed to see the United States break down these chronic revolutionists who plunder Texas in order to disorganize Mexico.

Nothing, therefore, can be more clear than that the present situation in Mexico offers the United States an opportunity of which it is our bounden duty to avail ourselves for bringing about such a definite and durable understanding with Mexico on the subject of the police of our borders as shall put an end forever to a State of things equally inconsistent with the progress and prosperity of our own southwestern empire and with political stability and material development in Mexico.

The Administration by its recent orders has simply taken up the thread of Democratic policy where it was broken off in 1860 by the outburst of our own civil war. It has formally and solemnly certified to the country that the condition of our territory bordering on Mexico is such as cannot be suffered to exist any longer without gross injustice to our own citizens and positive dishonor to the nation. Every man of intelligence who has investigated the subject knows this to be the exact truth. It is the plain duty, therefore, of every patriotic American not simply to sustain the Government in the demand it has made upon Mexico for effective cooperation in putting an end to this unendurable state of things on our southwestern frontier, but to insist that with or without the cooperation of Mexico an end shall be put to it.—*N. Y. World.*

☞ Too much idleness, I have observed, fills up a man's time much more completely, and leaves him less his own master, than any sort of employment whatever.