

THE AMERICAN.

WASHINGTON, JULY 31, 1857.

Cardinal Maxims.

- 1st. The Federal Union must be maintained. 2d. The reserved rights of the States must be respected. 3d. The decisions of the Supreme Court must be enforced. 4th. A union of Church and State must be prevented. 5th. The rights of conscience must be guaranteed. 6th. American interests must be promoted. 7th. An American nationality must be established. 8th. Sectional agitation must be terminated. 9th. Foreign paupers and criminals must be excluded. 10th. The naturalization laws must be amended. 11th. "Squatter sovereignty" and alien suffrage must be repudiated. 12th. Americans must rule America.

To ADVERTISERS.—Our terms of advertising will be, for the first insertion, five cents per line, for each subsequent insertion two-and-a-half cents. All who favor us in this respect, shall have attention called to their advertisements, and from time to time special notices of their places of business and stock in trade.

TERMS.—The American will be issued twice a week, on Wednesday and Saturday morning. As soon as the advertising patronage will warrant, it will be issued three times a week. Price per week, as Semi or Tri-weekly, Five Cents.

All communications relating to the publication of this paper, must be addressed to C. W. FENTON, Washington, D. C.

This number is not to be considered a fair specimen of what our paper will be. We have, as yet, no exchanges, consequently we are deficient in news. Our arrangements are very imperfect, too, as regards city news. All these things will be perfected in time.

Americans, our paper is now before you. Its regular publication will be commenced one week from the date of the present number, if, within that interval, you yield us the hearty and combined support which is necessary for our success and your defence and encouragement, and which we are persuaded it is in your power to do, and believe you will do. Throw your apprehensions to the winds—buckle on your armor, and let your oppressors see and feel that you are men, worthy descendants of revolutionary sires, and that you are determined that the sons of American fathers—your children and your children's children, and their posterity forever, shall rule the land, your father rescued from the grasp of tyranny and oppression.

We ask all who feel an interest in the success of our enterprise to bestir themselves in the several localities in procuring subscribers and advertisements for the American. As it is impossible for us to be everywhere at one and the same time, though we shall render ourselves as nearly ubiquitous as it is possible for us to do, we look for the friends of the American cause, to forward to our place of business, which for the present is the office of the late American Organ, their communications, lists, and whatever else they may deem important or necessary for us to know or possess. Information in regard to city events, accidents, items of news, and matters of general interest, may be conveyed to us, thus saving us much labor, time, and expense. Our success depends upon the activity, liberality, and fidelity, of the members and friends of the American party. The time will come, when you, now persecuted and oppressed, if faithful to yourselves, will be triumphant over your enemies and persecutors. You are now undergoing a fiery trial—you are being tried in the crucible of persecution—but you shall come out like gold from the refiner's fire. The clouds that now loom over your political firmament, and discharge their wrathful contents upon your defenseless heads, will break away, and you shall rejoice in the sunshine of unclouded day.

CRIMINAL COURT.

The reports of the city papers, of the examinations now going on before this Court in relation to the doings of "Bloody Monday," are incorrect in many respects. We have made arrangements to give in a future number a verbatim et literalis report of the examinations and speeches made during the trial. It is utterly impossible to furnish a correct report for this number of our paper.

In some of these papers, it is stated that Judge Ellis, one of the counsel for the accused, was several times called to order by the Court, his Honor (Judge Crawford) saying that "politics was out of order in a judicial investigation."

The facts are these—Mr. Ellis stated that the prosecuting attorney had said that it mattered not whether the Marines were legally called out or not. Judge Crawford said that he did not so understand Mr. Kay.

CONSISTENCY.

Before the organization of the American party in Virginia, some members of the Democracy, not agreeing with the clique who usually nominated their candidates for office, thought proper to nominate an independent candidate for the Legislature, who was elected by a handsome majority over the regular nominee. This gentleman, because he was not born in the country which he was chosen to represent, but in the one adjoining, was taunted with being a foreigner.

In the same country, since the organization of the American party, a highly respectable gentleman, all his life a resident of the State, except a short period spent in the service of Government, and who returned to his native State immediately upon the expiration of his term of service under Government, but not to the county in which he was born, was nominated and elected to the magistracy; over the rest of the world he was exalted ones. After the election the hue and cry was raised from one end of the county to the other, "Who would have thought it—that fellow elected to fill an important office—he, one of our country, perhaps, to try our cases. He has been with us only a little over two years. Just long enough to get a residence—and now has been taken up by the 'bloody Know Nothings,' and placed on a footing with our best citizens."

"Consistency, thou art a jewel!" The very men, so abusive of those who voted for these gentlemen, are now the bitter opponents of Americans, because they are determined not to have the scum of Europe to reign and rule over them.

Flour is quoted at Leavenworth, Kansas, at \$4.00 to \$4.50 per hundred, with a downward tendency.

A case of bona fide yellow fever occurred in Philadelphia, on Monday last. The victim was John Davis, mate of the bark E. K. Kane, from Havana, who died in that city, having the black vomit, and all the other indications of the disease.

OURSELF.

We lay before you, this morning, fellow-citizens, the first number of "The American," a newspaper designed to promote the interests of the American party, and in doing so, the best interests of our country, for we believe them identical. Some six weeks since, it was announced that a paper was about to be commenced, bearing the same title, under the conduct of Mr. Watson. This project, after much delay, was finally abandoned, and a clear field opened to the enterprise and industry of any one who chose to occupy it. At the solicitation of many friends of the American cause, we have been induced to occupy the position thus abandoned, and the sheet which we to-day spread before you is the result of that determination.

We believe that a paper devoted to the American cause can be sustained at the seat of Government, and we know that it is of the utmost importance that there should be an American Journal emanating from the metropolis of the nation, and circulating throughout the length and breadth of our free republic.

The position of the American party of Washington, hemmed in as it is between the General and Municipal Governments—its members persecuted, reviled, imprisoned—denied the means of earning bread for their wives and children—shot down in the public streets by United States troops whilst peaceably assembled to witness and render at their presence at the polls on the day of election—denied even the poor satisfaction of an investigation into the atrocious conduct of the Mayor of the city on the first of June last—the country flooded with statements false and unfounded, charging upon the American party the causes which led to these disastrous results—helpless, but not hopeless—imperatively demands the publication of a paper whose columns will refute the slanders of its enemies; and defend the principles which animate them to perpetual vigilance, and which will certainly lead them to assured and complete triumph.

Such a paper, Americans of Washington, is now offered to you. Will you support it? The success of the enterprise depends upon yourselves. If you prefer the present state of things—if you are content to be slaves—if you are willing to kiss the rod that smites you, and ignobly submit to insult, abuse and oppression, so be it. We have only this to say—that you will be rightly served, and we do most earnestly hope and pray that your oppressors may increase in vindictiveness and cruelty, until you are roused to resistance and defence, or are, as you will deserve to be, utterly prostrate in the dust, with the foot of tyranny upon your necks.

But you are the sons of Revolutionary sires—their blood courses through your veins and will animate you as it did them, to deeds of noble daring and heroic action.

The scenes which have been enacted among you during the past six weeks, are doubtless graven upon your hearts, and from the tablets of your memories may never be effaced. They are recorded elsewhere, that American citizens abroad may know, and feel, and sympathize with you.

Courage Americans! Trust in God! Your cause is just. This is your native land! Your fathers marched through blood and carnage, fighting to the death for freedom. They obtained it, you must maintain it at whatever cost, and to this you must pledge, as they did "your lives, your fortunes, and your sacred honors."

"BUCKSHOT WAR."

Who has not heard of the "Buckshot War?" the designation given to the attempt of Governor Ritner of Pennsylvania to preserve the peace and protect the Legislature of that State against the Finnish assault of an infuriated gang of rowdies, brought to Harrisburg from the outskirts of Philadelphia, who were a disgrace to the human form, and whose conduct more resembled a horde of demons turned loose from pandemonium than human beings.

Governor Ritner was compelled to call out some companies of militia to enforce law and order and protect the persons of Legislators. The Democrats at the time raised the hue-and-cry against this proceeding and denominated it "the Buckshot War;" that hue-and-cry is indeed kept up to the present day. But though some companies of volunteer militia (not regular U. S. troops) were called out at that time, we are not aware that they were ordered to fire, even upon the gangs of rowdies assembled at Harrisburg who were threatening death and destruction to every Whig in existence.

But we live in an age of progress; now a government thinks it beneath its dignity to call upon the militia to enforce order; nothing short of regular United States troops—all or nearly all, foreigners to be sure,—"the Pretorian Guards," will do; and when called out there must be no sham work about it,—no fictitious "Buckshot War," but a real bona fide one, and the people must be made to feel and know that when the Mayor of Washington, backed by the Federal Government, orders out the United States troops, it is not for a gala day parade, nor for nothing. No! having loaded their muskets with one ball and three buckshot each, and marched out, they are not to march back again without making themselves felt, nor are so many balls and buckshot to be put into their muskets merely to be taken out again. No, no, neither the Mayor, the President, nor the "Irish Brigade" is to be thus balked, and therefore, though the Pretorian cohorts found all quiet and peaceable at the polls, the muskets must be fired, and somebody must fall; and fall they did.

As to the result of this "Buckshot War," the public here are pretty well advised, notwithstanding the super-human efforts of a packed Grand Jury to cover everything up but the terrible "Plug Uglies"—those five hundred "men in buckram,"—and to throw dust in the eyes of all who desired to get at the real facts of the case. One or two Americans were killed and wounded; all the rest, eight or ten were Democrats.

We trust a true and faithful history of the Washington "Buckshot War," (in which the gallant acts of a drunken Mayor and a redoubtable Captain, since brevetted a Major for his heroism on that trying occasion, shall be duly chronicled) will in due time be given to the world; it will be an invaluable acquisition to our historical literature.

The Coroner's Jury investigating the facts connected with the burning of the Steamer Montreal, running between Quebec and Montreal, have rendered a verdict declaring that the boat was not equipped in the manner required by law; that the owner and master are chargeable with the crime of manslaughter. They also recommend that it be made imperative upon owners of steamboats to have the encasements of boilers constructed of iron instead of wood, and that the law regarding the inspection of boilers be rigidly enforced.

The main line of the Pennsylvania canal has become the property of the Pennsylvania Central Railroad Company.

THE BAYONET AND THE BULLET AT THE BALLOT-BOX.

The calling out of the regular troops (Marines) by the President of the United States, and their shooting down offending citizens—boys and children—at an election poll in the city of Washington, as was done on the 1st of June, strikes the people of England and France—those monarchical countries whose subjection to the military power we so much deplore—with utter astonishment. What would have been the indignation and denunciation anathemas of the America Democracy, and the "Irish Brigade" against the British Queen or the French Emperor, had either of them called out a military force, and ordered regular troops to fire into a peaceable crowd of people attending the polls in London or Paris. There would have been a united burst of denunciation swelling up from every city, town and hamlet of this country, and the warmest sympathy would have been expressed for the oppressed people thus subject to arbitrary and tyrannical power; large meetings would have been held, windy patriots would have poured forth scorching diatribes upon monarchical governments, flaming resolutions would have been brought in and passed by acclamation, and "the poor down-trodden people" of France or England would have been invited to leave their accursed country, escape from the grinding oppression of the arbitrary and tyrannical government under which they were born, and come to "the land of liberty and equality," where the inalienable rights of man are known, recognized, respected and protected, and where men exercise the right of suffrage without the fear of the bayonet or the bullet in the hands of regular trained bands, household troops, or imperial guards.

By the laws of England no regular troops are allowed to approach within four miles of any election poll while an election is progressing; such is the jealousy with which the people of that kingdom guard the freedom of elections; and yet here, in this land of liberty, at the seat of Government, what have we seen? Regular troops ordered to the polls on the day of an election, when all was quiet, and the voting proceeding as orderly as could be desired, and these "Royal Guards" ordered to fire among those gathered at and in the vicinity of the polls and passing at the moment.

No wonder the papers in Europe speak of this transaction with amazement and horror. But the wonder is that such an outrage, perpetrated here at noon day, under the very eyes of the Capitol of this "great model Republic," should not only not have called forth a universal burst of indignant condemnation from the whole American people and the American press, the professed guardians of our liberties, but that instead of such a manifestation, the outrage should excite the plaudits of a large portion of the people, and three-fourths of the papers published in the United States.

The time was when we used to read in history, accounts of the tyrannous acts of those in power in the Grecian, Roman and other Republics, and wonder why the people would thus tamely, and cowardly submit to such tyranny; why they did not at once punish those who thus trampled upon and oppressed them. But since we have seen their history acted over in our own country; since we have seen thousands and tens of thousands of people justifying the most outrageous, tyrannous, and oppressive acts, simply because they were perpetrated by their own party, and because to condemn the acts of their party leaders, no matter how they may outrage the rights of others, and set at defiance every principle of civil liberty, would be endangering their power and supremacy, we can fully understand why it was that Marins and Seylla were sustained by their respective adherents while they alternately drenched the streets of Rome with the blood of her best citizens, and prepared the way for Cesar and the Empire which was raised upon the ruins of Roman liberty, and its foundations secured by being drenched in the blood of all whose patriotism was a stumbling block to those who had command of the Pretorian Guards.

For the first time since the British troops were called out in Boston and fired upon the people of that patriotic city, have troops—regular United States soldiers—been lately called out and ordered to fire upon the people in the peaceable exercise of the rights and duties of freemen, here in this city, bearing the name of Washington. And the officer who commanded them, instead of being indicted as the British officer was in Boston for murder, has been promoted from a Captain to a Major. Ye Gods!

SUBLIME OR RIDICULOUS.

It is funny to see the Star and the States run a daily race of adulation, each hastening to go down on its knees before the President and cry out lustily, "Great is Diana of Ephesus!" "Great is Mr. Buchanan, the President! Oh, immaculate man! deign to look down upon thy humble, servile, willing slaves and laudators; permit them to lick the dust from thy feet, to pick a few crumbs from thy table, and to pocket a few pennies which our dear Uncle Sam will never miss from his overflowing Treasury."

Not an appointment is made, but forthwith both these honest and disinterested papers go into ecstasies on account of the great wisdom and sagacity shown in selecting that individual, the only one in the world exactly fitted for it. Wonderful President! But the appointee declines, and another is appointed; and then, up go the hands, and raised to Heaven are the eyes of the two editors in mute astonishment, that the President should have discovered the wonderful fitness and splendid qualities of the last appointee for the station to which he had been assigned! Wonderful! wonderful! wonderful!

LATEST NEWS.

A renewal of the war in Kansas. The beginning of a war in the Democratic party at the South.

Continued anarchy in New York. A war, or general "skirmish" among the harmonious, untrifled Democracy of Baltimore. Two Conventions sitting in St. Paul, to form a Constitution for the State of Minnesota; the Democratic Convention being led by hot-headed advisers, have put themselves in the "vocate," and given the Republicans a decided advantage.

The Government troops in trying to catch Billy Bowlegs, or some other Indian chief and his twenty or thirty followers, including six squaws, fifteen papoosees and two runaway negroes, in Florida, have been outfitted, foiled, and sent away. Better send them here to shoot down peaceable, unarmed citizens at the polls.

The Indians threatening to drive off or massacre the other settlements in Minnesota. Government has been called upon for troops to protect these settlements, but the Mayor of Washington says no; they are wanted here to protect the polls against the awful "Plug Uglies."

The truest sentiment ever read at a public dinner was: "Hoops and the Equator—Crimoline and the Equinoctial Line, God bless 'em! The one encircles the earth, the other the heavens!"

THE REIGN OF ANARCHY, LAWLESSNESS, AND CRIME.

There is scarcely a paper upon which we cast our eyes that is not more or less occupied with accounts of murder, assassination, burglary, robbery, assaults with intent to kill, and almost every other crime known to the laws, as well as with statements of resistance to the constituted authorities, beating and killing the officers whose duty it is to execute the law and preserve the public peace, by gangs of ruffians and scoundrels unwhipped of justice, perhaps but lately inmates of some penitentiary, or those who ought to have been years ago.

Is there any part of the country where the laws are enforced, crime properly punished, and order preserved, as they ought to be and were in the "better days of the Republic?" If so, we are not aware of it; on the contrary, the spirit of lawlessness has spread over the whole land and pervades every part of the country—not cities alone, those festering sores of a State—but even the rural districts.

Is this the result anticipated by our patriotic fathers who won our independence, and established the right of the people to govern themselves, believing them capable of doing so wisely and efficiently? If it is, then were they most woefully deceived as to the intelligence of the people of this country, and their capability of governing themselves.

What true-hearted American is there who does not blush with shame at the light in which we are now beheld by the moral, religious, and intelligent portion of the people of all nations, through the doings of our courts, and the columns of our own public press. Americans residing abroad suffer the greatest mortification from the accounts with which our papers teem of crime and anarchy, and their cheeks crimson at the comments made by those around them, and by the foreign press. "And this," say the latter, "is the boasted land of law and liberty. Their law is the law of strongest—of the mob, of the pistol, the bowie knife and the rifle; and their liberty is licentiousness—the right to do as they please, to set at defiance all legal restraint, to respect no rights of person or property, to run riot in anarchy."

If the lawlessness which now pervades all parts of the country, and which would be a disgrace to barbarians, is the legitimate result of the "great experiment" our fathers commenced, to see whether the people were capable of self-government, then it has been tried and found to be a failure.

But we contend that this is not the legitimate solution of that great problem. We believe that if to Americans, and Americans only, or Americans and such intelligent, moral, upright, order-loving and law-abiding naturalized citizens as we have among us, of whom there are not a few, were committed the destinies of our country—the worthless vagabonds poured out upon us by tens of thousands from the prisons and poor-houses of Europe, were excluded from the polls, especially in our large cities, where, by acting in a body together, and as organized cohorts of locomotive and omnipresent voters, they have everything their own way, very different would be the character of our country. We cannot go into extended remarks upon this subject at the present time, but we appeal to the recollection and experience of every honest American of forty years of age and upward, if the increase of crime and lawlessness in our country has not kept pace with the increase of immigration?

That the root of the evil lies in the fact that foreigners and not Americans rule our country, we have not the least doubt; and if we are correct in this opinion, and we know many enlightened Democrats who concur with us in this view of the subject, then there can be no cure but in eradicating it. Like a cancer, it must be wholly and entirely cut out, or it will continue to grow and spread until it destroys the body upon which it has made its fatal lodgment; this, however, can never be accomplished so long as the Democratic party can acquire or retain power, poll, and spoils by the aid of these "Irish brigades" and "foreign mercenaries," and secure their allegiance by upholding them in their violation of law and order.

Afraid of the Responsibility.

Not daring to own that they gave the order to the foreign United States Marines, on the 1st of June, to fire on the peaceable citizens of Washington, Mayor Magruder and Captain—we beg pardon, we must not forget that he has been brevetted a Major for that gallant action—Major Tyler got a packed Grand Jury to slip their heads out of the halter, by declaring that neither of those distinguished and gallant officers gave the order to fire!

For what, then, was Captain Tyler brevetted? If neither he nor Magruder gave the order, how came the foreign troops to fire so regularly by platoons, and why did not Captain T. stop the firing? That would do. The blood of the murdered men is upon the heads of the Mayor or Major, and all great Neptune's ocean will not wash that blood clean from off their hands; rather will it, the multitudinous seas incarnadine, making the green, one red."

"If there is any difference between the native-born American and the naturalized foreigner in regard to voting, (which includes the ruling of the country,) it must be in favor of the foreigner." That is to say, until all the foreigners in the country who claim the right have voted, the native-born American must stand back, give place, and wait until every itinerant bogtrotter, and every pickpocket, burglar, robber, cut-throat scoundrel who has been kicked out of his country into this Botany Bay of the world, has marched up to the ballot-box and deposited his vote, though not able to speak a word of our language, or read or write his own, and who has not a dollar's interest in the country!

So says Judge Crawford, who seems to be ambitious to play the Spaniel to all the outcasts of the prisons and poor-houses of Europe.

QUEER.—Has a man who certifies that it was his intention to have voted for the Democratic candidate for a seat in the Board of Aldermen from the Fourth Ward, a right to vote without paying his school tax? Wander if the constitutional voters who swore so roundly that they were driven from the polls, and did not vote on the day of election, but whose votes were received by the Board of Aldermen, six or eight weeks subsequent to the day of election, in order to overcome the majority of a political opponent, elected by the people, and so declared by the proper authority. Wonder if they paid the school tax? It was their intention to have paid it. Oh! well, then, it is all right. O crakes! A new way to pay old debts! "Conscience, sir, it is an unparliamentary word." True, sir, Giles.

The cholera has broken out in the interior of San Salvador, and is raging frightfully—eighteen or twenty deaths occurring daily in the town of Sonsonate, out of a population of four thousand. The fish crop, cod and mackerel, is likely to be as abundant as those of wheat and grass.

"BLOODY MONDAY."

An article appeared in the Star of June 4th, written by a member of the Washington bar, pronouncing the meeting of citizens held in front of the City Hall on the Tuesday evening preceding, "a miserable attempt to renew, at a day not far distant, the horrible scenes of bloody Monday in Washington." There never was a more orderly and properly conducted meeting held in our city, than the one alluded to by the writer of this article, and yet he unblushingly stigmatizes it as an "attempt to renew the horrible scenes." The fact is, that since the perpetration of this "horrible" deed by the Mayor of Washington, instigated by the most unmanly and contemptible motive which can animate man, there has not appeared a single truthful statement in relation to that dark transaction in any of the papers published in Washington.

The Union, the States, the Star, and the Intelligence, have given to the public false and entirely erroneous statements—they have sought to manufacture a public opinion. Utterly regardless of the truth, they have represented a state of things as existing on that day in Washington, which called for and justified the action of the Mayor in the premises, when it is well known, and has been attested by the oaths of good and better men than Mayor Magruder ever was or can be, that there was not the slightest necessity for the action which resulted in the death of so many of our fellow-citizens.

The American party of Washington, having no means of getting the truth before the public, have been compelled to listen to and to read all these statements and miserable falsehoods which have been circulated over the Union to their prejudice, eagerly copied into Democratic papers with fresh comments, and added insult and injury, for the reason that there was not in our city a single editor who possessed sufficient manliness of character to say a word in defence of a people persecuted, maligned and trampled upon by the Democratic party, unfortunately dominant in city and State.

The people of Washington, including the friends and relations of the maimed and murdered citizens, were anxious to have an investigation into the matter, feeling that it was due to them as men, as fathers and brothers, to prosecute the matter to the end that justice might be done to the memories of the dead, falsely accused of rioting and inciting to riot, and in order that punishment might be visited upon the perpetrators of this vanity-impudently murder.

Upon the oaths of honorable men, witnesses of the whole transaction, a warrant was demanded for the arrest of the author of these murders—demanded in vain. There was not a magistrate to be found willing to issue the document. Some were deterred through fear—others were influenced by party motives, and thus was an investigation frustrated.

Members of the American party have been arrested on charges of riot, for words spoken in conversation, and they have been tried, pronounced guilty, and sentenced to one year's imprisonment in jail for rioting, notwithstanding there was not a jot or tittle of evidence upon which to convict them of the charges. The only evidence against them was for words spoken. Neither of these parties struck a blow, nor incited others to do so. One man swore that one of these men came to the polls at the head of a hundred men, which was proved to be unqualifiedly false. The testimony of men known to be members of the American party had no influence—it was cast aside, and the testimony of their enemies allowed to have undue weight. Verily, the times of the bloody Jeffries are revived in our land, for men, innocent of crime, save of belonging to the American party, are prejudged, condemned before trial, and regardless of evidence pronounced guilty, and sentenced to the extent of the law by an anti-American jury, and a Judge whose proclivities for Irish and Dutch are so strong as to induce him, when sentencing men for the crime of openly possessing to be Americans, to take the opportunity to tell the world that foreigners have a better right to the enjoyment of the elective franchise, than bona fide American citizens.

The fact is, that it has been altogether a one-sided affair. We know some Democrats who advised the Mayor against the use of the Marines, telling him that blood would inevitably be shed, and that there was no necessity for them, who after the murders had been perpetrated, defended the action which they before condemned, thus proving that their approval was superinduced by fear of consequences to that party, and showing that, to carry out their designs, success must be achieved at all hazards, regardless of law, decency, propriety, humanity—that to insure success, "the end justifies the means," however much the means employ may conduce to the shedding of blood—the perpetration of murder, or the suffering of humanity.

We repeat, and it has been abundantly shown, that there was no necessity for calling out the Marines in the first place, and in the second place, no necessity for the firing after they were called out, as has been admitted by members of their own party, and when the affair undergoes an impartial investigation, as most assuredly it will, it will be manifest that all the arrests which have been made, have been for the express purpose of giving a coloring of necessity to the action of Mayor Magruder, and to hoodwink the public abroad. Who are the men upon whose evidence before the Grand Jury, these men have been indicted? How is it that none of the Democratic Empire Club of Baltimore were arrested? And how is it that all who have been arrested happen to be members of the American party, and that not a member of the immaculate Democracy of Washington has been found guilty of an infringement of the peace of the city upon election day. The whole thing is perfectly transparent.

Who Fired the First Gun?

In conversation with a gentleman the other day, a man who is a comparative stranger in our city, and who belongs to that curious race of bipeds termed Yankees, he informed us that, being in Washington on the 1st of June last, and learning that the United States Marines were marching by Mayor Magruder at their head, to the polls in the Fourth Ward, he went thither, a totally disinterested party, for the special and sole purpose of noting, for his own satisfaction, who fired the first gun, satisfied, in his mind, that the presence of United States troops at such a time and place, must inevitably lead to such a catastrophe. He was present when and before the troops arrived, and watched with eager attention the whole of the proceedings, and he declares that there was no distant noise, no noise, no confusion, until after their appearance. He noticed the cannon in the market house and a vera that those who had it in charge were boys, and at the utmost did not number over twenty-five. He saw the Marines when they advanced to take possession of the cannon—he saw the boys fly as they advanced to the charge, and saw them take possession of the gun. He called the attention of a gentleman who stood

by his side, and bade him note the fact that the gun was captured without the firing of a shot. At this moment, the gun being in their possession, he saw the Marines raise their muskets to their shoulders and deliberately fire, turning in different directions, at all who were walking or hastening away from the neighborhood, apparently, as it seemed, singling them out, while another squad of men fired down Seventh street upon an assemblage of men, women, and children, peaceably and quietly standing at the corner of the street.

Here is the evidence of a man whose testimony, unimpaired by party bias, is entitled to unlimited confidence, as from his position in society, morality, and strict attention to the duties which he owes to God and man, he is worthy of the esteem and respect of all good men. And what is his evidence?

It is conclusive—convincing—crushing. It proves that, in the first place, there was no necessity for calling out the Marines.

It proves that, after they arrived upon the ground, there was nothing for them to do.

It proves that all was quiet until the charge was made upon the gun in possession of the boys.

It proves that the Marines did take possession of the gun.

It proves that, after they had possession, they immediately began to fire upon the people in different directions.

It proves that there was not a shot fired until the Marines, without a shadow of necessity or cause, fired upon the people.

It proves that, in applying to the President for United States troops to quell a riot that did not exist, of which he was fully aware, in company with one of his aids and advisers, he rode to the polls on his way to the Presidents, and hadocular demonstration that all was quiet; it proves, we say, that Mayor Magruder in thus acting, was influenced by motives for which the reason assigned was only a cover.

Supposing, for a moment, that there was reasonable cause, (which we utterly deny) for ordering out the military, why did he not call upon the volunteer force of the city, or rather why did he not accept their offered services? Why did he not accept the services of prominent men, civilians, who pledged themselves to maintain order and the peace of the city? But passing this by, the Marines having arrived on the ground, all being quiet, why did they commence a disturbance? Why, say you, to get possession of the cannon. Oh, very well. Well, then, after they had taken the cannon from the boys, and had entire control over it, was not that sufficient? Ought not that to have sufficed? Why fire upon the people? Why maim and murder them? The cause of the fire of the Mayor and his foreign posse (the cannon) had been removed. They had possession of it, and the people unarmed and helpless, were leaving the neighborhood. Why mercilessly shoot them down without the shadow of cause or the slightest provocation?

Men do not act without motive. Will it be said that the Mayor acted in this matter without motive. If so, then, in mere wantonness, in imitation of the tyrant Nero, who played the fiddle while the flames he caused to be kindled were consuming Rome—he ordered United States Marines to shoot his fellow citizens in the streets of Washington.

Let us look into this a little—perhaps a ray of light from the fountain of truth may dispel the gloom in which the subject is involved, and make plain the motives which influenced the Mayor, for we are willing to believe that he had a motive, bad though it was, but as we cannot expect the water to be clear and sweet which flows from a muddied fountain, so we shall be disappointed if we look for high and noble aims and pure motives from a corrupt and wicked heart.

After the murders in the Fourth Ward had been perpetrated, the Marines were marched to the City Hall, where they remained subject to the order of the Mayor. As a matter of course, citizens were attracted to the spot—they had a desire to look upon men in the uniform of the United States who had just hushed their hands in the blood of American citizens—they were the lions of the day. Was it not reasonable to presume that such would be the case? Had they not a right to look upon this band of murderers and their leader? Is there any law on the statute book prohibiting citizens of Washington to visit the City Hall, or any other part of our city, where there is anything which they deem worthy of seeing or hearing?

They do weekly assemble at the President's grounds and at the Capitol, to enjoy the music and each other's society. Have they not a right to do so?

There is something in the sight and smell of blood—there is a fascination about the presence of shedders of human blood—there is that in the countenance of the murderer, however cool and calculating and fearful the circumstances under which the deed was done, which attracts humanity—they desire to look upon the face of the man who has been guilty of murder, who has sacrificed an immortal being—sent his body to the grave, and his spirit into the presence of his God without reflection or preparation.

Upon this occasion (the 1st of June last) the people were attracted to the City Hall by the presence of a body of men, fresh from the commission of a deed of blood at the remembrance of which the heart sickens. There were some five hundred thus assembled, peaceably and quietly looking upon these men.

What motive actuated Mayor Magruder to command them to disperse, or he would immediately order the Marines to fire upon them? There was as much occasion for the act here, as in the first precinct, and it is our belief, and not ours alone, for there are hundreds who believe with us, that he would have given the order, had not the people gone away, and there cannot be a doubt that the Marines would have obeyed the order, from the alacrity which they displayed in seizing their guns at the first intimation of his readiness to shed more blood.

The same motive, then, it is evident, influenced him upon this, as upon the former occasion, and that motive was the one that has actuated him in all his official acts—Mayor Magruder first, Mayor Magruder last, Mayor Magruder all the time.—Instilled by his elevation to the Mayoralty, he has evidenced to the world a littleness of soul—a wickedness of a heart—an utter destitution of principle—a reckless profanity—a wanton perversion of truth—an entire disregard of moral obligation—in short, utter demoralization for the position he holds.

That Mayor Magruder did threaten to fire upon the people assembled in front of the City Hall, the following letter signed by a respectable and well known citizen, abundantly proves:

Thursday, June 4, 1857.

Sir: In answer to your inquiry as to what I know relative to the deplorable circumstances of Monday, I herewith give you all the information in my power. On Monday afternoon, between three and four o'clock, I was at the City Hall conversing with several friends, and discussing the news of the day. There were probably some four