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THE COUSHATTA TRAGEDY

A NEW PHASE OF THE MYSTERY

The Democrats Virtually Confess Their Guilt by Accusing An Innocent Man.

THE DANGER OF TOO MUCH ZEAL IN A BAD CAUSE.

We copy below the result of the recent outburst of the Democratic papers of this city in the matter of the assassination of Collector King and the dangerously wounding of Senator Twitchell by order of the Coushatta Democracy. There has been a well founded suspicion here for some time that the public in and around the scene of the tragedy knew more of the facts connected with it than they chose to make known, and the importance which has been attached to the false rumor that Captain Bean was the guilty author gives the suspicion a consistency which almost enables it to stand alone.

All the Democratic morning papers had substantially the following statement. We copy from the *Bulletin:*

The circumstances attendant on the wounding of Senator M. H. Twitchell, and the killing of his brother-in-law, George King, are still fresh in the minds of the public.

There will be no more howling, however, for Senator Twitchell has spoken, and says that a man named Bean did the shooting, and Bean is a thorough Republican, a red-hot Radical Republican who figured in the last election as supervisor of registration of the parish of De Soto.

It was understood and asserted at the time that Twitchell was implicated with Bean, and the supposition is that promises were made to Bean by Twitchell which were never kept, and that Bean, seeing that Twitchell reaped all the benefits of his villainy, endeavored to kill him for revenge.

De Soto parish is contiguous to Red River parish, and the assassin was known only in the former, and consequently it is not singular that the people in the town of Coushatta failed to recognize him.

The last paragraph is thrown in as an apology for the pretended ignorance of the identity of the assassin who rode slowly and casually through Coushatta while the people were mustered at the postoffice to be out of the way.

The *Picayune* evidently did not believe the absurd story, but felt in duty bound to say something damaging to the Republican party in order to clear its own of suspicions which of late have begun to cluster around it.

From the officers of the steamer Charles H. Durfee, which arrived on Tuesday evening from Shreveport, we learn that when that packet landed at Coushatta, on Sunday last, it was ascertained that Twitchell stated that he knew the man who shot him, and that he did not care to have the matter investigated.

Twitchell is rapidly recovering.

The clerk of the court came down on the Durfee, and will lay the matter before the Acting Governor.

The man who did the shooting is supposed to be one of his own party.

The *Times* was not so cautious. Its reporters eagerly swallow everything that is told them, and that paper fell into the trap in the following hopeless manner:

From an officer of the steamer C. H. Durfee, which reached here from Red River on Tuesday, it is learned that Senator Twitchell, who, with one King, was shot at Coushatta a few days ago, charges the commission of the crime upon Thomas Bean, who, it will be recollected, was concerned in the spiriting away of the election returns of one of the polls of De Soto parish in 1873, when Twitchell and Elam were contestants for the State senatorship from that district.

The *Times'* informant states that, according to Twitchell's story, the latter promised Bean $1000 for the service of suppressing the returns, but that this money he subsequently refused to pay, on the ground that Bean had failed to perform the task according to the strict letter of the contract. Twitchell says that, failing to obtain the money, Bean threatened to kill him, and this threat—although not sought to be effected during a lapse of three years—culminated in the shooting of himself and King.

It is said that the assassin used a Henry rifle—a sixteen shooter—and not only emptied it at his victims, but also emptied his revolver, firing twenty-two shots in all.

Directly after the shooting, and escape of the shooter, the sheriff organized a posse and started in pursuit, but after proceeding about three miles abandoned the chase, on the plea that to take the man would be certain death for somebody, and he didn't think it would pay. At last accounts the assassin was still at large.

As the world woke up gradually yesterday after the infliction of all this sensation, it was discovered that Captain Bean, the person attempted thus to be accused, has not been out of this city for a single day for many months, and hence the story about his being the assassin fell to the ground. A faint and reluctant attempt at hedging was shown by the evening papers. The *Picayune* had prepared some remarks founded upon its report in the morning, which got snaked into the paper by oversight or design, though its whole theory was flatly contradicted by a reporter's paragraph in another column. Thus, the editor said:

Our readers have no doubt been gratified by the tenor of the latest news concerning the Coushatta tragedy. In the first place they are glad to learn that Senator Twitchell is rapidly recovering. There is, perhaps, no more bitter or unscrupulous enemy of the Conservative interest in the State than he; but the proper way to get rid of him is to beat him at the polls. It is pleasant to know, also, that the wounded man has lost only one arm. So far, at least, we can sympathize with him and his friends. But the most pleasing feature in the news is that the dastardly deed was not the work of a Conservative, that it was not committed for political reasons, and that it was not the result of a cold-blooded conspiracy. We congratulate the good people of Coushatta and its vicinity that their reputation has been vindicated as regards this matter by the declaration of Twitchell himself. The whole affair seems to have been the result of a long cherished scheme of private revenge which was prompted by the faithlessness of Twitchell to a promise made to a brother Radical. Of course, we can but deplore that any influential and powerful party should be even partly under the control of such men; but, after all, it is "not our funeral." The Republicans complain that they are being decimated by the Ku-Klux and White League; but not satisfied with that rapid rate of decrease, they have joined in the bloody work, and for some months past have been more or less actively engaged in murdering each other. We protest against their conduct in that respect. The party which preaches the gospel of peace should practice it also.

Its local reporter had, in the meantime, however, wandered around to the State House, and picked up such information as to entirely destroy the most "pleasing feature" of the editor's congratulations. He had seen Bean, or might have seen him and a dozen witnesses ready to testify that he was in town when the assassination took place. So the following dubious paragraph was admitted, because, perhaps, there was no way to avoid publishing some sort of an explanation of the blunder of the morning:

It is claimed at the office of the Governor that a communication was this morning received from Twitchell denying that Supervisor Bean did the shooting, or that he has any knowledge whatever of the person who did it.

The communication is said to contain other thrilling pieces of information, among which that he (Twitchell) fears his physician will be murdered for attending him. Phew!

The *Bulletin* rings slow bells in this style:

The statement published in the morning papers that Senator Twitchell had said that Bean, the supervisor of registration of the parish of De Soto, was the man who did the shooting, created considerable excitement at the State House on Wednesday morning.

The Republican officials asserted that Bean had been in this city for the last three months, and that he had called on Lieutenant Governor Antoine and said he didn't do it.

Lieutenant Governor Antoine said he called, and H. Conquest Clarke, Esq., corroborated the statement of the Lieutenant Governor.

Mr. Clarke also stated that he had received a letter from Twitchell, in which it was said that the assassin was unknown, and that the life of the attending surgeon had been threatened.

Some people think that Bean, if he had desired to kill Twitchell, he could have followed him up to Coushatta, and easily have accomplished any design he had upon the life of either Twitchell or King, without his absence having occasioned any notice.

There was really no very great excitement except such as would naturally arise seeing a statement in print, which every body knew could not be true. As the people at the State House are used to this sort of journalism, they took this latest instance of enterprise with composure. The "same people" referred to in the last paragraph, we take it to be a green reporter who is ignorant of grammar as he is of the acts he attempts to describe.

The *Times*, finding itself sold, promptly turns upon its informant, taken so lovely to its confidence in the morning, and introduces the denial under the airy heading:

"A GAUZY STORY ABOUT BEAN."

Governor Antoine says that letters were received at the State House Wednesday morning, denying the statements published in the Wednesday morning papers that Twitchell had been shot by Bean, and that the cause of the difficulty was that Twitchell had refused to pay Bean a certain amount of money which he had promised him for making away with various election returns.

If Governor Antoine had received such letters they were, of course, based on rumors which prevailed in the parish of Coushatta, and which it was expected would reach and be published in this city.

Secretary Clarke says that Bean has not been out of the city for six months, and that he has not enough money to take him as far as Kennerville. He says further that Bean was at the State House this morning, highly indignant at the published statement that he was the assassin of Twitchell.

The reporters did not see anything of Bean about the State House, and he must have left early.

Mr. Clark says that the clerk, who was reported to have come down on the Durfee with communications for the State House officials, has not been seen about the State House, which fact seems a little curious also.

We learn that Captain Bean intends to bring suits for damages against all those papers who have published him as a murderer in such a positive and confident manner. But pecuniary damages, however heavy they may be, are nothing to the loss of character for accuracy and fairness which these journals will sustain by giving currency to the groundless story and surmises of the steamboatman.

The Wharf Bondholders and the Contractors.

Pursuant to the call of Mayor Leeds, about a dozen wharf bondholders and the lessees of the city wharves, Messrs. Eagen and Ellermann met the Council yesterday noon at the Mayor's parlor to act upon the petition of the lessees in which they ask the Council for certain relief on their contract and the extension of the same for two years. The meeting was strictly private, but it transpired that about $450,000 out of the $580,000 wharf bonds were represented at the meeting. After about two hours' conference it was agreed that a committee should be elected, representing the three interested parties, the city, the lessees and the bondholders, and as soon as the Mayor has been notified of the election of the members on the part of the lessees and bondholders he will call the committee together, when a final arrangement will be effected.

Appointments.

Acting Governor Antoine has issued commissions to the following elected officers of the town of Plaquenine, in the parish of Iberville: Henry DeSobey, mayor; Seligman Kahn, James L. Barker, George Gaskell, Austin Hunt and Jacob McWilliams, selectmen.

The following appointments were made yesterday:

For the parish of Jefferson—M. Lombard, police juror, vice A. K. Johnson, deceased.

For the parish of Orleans—Hon. B. L. Lynch, judge of the Superior District Court, vice Hon. Jacob Hawkins, deceased.

It is rumored that H. H. Walsh, Esq., will be appointed to succeed Judge Lynch as the presiding judge of the Fourth District Court.

O. H. Violet, Esq., has been appointed a notary public.

Court Items.

The Supreme Court will render opinions in the courtroom of this parish May 15. It will sit at Monroe, parish of Ouachita, the first Monday of July; at Opelousas the second Monday of June.

Judge Lynch did not preside in the Superior District Court yesterday, nor issue any orders, but he probably will to-day.

The Temperature.

The thermometer at Louis Frigerio's, No. 50 Chartres street, stood as follows May 10: At 8 A. M., 68°; at 2 P. M., 78°; at 6 P. M., 75°. Lowest point during the night of May 9, 59°.

If you are going to Philadelphia this summer, get "Hints for the Centennial," and get it now to avoid hurrying later.

[Special Correspondence of the Republican.]

NORTHERN POLITICS.

Republican Prospects.

NEW YORK, May 5, 1876.

The determination is spreading among Republicans of all shades of opinion to do two things this centennial year: 1. To nominate a man at Cincinnati upon whom the North can be united as a political unit. 2. To elect the man thus nominated. Both of these things will be done. And then what shall we have? A sectionalized North oppressing a sectionalized South, and keeping guard over the national government at Washington! This Northern sectionalism will eventuate in good in many ways. It will, among other things, teach the Southern Confederate leaders that a political alliance between the Northern Democracy and compact "solied" South, unified on the issue of race caste, can not for many years obtain control of the federal government. That this Confederate Democratic coalition may finally triumph over all obstacles is possible—in some aspects of the case probable. But for the present the North will be driven by Southern sectionalism into an attitude of counter sectionalism, and so the lines of political conflict will remain for a long period of time. This state of things will, of course, leave the Northern wing of the Republican party to do all the fighting. Intelligent Republicans here do not expect to carry a single Southern State, not even South Carolina. The entire Southern section is expected to cast its 138 electoral votes solid and solidly for the Confederate Democratic presidential nominees, of whom Governor Tilden, of this State, will be chief.

The success of the Republican presidential ticket this year will give four or eight to nine years of "educational training" to the emancipated race. It will also put an end to political assassination at the South, because the negro, being thoroughly suppressed ("shuffled out of politics," is the mild language used by the Boston *Journal* to express this policy of "subordination"), there will no longer be any motive for his political assassination. The Northern ally of the Southern freedman (?) may also say to him, "Keep out of politics; be temperate; work, save; get land; send your children to school. We at the North will hold the government until you are in a better position to participate in politics and until public intelligence advances sufficiently to recognize your civil rights." In the meanwhile, under a Republican administration, the negro will wear the federal uniform. He will be employed in the United States customhouses in every Southern city. His face will look out of Southern postoffice windows upon white faces, and black letter carriers will deliver Uncle Sam's mails at the residences of white citizens. The negro will also have something like a representation in Congress. In the meanwhile, the future lies before him with all its chapters of favorable accidents, and among these is Reaction vs. Reaction—that is, a turn in the tide of public feeling, conscience and conviction in favor of the cause of humanity, the evil of Southern sectionalism, and more concern for the danger to free institutions which begins already to shape itself under the empire of Brazil. The Southern States will also want appropriations for rivers, harbors and railroads, and this want, added to a desire for "office," will work powerfully in favor of good government, education and civilization generally.

I enter thus particularly into this phase of politics, because, very much to my surprise, and I need not say, to my pleasure, I find that even the discontented Liberals and some of the anti-slavery Democrats will not accept any solution of the Southern question which re-sectionalizes the late slave section of the Union as an element of discontent within the Union, or which remands the negro to serfdom. In saying this, it is important to say that this Northern sentiment among the best people here is not allied to any feeling of bitterness against the Confederates. Intelligent men of the North separate the Confederate "idea" from the Confederate cause. The idea is not new to readers of American history. Our life as a republic began under the confederate idea of government; but the Confederate cause of our day means disunion, anarchy, civil strife, and final ruin to both sections, if allowed to have its way, and therefore it will not, under any circumstances, be permitted to have its way. Of this, Mr. Reagan, of Texas, Mr. Lamar, of Mississippi, and Mr. Gordon, of Georgia, may rest satisfied.

As stated in a previous letter, Governor Tilden's indorsement by the State of New York as the Democratic favorite for the Presidency, developes the presidential campaign. Under this development the Republican "possibilities" for nomination at Cincinnati are at once narrowed down to a very few names. These names are Fish and Conkling, of New York, and Charles Francis Adams, of Massachusetts. The Republicans can elect either of these men—it is doubtful if we can elect any other of our personal or party favorites. The cause will have the benefit of this "doubt," and consequently we may expect such a union of forces, radical and conservative, at Cincinnati as will give us a ticket which we can elect. Under these circumstances, no one should be surprised, therefore, if the Confederate Democratic political sharpshooters at Washington should suddenly turn their long range party rifles on Hamilton Fish, Roscoe Conkling and Charles Francis Adams. It will be difficult to prove that Mr. Adams has served a term in the penitentiary, or that Conkling has been repeatedly convicted of forgery, or that the distinguished Secretary of State has kept a faro bank at Washington, where he and Grant and Bristow have gambled away government bonds by the hundreds of millions. But there is nothing too great for the Confederate Democratic political sharpshooters to undertake; no game too high and no range too long for them. But notwithstanding all the advantages these sharpshooters possess for shooting down dangerous political opponents, there is a certain degree of almost assured probability that the exceedingly wide-awake American people will soon see through their "little game," and then the business of political sharpshooting will lose its power and fall into final disrepute. Be this as it may, the Republican party is strong enough to reform itself (the severest test to which any party can be subjected), and although it originated in Radicalism, it will yet end as the true conservator of all that is best for all sections of the common nationality under which we are to all live as one people. B.

ANTICIPATED NEWS.

Senator Twitchell and J. W. Harrison to be Murdered.

These headings are justified by the reports which come from the fatal Red river country.

Senator Twitchell sends word that he will never be permitted to leave alive the bed whereon a bloody assassin has placed him.

His faithful friend and attendant, J. W. Harrison, is to be arrested on a charge of carrying concealed weapons and killed. All evidence against the murderer of King will thus be obiterated.

With painful anxiety the next intelligence from Coushatta is awaited.

Senator Twitchell's Condition.

A messenger direct from Senator Twitchell arrived yesterday, and brought a letter to Acting Governor Antoine. The statements published in the Democratic papers that Mr. Twitchell knew his assassin, and directed that no investigation be had, are characteristically untrue. The Senator says he still regards his life in danger, and is nightly in dread of the house where he lies being surrounded and himself killed. He is being attended by an army surgeon, and is doing as well as could be expected. His left arm was completely shattered, and amputation was necessary. He also received two wounds in the right arm, a ball through the left thigh, and one in the back of the neck. Senator Twitchell is no stranger to bullet wounds. During the war he received an ugly wound in the head, which disfigured him for life. He is now carefully cared for at the house of Mr. Harrison, and the belief is that he is now out of danger on account of his injuries.

Speaking of the shooting of Senator Twitchell, the Shreveport *Telegram*, of the eighth instant, says:

The *Times* of this morning says that the *Telegram* spoiled a point by saying that the "stranger" who did the late shooting at Coushatta was armed with an improved rifle, and after asserting that the White League never existed as a military organization, secretly or openly in North Louisiana, says that it has "information from a source which we consider perfectly reliable, which is that the man had an ordinary single-shooting rifle, and, moreover, that he missed with the rifle and did the damage with six-shooters." The account given by the officers of the steamer Durfee, published in the *Times* of the fifth instant, says the stranger was armed with "a Winchester rifle, carrying sixteen shots and a navy six shooter," and the private letter from a citizen of Coushatta published the same date, says he was armed "with a sixteen-shooting Winchester rifle and a Remington six-shooter." Dispatches from Coushatta represented the rifle to be a Winchester rifle. So much for the kind of weapon used, and whether the White League in North Louisiana existed as a military organization or not, it has been often asserted, and, we believe, brought out in testimony before the congressional committee, that improved firearms had been received or shipped to Coushatta. The stranger was a very formidable individual, at any rate, to shoot down men in full view of the citizens, and ride off unmolested at his leisure, leaving his victims weltering in their blood.

Personal.

Hon. George P. Davis, parish judge of the parish of East Baton Rouge, has received leave of absence for ninety days.

The Whisky Cases.

The jury in the whisky cases, on trial in the United States Circuit Court at New Orleans, after being out about five or six days, were unable to agree and were discharged by Judge Woods. We have one or two ideas on the subject of these whisky cases which we will now express.

It is somewhat singular, it seems to us, that the administration should allow frauds on the revenue connected with whisky matters, to be carried on seven years and institute proceedings by way of criminal prosecutions only in the last year of the administration, or the year of an election. If it is right to prosecute now, it was right to prosecute years ago. The fact that the government never took any steps in this direction until recently led the men engaged in manufacturing or dealing in whisky to look upon the whole matter lightly, and to act with indifference. The prosecutions should have been carried on from the very start, when huge fortunes were made, and when a violation of the law was more deliberate and intentional. The government having for so long a time shut its eyes to such transactions, whisky men were bound to presume no prosecutions would ever be instituted. It seems, therefore, rather harsh to let the old manipulators in whisky off free and indict only those now or lately in the business. Among the men now indicted are some of the most public spirited, charitable and patriotic citizens of New Orleans, notably among them John Henderson, Esq., one of the most universally respected and popular men in the State.

From the negligence of the government in these matters, manufacturers and merchants began to believe that no criminality could be attached to any of their acts. Such people generally make all the money and save all the taxes possible. This may not be morally right, but it is business, especially at this time. If any person should be punished it is the government officer, who is appointed, commissioned, sworn and salaried to prevent these very acts, and then allows them to be perpetrated with impunity. He is the criminal, for he betrays a sacred trust, the meanest act of which man can be guilty.

These views may be singular; no doubt they are, but they are our honest views, nevertheless. But whatever may be the question of moral right or expediency, Judge Woods, of the United States Circuit Court, one of the very best judges in the country, and Mr. Beckwith, who, as a zealous and faithful district attorney stands unrivaled, can not be blamed for their course in these cases. They enjoy the entire confidence and respect of our community—very deservedly so—and have done nothing but their imperative and stern duty in the premises.—*St. Charles Herald.*

Hon. J. R. G. Pitkin.

The people of this parish will be glad to learn that this gentleman, one of the ablest and most accomplished orators in the State, has signified his acceptance of an invitation to be the orator for the grand centennial celebration at Hahnville on the fourth of July next. Mr. Pitkin is a native of Louisiana, and comes from good revolutionary stock. His well known patriotism, his general popularity, his classical attainments and splendid elocution, furnish a guarantee that in the selection of an orator to expound the history and spirit of our American institutions and government, St. Charles parish has indeed been fortunate. We anticipate a large gathering, and we know our people will be pleased with the oration.—*St. Charles Herald.*

Apropos of the grand celebration in Philadelphia yesterday, see notice of "Hints for the Centennial."

THE WHISKY CASES.

Second Trial of Fehrenbach—Second Day.

On the opening of the court and the assembling of the jury, District Attorney Beckwith finished, presenting the documentary evidence.

Mr. J. J. Brooks was then called. He gave the same testimony as on the first trial, with one exception. There were no questions asked as to his coming to this city. Otherwise he told the condition of the distillery, the number of barrels in the warehouse, the stamps and documents seized, and the irregularities as detailed fully on the first trial.

In attempting to explain the law counsel for the defense objected, and it was therefore read to the jury by Mr. J. H. New, assisting the district attorney.

Mr. Alfred H. Brooks followed with an account of property seized, the number of distillations and capacity, etc., of the distillery.

Messrs. Francis Kelly, Peter Clarke, Thomas Kelly, Jeremiah Donovan and Theophile Commagere filled up the day's work.

With the exception of Peter Clarke and Jeremiah Donovan all were were witnesses in the first case, and gave the first testimony.

Peter Clark was the captain of the barge R. E. Lee, and brought grain to the distillery, and carried spirits away. He recognized the receipts, but could not read or write.

Mr. Jeremiah Donovan was appointed keeper a few days after the seizure and knew little of importance to the case.

The court took two recesses during the day, and adjourned at about 10 P. M.—Mr. Commegere being on the stand—to meet this morning at ten o'clock.

Political Matters.

At a harmonious and enthusiastic convention of the Republicans of the parish of Tensas the following delegates were elected:

To the State Convention of May 30—H. R. Steele, A. Fairfax, J. P. Harlan, A. J. Bryant, J. Ross Stewart, Noah Neeley, Cæsar Ray. Alternates—Gabe Johnson, Henry Jones, Nathaniel Cullins, John Dora, John Cox, Adam Harper, Jonas Stanton.

To the State Nominating Convention of June 27—A. S. Bryant, H. R. Steele, A. B. Jackson, E. L. Whitney, S. Shaifer, J. S. Matthews, J. Ross Stewart, C. C. Cordell, J. P. Harlan, Robert J. Walker. Alternates—Spencer Ross, William Price, Frank Watson, John Weggins, George Washington, Clark Harrison, William Owens, Leroy Branch, P. T. Bukett, Wash Williams.

To the Congressional and Judicial District Conventions—E. C. Routh, A. J. Bryant, J. S. Matthews, J. R. Stewart, Robert J. Walker, H. R. Steele, J. P. Harlan, George Brooks, William Cooledge, C. C. Cordell. Alternates—William Lawrence, Joshua Adams, Clark Harrison, Cyrus Moore, Jr., P. C. Tyler, Hon. Wesley Dixon, Joe Starks, Daniel Davis, Johnson Turner, Ewing Sutherland.

The President's Holidays.

The President's reply to Mr. Blackburn's resolution of inquiry was a keen and well deserved rebuke to a piece of partisan impertinence. Mr. Blackburn did not allude to the President by name; but no one could misunderstand the drift of his question. He did not explain his purpose in offering the resolution; but there was nothing to be gained by it except a little cheap and vulgar partisan sensation. It is indecent to use official correspondence between the legislative and executive branches of the government for any such petty ends, and when a member of Congress attempts to do it he not only disgraces himself—which is a comparatively unimportant matter, even when it is not superfluous—but he brings the country into disrepute. We think, therefore, that the indignant answer of the President was entirely appropriate. Perhaps it was not strictly in accordance with official etiquette for General Grant to read between the lines of the inquiry, and give it an application to himself which was not expressed in the text; but we can not regret that he allowed himself a little liberty under such aggravating circumstances, and took the opportunity to rebuke with stern dignity a political assembly which is very much in need of castigation. We hope the House of Representatives enjoyed it.

The incident has served a good purpose also in bringing out a brief, spirited and satisfactory answer from the President to the gabble in which some blackguard newspapers have indulged for several years with respect to his summer holidays at Long Branch. It was out of the question to notice these criticisms (if they are to be dignified by such a term) until they came from a quasi-respectable source. As soon as they were taken up in Congress General Grant answered and, we think, put an end to them. Frequent and prolonged absence from the capital may be an abuse; but there is nothing in the constitution or the laws which condemns the President to be four years interned at Washington, and the pretense that no executive act can be performed anywhere except at the seat of government is a mere absurdity.—*New York Tribune.*

Fitzhugh Doomed.

The Washington correspondent of the Cincinnati *Enquirer* writes:

A part of the Texan delegates have requested Doorkeeper Fitzhugh to resign. The Texan delegation will hold a meeting to-morrow to take some action in regard to Fitzhugh's case. Evidence of such overwhelming character comes from every quarter proving Fitzhugh to be unfit for the position that members feel that they can not let the charges proceed any further unnoticed without reflecting on the dignity and character of the House.

Mr. Kelley's Desire to Allow Providence a Fair Show.

On a resolution by Mr. Blaine, instructing the Ways and Means Committee to consider at once what can be done to remedy the scarcity of small change, Mr. Kelley amused the House by asking that Providence, to which the whole matter had evidently been committed by the ignorance of Congress, should be allowed a fair chance, and another two weeks to deal with the matter, and work out some definite result which Congress was plainly unable to do.—*New York Herald.*

Cuba—Election of a New President.

Mr. Thomas Estrada has been chosen President of the republic of Cuba, and has been inaugurated. He has issued stirring proclamations to the Cuban people and the exiles in foreign lands. The Cuban Congress met on the tenth of March. Colonel Spotono, the ad interim President of the republic, issued a proclamation declaring those Cubans traitors who, residing in foreign countries, keep up relations, either public or private, with the official agents of the Spanish government.—*New York Mail.*

Mr. Lord, one of the impeachment managers, is authority for the statement that Senator Thurman has expressed an opinion that the Senate has no jurisdiction in the Belknap case.

F. W. Helmick, of Cincinnati, has published a centennial song and chorus entitled "That Banner a Hundred Years Old," words by B. Devere, music by Eddie Fox.

BY TELEGRAPH.

THE CENTENNIAL.

The Opening Day—The Ceremonies—President Grant's Address.

PHILADELPHIA, May 10.—To-day is a legal holiday and all business is suspended. The gates were opened at nine o'clock. The sky was cloudless. The foreign commissioners and other distinguished visitors had a special entrance and were seated without confusion. Fully 50,000 persons are on the ground.

At 10:30 A. M. Dom Pedro was escorted to a seat by General Hawley. At 10:40 A. M. General Philip H. Sheridan and wife passed over from the building to the stand in front of Memorial Hall. He was followed closely by Hon. James G. Blaine, Senator Jones, of Nevada, and wife.

At 10:55 the President entered through Memorial Hall, and was conducted to a seat on the front of the platform. Governor Hartranft, General Hawley and Hon. D. J. Morrill, occupied seats on his left, while Messrs. John Welsh and Gosborn were on his right. Fred Douglass worked his way through the crowd and was helped over the ropes by officers and conducted to a seat on the platform. He was greeted with cheers.

At 11:03 the Wagner "Centennial Inauguration March" was performed by the orchestra, under direction of Theodore Thomas.

At the conclusion of this Bishop Simpson offered a devout prayer, during the rendering of which the majority of the vast assemblage stood with uncovered heads.

The ceremonies continued with the hymn by John Greenleaf Whittier; presentation of buildings to the United States Centennial Commission by Centennial Commissioner Sidney Lanier, of Georgia; presentation of the exhibition to the President of the United States by Joseph R. Hawley. The President spoke as follows:

My Countrymen—It has been thought appropriate upon this centennial occasion to bring together in Philadelphia, for popular inspection, specimens of our attainments in the industrial and fine arts, and in literature, science and philosophy, as well as in the great business of agriculture and commerce. That we may the more thoroughly appreciate the excellencies and deficiencies of our achievements, and also give emphatic expression to our earnest desire to cultivate the friendship of our fellow members of this great family of nations, the enlightened agricultural, commercial and manufacturing people of the world have been invited to send hither corresponding specimens of their skill to exhibit on equal terms in friendly competition with our own. To this invitation they have generously responded. For so doing we tender them our hearty thanks. The beauty and utility of the contributions will this day be submitted to your inspection by the managers of this exhibition. We all know that a view of the specimens of the skill of all nations will afford to you unalloyed pleasure, as well as yield to you a valuable practical knowledge of many of the remarkable results of the wonderful skill existing in enlightened communities.

One hundred years ago our country was new and but partially settled. Our necessities have compelled us to chiefly expend our means and time in felling forests, subduing prairies, building dwellings, factories, ships, docks, warehouses, roads, canals, machinery, etc., and most of our schools, churches, libraries and asylums have been established.

In 100 years, burdened by these great primal works of necessity, which could not be delayed, we have done what this exhibition will show in the direction of rivaling older and more advanced nations in law, medicine and theology, in science, literature, philosophy and the fine arts. While proud of what we have done, we regret that we have not done more. Our achievements have been great enough, however, to make it easy for our people to acknowledge superior merit wherever found.

And now, fellow-citizens, I hope a careful examination of what is about to be exhibited to you will not only inspire you with a profound respect for the skill and taste of your friends from other nations, but also satisfy you with the attainments made by our people during the past 100 years. I invoke your generous co-operation with the worthy commissioners to secure a brilliant success to this international exhibition and to make the stay of our foreign visitors, to whom we extend a hearty welcome, both profitable and pleasant to them. I declare the international exhibition now open.

Starting the Machinery.

One of the most impressive scenes of today was the President, assisted by his imperial majesty Dom Pedro, starting the motive power of the hall. At a given signal from General Hawley, the President and the Emperor each seized a crank and opening the valves, turned them several times. At once a sound was heard which gave the people to understand that the engine was about to move. Then the monster seventy-ton fly-wheel began slowly moving, increasing gradually in rapidity until it was traveling at its full speed.

General Hawley started the hurrah, which was taken up by the surrounding multitude. Deafening cheers traveled through the building, and as all the wheels in the building began moving, the ringing of bells and other demonstrations told to the world that the Centennial Exhibition was fully opened.

Dom Pedro's Visit.

The Empress of Brazil, escorted by Mrs. Gillespie, visited the women's pavilion this evening, and made a tour of all the aisles and passages. There were no formalities attending the visit. Dom Pedro also visited the pavilion, and gave emphatic approvals of the work there displayed by American workmen.

The Military Display.

At half past seven o'clock this morning the different military organizations which were to take part in the parade to the exhibition buildings formed in line on Broad street. At eight o'clock the line of march was taken up toward the centennial grounds. At Twenty-second and Walnut streets the cavalcade was joined by President Grant, who rode in a carriage, accompanied by Governor Hartranft, of Pennsylvania.

The President was escorted by the First Troop of the Philadelphia City Cavalry. Then followed Governor Rice, of Massachusetts, with his staff and escort, the latter consisting of the Boston Cadets and Boston Lancers. The scene along the route was very animating. As the grounds were approached the enthusiasm of the multitudes assembled knew no bounds. The appearance presented by the Boston soldiery was commented on in the most complimentary terms, and they were frequently cheered.

When the city troops reached the entrance to the main building they formed in line, saluting the President and his party, who filed into the hall, amid the cheers of the men and waving of handkerchiefs and flags by the ladies.

Governor Rice and his staff were the recipients of a similar compliment, and as the distinguished party passed up the aisle and through to the platform, the same enthusiasm was manifested on all sides.

WASHINGTON.

Applications for Pardon.

WASHINGTON, May 10.—A strong application was recently made to the Attorney General and to the President for the pardon of a large number of illicit distillers in the South, particularly in Georgia; but, acting upon the views of the revenue officials, thus far no pardons have been granted.

The applications seemed to be for a wholesale pardon of these prisoners, the cases being those of comparatively slight offenses, and the petitions set forth that they had already been sufficiently punished. The applications not having been favorably acted upon, renewed petitions have been presented, giving specific cases in which the clemency of the government is invoked. There are quite a number of them now before the Attorney General.

RELIGIOUS.

Convention of Congregationalists.

CHICAGO, May 10.—The triennial convention of Congregationalists of the Northwest met here this morning and officers were elected.

Methodist Episcopal General Conference.

BALTIMORE, May 10.—Bishop Andrews presided. Bishop Janes presented a greeting from the General Conference of the African Methodist Episcopal Church, expressing the hope that all will soon be one in the church. Business unimportant. Adjourned.

L. C. Matlack, of Wilmington, presented a report of fraternal delegates to the general conference of the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church, which was ordered to be printed.

J. P. Newman, of Baltimore, presented a resolution to send fraternal greeting to the executive committee of the Women's Foreign Missionary Society now in session in Washington, which was adopted. Bishop Janes presented a greeting from the fraternal delegates of the Methodist Church which was received. It gives a succient history of the church in America, its progress and divisions, and expresses the hope of the ultimate union of all Methodists in the country.

Rev. Dr. Alexander Clarke, fraterna delegate from the Methodist Church, was then presented by Bishop Janes and addressed the conference. He rejoiced in the wonderful success of the Methodist Episcopal Church, and favored the absorption of all alienating and disturbing elements. He said color lines should be lost in the sunshine of blessed brotherhood. The grand old word "Methodism" names all and is a worthy appellation. Methodism has but one heart. We are all brothers and our household faith is a divine structure.

The report from the special committee to whom was referred the resolutions of J. H. Wilbur, of East Oregon and Washington opposing the transfer of Indian service to the War Department was made. The committee indorses the peace policy at present in force with regard to the treatment of the Indians and expresses a hope that Congress will take no steps looking to a change of that policy, which has been so beneficial in its effects, but prays that no further action on the subject be had by this body. The report was adopted, and the conference adjourned until to-morrow.

At the conclusion of the address, Bishop Janes informally introduced Rev. Dr. Garland and Rev. Dr. Duncan, fraternal delegates from the Methodist Episcopal Church of the South, and Rev. Dr. S. B. Sutherland and Hon. Mr. Button.

Mr. Rice, of New England, from the committee appointed to investigate the omission in the journal of the General Conference of 1872, presented their report. The report states that the journal contains a certified copy of the proceedings and appendix. The committee failed to find any omissions in the journal of the conference, but there was an omission in the appendix. The report of Mr. Gunn, who examined the accounts of the New York Book Concern, was omitted so far as its tabular statements were concerned, and that report was copied from the *Christian Advocate* for insertion in the journal. The committees attach no blame to the secretaries in the matter.

American Home Missionary Society.

NEW YORK, May 10.—The American Home Missionary Society held its annual meeting. Reports showed 979 ministers engaged in the service of the society; ninety-two churches organized; revivals reported in 200 churches, and 6297 conversions. Receipts for the year, $310,027; expenditures, $309,871; still due to missionaries, $13,906; appropriations becoming due, $87,915; making a total pledged of $101,812. Toward meeting this there was a balance in the treasury of $16,986.

During the year 4620 children were gathered into Sunday schools. Contributions were $6837 more than in the previous year; legacies amounted to $88,589. Rev. Dr. Theodore D. Wailsey was elected president for the ensuing year.

American Tract Society.

The annual meeting of the American Tract Society was held to-day, Rev. S. J. Prime presiding. The report showed that more than 72,000,000 pages of tracts had been distributed during the year. The annual receipts have been $504,577; the expenditures $501,803, leaving a balance in the treasury of $2774. William Strong was chosen president for the ensuing year. Fifty-two vice presidents were elected and thirty-six directors, with but few changes from last year.

NEW YORK.

The Indicted Whisky Men.

NEW YORK, May 10.—Edward A. Boney, distiller, of No. 10 Cedar street, was arrested. There are still some eight or ten others to be arrested.

Before the Naval Committee.

Henry Clews was examined by the Naval Committee to-day, and testified that he knew the President was actuated in favor of removing the government accounts from Baring Brothers & Co. by reason of the menacing attitude existing between the United States and Great Britain in consequence of the Alabama claims.

The President considered it safer for the government business and secrets to be confided to faithful patriotic citizens, rather than to those who would be likely to join the enemy in case of hostilities. The President was of the opinion that it was the duty of the government to give all honorable advantage in its power to its own citizens in preference to foreigners. Clews' house was engaged in new railroad enterprises, but so was that of Baring Brothers. Clews stated that he had paid no money to any officer of the government or any other person for influence.

Sub-Treasury Balances.

Gold, $42,591,738; currency, $38,381,431 paid out $263,000 on account of interest and $6700 for bonds.

Customs receipts to-day $259,000.

Women's Suffrage.

The annual convention of the National Women's Suffrage Association began to-day at the Masonic Temple. Mrs. M. Jocelyn Gage presides. Miss Susan B. Anthony addressed those present on the object and aims of the society, followed by Mrs. Gage, who spoke on women's inventions. She contended that women were quite as inventive as men, and as capable of filling any position where brains, intelligence and more than ordinary ability were required.

American Female Guardian Society.

The American Female Guardian Society and Home for the Friendless held its annual meeting to-day. The reports showed that during the past year the house had sheltered 1650 persons; 1569 persons had been aided; 188 women and children had been received; homes had been provided for 111 children; 10,000 garments and 40,000 loaves of bread had been distributed. The receipts for the year were $73,174, and the expenses reached $66,423. Mrs. Charles North was elected president for the ensuing year.

TURKEY.

The Origin of the Salonica Difficulty.

PARIS, May 10.—The *Correspondence Universalle* says:

Foreign governments have forwarded the following account of the origin of the disturbance at Salonica to their legations in Paris:

The American consul was at the railway station when his attention was attracted by the cries of a Christian girl. She was surrounded by a score of mussulmen, who wanted to take her forcibly to the mosque. The consul took the girl under his protection, and while he was seeking information as to her nationality, the German and French consuls were separately informed

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