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INDIANAPOLIS, SUNDAY MORNING, MARCH 25, 1894—SIXTEEN PAGES.

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DISGRACES CONGRESS

Sentiment of Washingtonians Regarding Col. Breckinridge.

Though There Are Other Moral Lepers, None Has Displayed Shamelessness Like the Kentuckian.

HIS BASE ACTS REVIEWED

Depositions Discussed in Court Behind Closed Doors.

Miss Pollard's Attorneys Argue Against Admitting Testimony of Roselle, Lewis and Julian.

Special to the Indianapolis Journal.

WASHINGTON, March 24.—"Can it be possible that the voters of the Seventh Kentucky district or any other section of the country will continue such a man in Congress?" This question is upon every tongue in Washington, referring to the Pollard-Breckinridge breach of promise and damage suit and the political future of the defendant.

Whether or not Colonel Breckinridge is acquitted or convicted by the jury, which is expected to bring in a verdict within the next two or three weeks, there never will be any question in the minds of the people of Washington who have followed the proceedings in this remarkable trial whether he is a man of moral character. If the jurors should, without leaving their box and without consultation or hesitation, return an instant verdict of acquittal he would stand convicted here and elsewhere of base moral turpitude. There would be no question of his depravity. In point of fact he doesn't question that matter himself. Here is a man, ripe in years, white-haired and venerable in appearance, honored by long public service at the hands of his people and trusted by all the good people of Kentucky, who, with a lovable wife and family, allures a young woman—whether an innocent schoolgirl or one experienced in the ways of the world—into a life of shame, and carries her about from place to place, first as his daughter, then as his mistress, and finally as his affianced bride. His own wife died some two years ago. Testimony shows that before the earth had settled upon the newly-made grave he was going about and consorting with the coquette, and that within a week he had renewed his promises of marriage and publicly acknowledged that he intended to marry her as soon as he could do so without being condemned by the voice of the people. Meanwhile he is making overtures to another woman, promises to marry her, and even goes to New York and marries her secretly, but at the same time, according to testimony, he takes the first woman with him, registers her at the hotel as his daughter, occupies communicating rooms and consorts with both women almost until the same hour, even to such perjury, such deception was shown in a man of his years and reputation and ability, and the society have failed to record it, and there is no old inhabitant who can recall it to memory.

All these things and many more are known and proven in a man fifty-seven years of age, but in appearance fully sixty-five. Words are said by Colonel Breckinridge has posed as a man of prime moral character. A deacon in the Presbyterian Church and a member of the board of trustees which met in Washington a year ago for the purpose of organizing the "Free Kindergarten" with here, he arraigned with all his powerful eloquence that man whom no one has ever charged with the crime of more serious than the teaching of doctrine not strictly within the Discipline, and he arraigned him as bitterly as he could to widespread attention. The prosecution has attempted to prove in the trial now pending that while the defendant was making air his eloquence in the Presbyterian assembly he was maintaining his relations with his present plaintiff in a way that he went into this convention composed of the good ministers of the Presbyterian Church each day from the embrace of the consort the church people of the country are capable of characterizing the act. All these things must rise in the minds of those who originate from the bog in springtime to poison the morals of the country and to bring a moral to the construction of this man. People here are wondering whether it can be possible that even a gallant Kentucky constituency can elect its eyes to such things brought against and not morally disapproved of by the majority in Congress. There are men in Washington who, while admitting all of the charges against the defendant, are offering to wager that his friends at home will renounce him and send him to Congress again within a month.

OTHER STATESMEN AS BAD.

While a great deal of interest is being shown by the country in this celebrated case, it is bringing up in the minds of the people in Washington, where most is known, moral suggestions. People are here inquiring among themselves whether, after all, Colonel Breckinridge is a very much worse man than many other men in public life. This is one of the "unfortunates" caught in the act. It will be recalled that it was only a few years ago that another Kentucky Congressman, who met a tragic death a short time afterwards, was surprised first in a most compromising situation with a woman at the Interior Department, and a short time afterward, not to be balked in his course of waywardness and feast of lust, in a similar position in the crypt of the Capitol. One of the principal attorneys for the defendant, it will be remembered by readers of current news, only a few years ago assassinated the betrayer of his wife on a railroad track, and escaped punishment by the plea of temporary mental aberration.

But how about the moral characters of men now in Congress? is a question uppermost in the public mind of Washington. It is alleged that there are many of a guilty, but not in the high degree, of kindred crimes against the moral calendar. It is stated that should the jury convict Breckinridge and award a judgment to Miss Pollard a member of the House stands ready to offer a resolution looking to his expulsion from the membership of that body. The question has been raised whether or not the House or Senate can take cognizance of such an offense. Of course, both branches of Congress, like all parliamentary bodies, are judges of their own membership, and they determine the qualification and fitness of each individual member. The clause relating to the disqualification of members of parliamentary bodies, upon which the bodies themselves pass, it is contended relates not to ability to discharge duties imposed, but moral turpitude. When Senator Roach, of North Dakota, was faced with charges of embezzlement and an investigation with a view to expulsion was demanded, it was clearly proven that the senator had the right to investigate such charges, and, if found true, to expel the guilty Senator. Members of the House who have discussed and investigated the subject contend that moral crimes such as have been brought against Colonel Breckinridge affect his fitness to be a member of the House, as did the charges of embezzlement alleged against the Senator from North Dakota, and that if a jury affirms these charges against Colonel Breckinridge he can, with perfect propriety, be expelled, because his presence in the House would not only degrade that body and detract from the usefulness of its individual members as public officers, but injure the moral status of the individual members of the House.

An effort to expel Representative Breckinridge, of Kentucky, from the House of Representatives on the ground that he is guilty of immoral character, and his presence in that body was degrading, would be a novel spectacle. No doubt a great many heads would be ducked every time a hand was raised to throw a stone, because there are so many culpable individuals in this assembly so many men who are guilty of the little sinful frivolities of life, that they would be afraid of injury to themselves if they proceeded; but there are many men without sin in the House of Representatives

BEHIND CLOSED DOORS.

Judge Bradley Hears Arguments Concerning Certain Depositions.

WASHINGTON, March 24.—Judge Bradley executed a bit of strategy on the newspaper men who had gathered to-day into the judge's consultation room adjoining the court room. A uniformed balliff standing at the door denied admission to all but the legal forces, Colonel Breckinridge and his son Desha. The party was closeted in the judge's room two hours. Thereafter the deposition taken by Miss Pollard's attorneys make their principal objections, the point involved being the nature of testimony bearing upon the Pollard's character. One of these depositions was made by Alex. Julian, the young blind man to whom Miss Pollard alludes in her letter to "Wessie" Brown as "her blind Barnabas." He asserts in the affidavit that he was present at the wedding which was performed between Miss Pollard and himself at "Squire Tinsley's, in Bridgeport, on Christmas day, 1883, and that he, drinking egg nog freely he suggested that married couples usually retired, and that he, who did so, was present at the ceremony. He testified on cross-examination that her uncle accompanied her to "Squire Tinsley's on the day, and denied the incident of the mock marriage.

The second deposition was made by W. W. Roselle, editor of the "National Tocsin," engaged to be married in 1884, when she was a student at Wesleyan Seminary, and at that time she was intimate with Colonel Breckinridge. Roselle has deposed that he took liberties with Miss Pollard in the library of the Wesleyan Seminary, and that when he left that city for Chicago Miss Pollard begged him to take her with him when he came back to Chicago. On cross-examination Miss Pollard denied that Roselle had done more than kiss her, and that she had asked him to take her to Chicago. In one of the most characteristically sly dialogues between herself and attorney Shatterworth she admitted that Roselle's motive in opposing her to the fact that he is a candidate for the position of editor of the "National Tocsin" in Representative Breckinridge's district.

The other deposition to which the plaintiff is particularly concerned was made by Dr. Lewis, of Lexington, who affirms that the late Colonel Swope once approached him with a request that he perform a criminal operation on a woman whom he called "Miss Pollard." The Doctor did not see the woman, so the objection is made that there is nothing to connect the deposition with the plaintiff in this case. The late Swope was the Republican candidate for Congress against Colonel Breckinridge, and who, also, was fatally wounded. Parts of these depositions are also objected to. The reason for their exclusion is that the jury in the case till the court decides upon excluding them. Although the depositions have been excluded, the headlines of newspapers to read that the editor of the "National Tocsin" had been approached by a woman to perform a criminal operation on her, and that the editor had refused to do so, would be a source of much for human curiosity to resist if the discussion of the affidavits and the contents are naturally threshed over. These depositions are not an innovation in the District Court, as some have ago a precedent was established by Judge Wells of keeping from the public the details of a scandal.

The arguments before Judge Bradley continued for five hours, and he took the questions submitted under consideration, to decide them Monday morning, when the case will be argued again. Most of the talking was done by attorney Johnson and counsel for the plaintiff, and Butterworth, who for the defendant. Miss Pollard's sweeping objection to all their depositions, and her refusal to take any more, surprised the defense by making an irregular manner. Mr. Johnson, at this point, and argued that the mere notice given to opposing counsel that depositions were to be taken and placed did not constitute a legal authority to give them standing in the case. This position was always been followed by the Circuit Court, and his opinion upon the matter, the arguments Judge Bradley told them that he did not care to hear more on the question, so that his opinion upon the matter was fixed. Beside this ground of contention, the depositions mentioned were objected to and the objection was made to parts of the depositions. The testimony of Dr. Lewis and of others who testified that they had seen or heard of a certain Miss Pollard in questionable resorts brought forth an objection that they did not even prove that the person referred to was the plaintiff in the case.

BRECKINRIDGE'S BASENESS.

Public Feeling in Washington Bitterly Condemns the Kentuckian.

Washington Letter in New York Advertiser.—Breckinridge will be fifty-seven years old if he lives until next August, and is a man with a shiny, fiery red complexion, peculiarly repellent to my taste, and a great shock of snow white hair and whiskers, beard and mustache. He has been greatly admired on account of his patriarchal appearance. Many people, including Mr. Breckinridge himself, it would seem, are of the opinion that he is a pretty man—he certainly is not handsome in a manly way. He has a cold, selfish glance which, I should think, would militate very much against implicit faith in the benevolent spouting that he has been so conspicuously addicted to. He has been an emotional orator, as full of beautiful sentiment as a dog is of fleas, if you will permit me.

He has been regarded as an exemplar of that peculiar brand of chivalry which is understood to be constantly on tap in Kentucky—much superior, I understand, to the article as purveyed elsewhere. I do not recall, after a quarter of a century's experience here and hereabout, any man who was so generally accepted as the absolutely faultless pattern of chivalry as Breckinridge has been for years. The trial has not been concluded, but the public mind is already made up, and unchangeably made up, as to the fact that the man did promise to marry the girl, whatever may have been his motive in making the promise. And the public mind hereabout is also satisfied as to the relations subsisting between him and the young woman—indeed, as to the latter, he himself seems to take some pride in admitting the worst. But for all this the public mind does not care at all. It takes no interest in that part of the case.

But what the public mind in Washington is particularly concerned about is the fact that this man deliberately palmed off upon a pure, good woman, a widow with no one to shield her good name, a kindly gentleman, a leader in society, the girl who, he now asserts, was, at that time, his mistress, and, as he would have the world believe, a harlot of peculiarly cheery and venturesome disposition. He procured this girl, he has been told, by means of a long friend, to introduce the girl into society, to vouch for her and to protect and defend her when assailed by criticism, when suspicious circumstances drew the fire of unkind comment. He coolly and premeditatedly palmed this poor woman's dwelling place with the presence of the dissonant and unabashed creature, in order that he might enjoy his unlawful commerce secure from suspicion, and made secure, mark you, at the expense of this gentleman's good name.

All the record of baseness which this trial brings back to men's minds as depicted in the House of Representatives

(Continued on Second Page.)

CRANK COXEY'S ARMY

What Congressmen Think of the Ohio Agitator's Threats.

The "On-to-Washington" Movement Viewed with Mingled Astonishment and Amusement at the Capital.

FEW TRAMPS AT MASSILLON

More Newspaper Correspondents Than Commonweal Soldiers.

Appeal for Money by Express Issued by the Commander—Plenty of Provisions Promised.

Special to the Indianapolis Journal.

WASHINGTON, March 24.—Washington is awaiting the coming of Coxe's army of peace in a doubtful frame of mind. Washington is accustomed to greeting great crowds and taking care of them. No doubt Coxe's army will be taken care of when it arrives, if that event ever becomes history. The form and nature of the reception which will be extended to the Massillonian and his followers will depend largely upon the frame of mind of the army when it reaches here. If it comes to have a good time and with ample funds to pay for it, it will be welcomed as are those who flock here quadrennially to witness the inauguration of a President, when the prices of food are raised or the portions reduced, the beer glasses are reduced to picnic size and mixed drinks are tabooed. But if the army comes here with pockets stuffed with petitions and bills for making the world over again, Washington will pass by on the other side.

Seriously, Washington does not relish the idea of the proposed invasion. It is hoped the intrusion will be stayed at the Pennsylvania border or in Maryland. It is reported here that the peace officers of the counties of those States through which the army will take its line of march are prepared to receive the army, no matter what its intentions may be. Here in Washington Chief of Police Moore, who is also colonel of the Light Infantry Corps and a veteran of the war, is on the qui vive for any possible trouble the so-called army of peace may be inclined to make. He does not anticipate any trouble, but he believes that in peace one should prepare for war. The expected coming of the capital city, however, if danger threatened from the coming of the army of peace or a plunging mob would be the regular army. There are several companies of cavalry at Fort Myer, across the river; some artillery and the regulars in the city, and the marines at the navy yard. These could be instantly reinforced by the National Guard of the District, of which there are fifteen hundred. Then there are regulars at Fort Monroe and Fort McHenry within easy reach, and more about New York, Virginia and Maryland have several regiments each of the National Guard, and Pennsylvania and New Jersey have good many thousands. All these could be concentrated here on short notice, and could take care of the army of peace, no matter how warlike it might be.

The local representation of the so-called army of peace or commonweal is one A. J. Redstone, editor of a weekly paper with the sounding name of the "National Tocsin." Despite its name, it doesn't make much noise in the world. He is just now busy as Satan in a cyclone in the work of distributing about the Capitol maps and pamphlets which the marchers think they have in view. Redstone appears to be very confident in Coxe. He says he receives daily bulletins from Coxe, which keep him informed of the progress of the movement. He says local groups of unemployed men are being formed in this city. They are the size of Xenophon's army, that created so much history when the world was younger than it now is. He disclaims that any violence will occur or that any plundering will be permitted. But that is the character of this much-advertised aggregation is pretty certain to become uncontrollable, and when its first victims. In the meantime Washington was

MEMBERS OF CONGRESSMEN.

Members of Congress are watching the assembling of the army which is to descend upon them with mingled astonishment and amusement. Most of them regard the army as an absurdity which will soon melt away. Some few attach to it a profound significance as an indication of a popular uprising which is to shake the foundations of democratic government. A number of Congressmen know Coxe personally, and credit him with cleverness and business ability. Representative Sibley, of Pennsylvania, and other members who like good horses, have known Coxe at stock meetings, as he has a fondness for high-bred horses. Representative Kern, who is in whose district the Coxe army is organizing, knew nothing of him. Representative Dalzell and other Pittsburgers say that Coxe does a flourishing sand business at Pittsburg, though they do not know him personally. Concerning the march of the army on the capital, a number of Congressmen were interviewed to-day.

Representative Blain said: "It is an indication of unrest and uncertainty of the people. The Coxe army has as much right to come to Washington as the lobbyist who come in behalf of protection and other private interests. As long as they pay their own expenses and commit no depredations they have a perfect right to come. But if they violate law and become a mob of pillagers they should be suppressed."

Representative Outwater said: "If Coxe's followers will only think, they will see that if from 10,000 to 50,000 men can intimidate date Congress to do one thing, then an order 10,000 to 50,000 can intimidate them to do another thing, which leads to anarchy."

Representative Hopkins, of Illinois: "My opinion is that it is that the army will never materialize in Washington. It is so perfectly absurd that I cannot conceive how any number of men can be gotten together for such a purpose."

Representative Hill, of Illinois: "The wisdom of having the national capital at small city is shown by the Coxe movement. If the capital were at New York and Chicago these movements would be frequent. Paris has been in the hands of Coxe's three times."

Representative Dalzell: "Notoriety is at the bottom of it, and it would have fallen long ago if it had not been heralded in the press. It will fall of its own weight."

Representative McGinnis, of Illinois: "There appears to be doubt as to what the purpose of the movement will be. A Chicago leader in it says he is coming to insist that Indians shall not be confined to reservations. Coxe's purpose appears to be to have the government build roads and thus give work to the unemployed. It is noticeable that organized labor is not so much with this movement. Organized labor has confidence in its own ability to ultimately secure fair shares of the work of the government, which is all it asks, and that the government shall not extort it from it by excessive taxes on the necessities of life."

Representative Wheeler: "The movement will probably die out before the army reaches Washington and nothing will be accomplished."

Representative Broderick: "I have not taken the Coxe movement seriously. Men having intelligence and respect for the public good could not be induced to take part in such a considerable number as to make the movement formidable. In any event nothing could be accomplished by such an appeal to Congress."

Representative Maguire, of San Francisco, author of the single tax bill before Congress, and a leading congressional exponent of Henry George, said to-night: "I do not attach any importance to the Coxe movement itself. It will amount to nothing. But it is a symptom of a growing condition that is fraught with infinite danger