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HOW AND THEN.

Time works queer changes, and the mutations of politics bring about strange bedfellows. Old line Whigs are found working zealously against four-fifths of the members of an organization they were once proud to belong to, and old line Democrats have forsaken ancient associations and are found battling, might and main, for an association against which a large majority of their former political friends are arrayed.

At the present moment Wm. A. Richardson, of Illinois, is the favorite candidate of the Democratic Southern Rights members of Congress for the office of Speaker of the House of Representatives. Mr. R. is a man of some good points, and we would much sooner see him Speaker than Lewis N. Campbell, J. P. Banks, or any other person of their way of thinking; although we do not look upon the election of a presiding officer as a matter of overwhelming importance.

But, as Mr. R. is the favorite of the Southern Rights Democracy—among whom are ranked more than one would be willing to destroy—it is well enough to investigate whether their parliamentary correspondence with his political antecedents, as stated in their recollections, may be relied on as a fair and just representation of the man who is to be placed in the political alms-house of the South to be apprehended from every breeze which threatens to consign them to the shades of private life.

It is not long since, if we are not mistaken, when many of the gentlemen now supporting Mr. Richardson, were loud and long and vehement in the denunciation of doctrines once held by him, of which we give below a specimen. Gen. Quitman will pass for an extreme Southern Rights man. Well, what did he say, and what did Mr. Richardson say, five years ago? It was in 1850, says the Natchez Courier, we think a very few months before Governor Quitman issued that famous message, in which he took ground for a prompt and peaceable secession, as the "only effectual remedy," unless we could get the Federal Constitution amended, etc., that Mr. Richardson gave this proposed alternative of the following rebuff:

"We have been told, sir, that if you would make the Union perpetual, you should also constitute the Union perpetual. It is not the Union, but the Union as it is, that we are to preserve. If our Government can only be preserved by these means, its days are numbered, and its fragments will be scattered to the winds of heaven. It is not the Union, but the Union as it is, that we are to preserve. If our Government can only be preserved by these means, its days are numbered, and its fragments will be scattered to the winds of heaven.

But, we are not done with Mr. Richardson—his ideal of Southern Rights Democracy (what an awful misapprehension of worthy terms!) by a long shot. We again recur to the quotation of our Natchez contemporary as follows: There were two or three other points in the views of Mr. Richardson of 1850, which might be noticed, had we time. He held then, and we presume holds still, the doctrine so much scouted by parties in Mississippi and the South; that the Mexican laws prevailed in the territories acquired from Mexico, and that by their operation slavery was forever excluded. The territories, said he, "are free now, and will forever remain free; they are free by the law of nature; they are free by the law of nature; they will remain free, from causes to which I have already referred. This should satisfy all, in my judgment, who are opposed to the extension of slavery." And again: "I do not, and cannot believe, that our Constitution creates and protects slavery, except in States; nor do I believe that its framers intended that it should extend this institution. I believe it was framed for a higher and nobler purpose."

We do not believe it is necessary to say anything further to prove that Mr. Richardson's devotion to the peculiar institutions of the South will ever be the death of him, or that the course of his Southern supporters squares with their professions a few years since. However, the ultraism of 1850 and the politics of 1855, may lead to the same result—office! The thing works both ways, South and North, and the rights of the South will always be in danger from some cause or other, so long as political compromisers remain unsatisfied. How long will slaveholders submit to such a state of things? BOYS FOR THE HOLIDAYS.—Barnett & Bostwick, No. 10 Camp Street, have just received a splendid assortment of juvenile, illustrated and political works, suitable for holiday gifts, both for children and adults. Those who are searching for articles for gifts will do well to call on Barnett & Bostwick, and examine the stock they have on hand. Refer to the advertisement.

COUNSELLOR'S BALL.—The celebrated "Counselor's Ball" of this city, which has done so much to illustrate the grandeur of our city, will give another series of grand fancy dress and masquerade balls in the Palace theatre building, the series to commence on Christmas eve, the 25th. The Dowdellians have engaged the building for their balls, and will sit up open for the occasion. From our recollection of the previous balls, we have no doubt that the evening will take rank among the most agreeable of all those that our city has ever known, and we cordially congratulate our fellow citizens on the prospect. The Dowdellians have engaged the building for their balls, and will sit up open for the occasion. From our recollection of the previous balls, we have no doubt that the evening will take rank among the most agreeable of all those that our city has ever known, and we cordially congratulate our fellow citizens on the prospect.

A CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION.

The custom of celebrating Christmas, and in that celebration, keeping more vividly alive the memory of the great event which rendered it notable, shone all the other days of the year. With all the respect to the justness of the observance, we are now acquainted with the fact that the celebration was kept by the ancient Christians of Palestine in caves and mountainous recesses, with fasting and prayer. It was kept by the monks of the middle ages, with strict religious rites; it was kept by the Abbot and the monks of the West, with the same religious rites, which we now call the Christmas celebration, that does not pay some honor to the natal day of its creed and the memory of the divine event which gave birth to our present religion.

In accordance with the humane and genial tones of the present time, we are happy to learn that the ladies of St. Paul's Church, in this city, intend raising a Christmas tree and giving an entertainment, on the eve of that day at the residence of Mrs. St. Charles, on the corner of Adams and Second streets. The ladies intend to accommodate the children, who are so largely invited to the occasion as their parents and friends, the doors will open at six o'clock. The festivities will doubtless grow with the hours and with them culminate when the ladies will play the Spring day in the little of our country. Those who wish to celebrate in a pleasant and reasonable manner, an event which should be celebrated by all, will take a step towards the realization of their wish by their visiting the Masonic Hall, mingling with the many who are present, and enjoying the pleasure of a social gathering. The refreshments will be served in the hall, and the ladies will be assisted by the gentlemen of the occasion and those more public affairs that have been gradually superseding them. We cordially commend it to the public attention. Particulars are contained in the advertisement.

EXAMINATION OF THE GIRLS' HIGH SCHOOL.—We do not know when we have passed a few hours more pleasantly than we did yesterday, at the Girls' High School on Old Street. The third course, or graduating class, were exercised in their various studies, and displayed the highest order of talent and industry. In the departments of chemistry, botany, history and astronomy, we were unable to devise which of the young ladies took precedence; while in geometry, the demonstrations of all were of such a nature as to keep the judges in a constant state of doubt. There were a great many things that we wished to applaud, but they were so many that we could not do so. In a school-room did not like to particularly say so unless the way for it.

The exercises were very agreeably diversified by the singing of songs and the reading of compositions. The singing was done by the girls, and was very well done. There were a great many things that we wished to applaud, but they were so many that we could not do so. In a school-room did not like to particularly say so unless the way for it.

Later from the Plains. The St. Louis Democrat of the 13th publishes the following information, obtained from an army officer recently arrived in St. Louis from Fort Laramie: "I have been at Fort Laramie, and have been already advised, is now at Fort Pierre, previous to his departure from Fort Laramie, made a demand upon the Sioux of the plains for the surrender of the murderers of the soldiers of the Sixth Infantry, who were killed at the battle of Little Bighorn. He has been refused, and he has been ordered to march to the mouth of the Missouri river, and to surrender to the soldiers of the Sixth Infantry, who were killed at the battle of Little Bighorn. He has been refused, and he has been ordered to march to the mouth of the Missouri river, and to surrender to the soldiers of the Sixth Infantry, who were killed at the battle of Little Bighorn.

AMUSEMENTS THIS EVENING. ST. CHARLES THEATRE.—A Merry Wives of Windsor, and "Bob Netles." GAIETY THEATRE.—The new Proton force of "The Champion," and "Bob Netles." PHEL'S SOUTHERN OPERA HOUSE.—Songs, dances and burlesques by the Campbell Troupe. VANDON'S MUSICAL.—Wax statuary and commodes, at 107 St. Charles street. FRANKLIN MUSEUM.—Statuary, reptiles, etc., at 105 St. Charles street. SMITH'S AMERICAN CIRCUS.—A grand display of acrobaticism at the corner of Poydras and Baronne streets.

NEW BOOKS.—The advertisement in another portion of our present issue informs the public of the receipt of a great variety of new books and new editions of those that are old. Mr. C. Morgan, at his new store in Post Office, among those enumerated are several works of great profusion; standard works in new editions, and very profusely illustrated poetical works. The holidays are at hand, and by no other means can we so pleasantly celebrate among friends as by the presentation of some of the new books and new editions of those that are old. Mr. C. Morgan, at his new store in Post Office, among those enumerated are several works of great profusion; standard works in new editions, and very profusely illustrated poetical